

# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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### Govt: Give reasons for prescribing antimicrobial drug

The Centre has made an urgent appeal to doctors to give indications while prescribing antimicrobials – drugs used to treat infections. These include antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals and antiseptics. In a letter sent to all medical colleges, DGHS Dr Atul Goel has sent this advisory. **P16**

### Chandigarh mayor polls postponed

The Chandigarh mayoral polls scheduled for Thursday were postponed at the last minute, triggering protests from INDIA bloc allies AAP and Congress, which had come together and seemed comfortably placed against BJP. Elections have now been fixed for Feb 6. **P21**

### SUV fleeing fuel stn runs over ASI in MP

A police officer was run over by a speeding SUV in MP's Chhindwara Thursday as the driver was fleeing a petrol bunk without paying for fuel. ASI Naresh Sharma, 52, tried to stop the driver at a checkpoint but he hit the cop and fled. Police said the driver was drunk. **P16**

### Andhra 2nd state to hold caste census

Andhra Pradesh, after Bihar, is set to become the second state in the country to hold a caste census. The exercise covering 1.7 crore households, beginning Friday, will coincide with the unveiling of a 125-ft tall statue of Dr B R Ambedkar in Vijayawada City. **P16**

### PhD student at IIT-K ends life

A PhD student of IIT-Kanpur, Priyanka Jaiswal, hanged herself from the fan in her hostel room on the campus on Thursday. This is the third suicide at IIT-K in 30 days. A native of Jharkhand, Priyanka, 29, had enrolled for a PhD in chemical engineering last Dec. **P22**

### Rate cuts not on table: RBI guy

A head of the monetary policy committee meeting on Feb 6-8, RBI governor Shaktikanta Das appears to be sending a clear message to markets that rates will remain higher for longer until the policy goal of 4% inflation is met. "Topic of rate cuts is not on the table," he said. **P23**

### Finally, Auli & other hill spots get snow

Ending a long dry spell, the ski resort of Auli in Garhwal Himalayas received a fresh bout of snow, along with places such as Badrinath, Hemkund Sahib, Kedarnath and Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand. The only other snow spell at Auli this winter was on Dec 25. **P16**

### Only 16+ kids to be admitted in coaching centres

New Delhi: The Centre has issued fresh guidelines mandating coaching centres to enrol only students who have completed 16 years or passed secondary school examination (Class X). It has also barred them from making misleading promises on rank or marks in competitive exams, reports Manash Gohain.

Guidelines issued by the education ministry also makes prior registration mandatory while centres already running need to register afresh within three months of the date of rollout.

**P19**

## Pak launches retaliatory airstrikes in Iran, kills 9

### Claims Terrorists Killed; Tehran Says Foreigners

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

#### LAWLESS BORDER, SEPARATISTS & SUSPICION

Both Pakistan and Iran claim to have targeted separatists whose goal is an independent Balochistan for ethnic Baloch areas in Iran, Pak & Afghanistan. Sharing a 900km lawless border, both countries suspect each other of backing groups on the other side of the other. While Jaish al-Adl is reported to operate out of Pak, Thursday's attacks by Pak were

#### India maintains silence on strikes by Pak

After expressing understanding for Iran's air strikes in Pakistan, government on Thursday refrained from making any comment on Islamabad's retaliatory attacks. India, however, believes Iran's attack vindicates its position that Pak-sponsored terrorism is the greatest threat to regional security. **P26**

included three women and four children. Pakistan claimed several terrorists were killed.

A senior Pakistani security official was quoted by NYT

as saying on condition of anonymity that air force fighter jets were also used.

► Pak envoy summoned, **P 26**

### Akasa Air orders 150 more Boeing 737 Max planes

Hyderabad: India's youngest airline Akasa Thursday ordered an additional 150 Boeing 737 Max aircraft worth over \$20 billion at list price, making this the first such announcement at an Indian air show, report Swati Bharadwaj & Saurabh Sinha. This order takes the number of aircraft ordered by Akasa Air to 226.

With this, three desi carriers — Tata's Air India, IndiGo and Akasa — have ordered 1,120 Boeings and Airbus (including 70 wide body by AI) planes worth \$140 billion at list price in the last 11 months (since Feb 14, 2023), putting India upfront in the big league of emerging aviation powerhouses. The 1,120 aircraft on order by the three airlines will be delivered till the middle of next decade.

The fire department said eight fire tenders with 50 firefighters were rushed to bring the fire under control at ZP block of Pitampura. The blaze was reported at 8pm.

Jitendra Kumar Meena said the dead included three women. "The terrace door was locked. We broke it open with tools and saw four people lying near the staircase. We suspect that the residents

tried to open the lock, but due to the smoke, they fell unconscious," the officer said.

► Short circuit? **P 10**

### 9 of 11 Bilkis convicts seek more time to surrender, cite ill health, family duties

#### IN THE COURTS

► Are salaries of nuns and priests, working as teachers in govt-aided missionary schools, taxable? SC to examine petition | **P 16**

► GM crops in national interest; to make it self-sufficient, ensure food security: Centre to SC | **P 17**

► Delhi court denies Lava Int'l MD bail over alleged laundering and tax evasion by Chinese phone major Vivo | **P 17**

► HC refuses to stop Mahua's eviction from govt bungalow following LS expulsion | **P 17**

► Delhiites shooting each other over parking slots, prepare plan at earliest: HC to state govt, MCD | **P 13**

### Man, son among 3 killed in fresh Manipur violence

Imphal: A father-son pair was among three farmers fatally shot by suspected militants while tilling their fields in a village of Manipur's Bishnupur around 4.30pm on Thursday, stretching a sequence of violence that started early Wednesday with two police commandos being killed in Moreh and a village defence volunteer later dying in a gunfight in Kangpokpi, reports K Sarojkumar Sharma & N Benson Singh.

Oinam Bammojai (61), his son Oinam Manitomba (35) and Thiayam Somen (54) were apparently easy targets in the open once the armed militants had them in their sights, police said. The latest killings coincided with a rally by women in Imphal.

► 3 BSF jawans hurt, **P 19**

### Jan 22 fervour: Expectant parents push for C-sec 'muhurat' deliveries'

Lata Mishra | TNN



The covered idol of Ram Lalla in the Ayodhya temple on Thursday

an astrologer's forecast promising wealth and a long, healthy life for their child if he or she is born on Jan 22.

Hospitals across India are

### Planes to Ayodhya to be parked in 5 states

With only four parking slots at Ayodhya airport designated for single-aisle jets, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has zeroed in on 12 airports across UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, MP and Uttarakhand for parking private and chartered jets set to transport distinguished guests to the consecration event. **P 18**

experiencing pressure from expectant parents to schedule C-sections on Monday.

► Condition of mom..., **P 18**

### CM skips fourth ED summons, dubs it 'illegal'

New Delhi: CM Kejriwal, as expected, defied ED's fourth summons for questioning in the excise policy scam at its headquarters on Thursday and, instead, left for Goa.

AAP justified the CM continuing to elude the ED team working on the case of alleged money laundering linked to the scam, saying the summonses marked political vendetta and were meant to prevent him from campaigning for the LS polls, adding that a plot was afoot to arrest the party boss. The CM called the notices "illegal".

His action was being seen by ED sources as an act of evasion and non-cooperation, both recognised by courts as grounds strong enough to make an arrest and conduct custodial interrogation. **TNN**

► Bid to hit campaign, **P 8**

### Navy rescues drone-hit ship with 9 Indians

NS Visakhapatnam, deployed in Gulf of Aden, rescued Marshall Island-flagged ship MV Genco Picardy with 22 crew members, including nine Indians, Wednesday after it was hit by a drone. There was no casualty and the fire onboard was under control.

Last Dec 23 and this Jan 5, Indian Navy rescued crew members of two more ships, one hit by a drone and another attacked by pirates. **P 19**

► ED PAGE: Make Mandirs, Feel Good...

creation of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, marking a shrinking of its distance from the fervour surrounding the event. **TNN**

► PSU banks covered, **P 18**

### Jan 22 to be half-day for Central govt staff, banks

New Delhi: Government on Thursday declared a half-day holiday in all its offices and establishments, including banks, across the country on January 22 to mark the conse-

stration of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, marking a shrinking of its distance from the fervour surrounding the event. **TNN**

► PM Modi releases postage stamps & a book on Ram temple

and construction activities. The curbs were enforced on Jan 14 when AQI slipped to 447 ('severe'). It improved to 359 ('very poor') the next day, and to 318 by Thursday. **P 4**

### Malik shooter in killing of IAF men in '90: Witness

Srinagar: Rajwar Umeshwar Singh was among a group of IAF personnel waiting for the staff pickup bus at Ralwalpora on the outskirts of Srinagar on January 25, 1990, when he saw a man pull out a gun from under his 'phera' and open fire at them, killing four men, reports Saleem Pandit.

On Thursday, 34 years after the attack, Rajwar, a survivor and key prosecution witness, identified the shooter as Yasin Malik, chief of outlawed Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF).

► Refused opportunity, **P 19**

### Grap 3 lifted as air improves to 'very poor'

Steady improvement in Delhi's AQI prompted NCR's air quality monitoring agency (CAQM) to revoke Grap III measures, including curbs on BS III petrol and BS IV diesel vehicles,

► Yellow alert for fog today, tomorrow, **P 4**

► 75 flights delayed, 5 cancelled, **P 4**

and construction activities. The curbs were enforced on Jan 14 when AQI slipped to 447 ('severe'). It improved to 359 ('very poor') the next day, and to 318 by Thursday. **P 4**

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## 12-year-old girl mowed down by school bus; driver arrested

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Due to enhanced security arrangements ahead of Republic Day, security checks for passengers will be strengthened by CISF across metro stations starting from Friday till Jan 27.

According to officials, intensified frisking at metro stations may lead to long queues at some stations during peak hours. Officials said

A local police station received a call about the incident at 8:33 am. A senior police officer said they received the complaint from the victim's father, a fruit vendor.

"We registered an FIR against the bus driver, identified as Ram Vinod (42). He has been arrested and his vehicle seized. The bus was hired by the school," the officer said.

The victim's mother claimed she was crossing the road with her daughter and had signalled the driver with her hand to stop, but he didn't pay any attention. Another relative of the child said the bus driver tried to overtake another vehicle at excessive speed, crushing the child.

People in the vicinity apprehended the driver and alerted cops about the incident.

In a separate case, a woman died after being hit by an unidentified vehicle in Geeta Colony on Thursday. The victim is yet to be identified. Cops are looking for the offending vehicle.

Police said the incident was reported around 12:30 am on Thursday. "We found through CCTV footage that the woman was crossing the road when she was hit by the dumper," a police officer said.

The woman was grievously injured and taken to a nearby hospital, where she was declared dead on arrival. The dumper truck driver did not stop to help the victim and instead fled the scene. A passerby who witnessed the accident informed police.

"We have formed teams to catch the driver," the officer said.

Police are reviewing CCTV footage from the area and are questioning witnesses.

## Two held for murder

New Delhi: A 20-year-old man was murdered in Nihal Vihar after he refused to get drinking water for his roommates from the ground floor to their first floor. The suspects were identified as Abhay Kant Mishra and a 17-year-old juvenile. Police have apprehended his room partners. TNN

## Extra checks at metro stns for R-Day

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

that passengers should reach metro stations earlier than their usual time to avoid delays during peak hours.

Delhi Police has also beefed up security arrangements across the city.

According to a police official, night patrol staffers have been directed to check hotels, guest houses and dharamshalas, particularly near the railway stations and inter-state bus terminals to monitor those visiting Delhi.

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# Govt Sets Bar Higher In Its Pollution Fight

Targets To Improve Avg AQI By 20% In Next Budget

Abhinav.Rajput  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Delhi government wants to improve the ambient air quality of the city by around 20% in the next fiscal and will have a comprehensive plan in the next budget, a government official said on Thursday.

An official said that the target was to bring down the average concentration of the four major pollutants — PM2.5, PM10, NOx and SO<sub>2</sub>. Five specific areas in which a task force working on this would focus would be stopping waste burning, ensuring no disposal of construction materials in the open, dust restriction at construction and demolition sites, halting the use of coal in hotels and restaurants and acting against polluting vehicles.

A lot of the focus would be on lessening vehicular emissions by inducting more electric vehicles into service. The Delhi government official said, "By 2025, Delhi will have a total of 10,480 buses, with 80% of the fleet being electric. This will help prevent 4.7 lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide every year."

The official said that government would also focus on an interceptor sewer project to stop sewage flowing into the Yamuna, small sewage treatment plants and implementation of the Delhi Solar Policy.

The state government al-



The gradual and consistent decline in the city's annual PM2.5 levels since 2015-17 was interrupted in 2023, according to the CSE

so aims to increase the geographical area under tree cover outside the designated forests from the current 10% to at least 12%. Also, the total forest cover will be increased to 15%.

At present, the capital's forest cover of 13.1% is less than the national average of 21.7%. Besides biodiversity parks under this category, Delhi mostly has city forests.

The official said work would also be carried out on the proposed Miyawaki forests at Kharkari Jatmal in Najafgarh and Jainpur village in Najafgarh.

Delhi High Court recently observed that the capital was fast losing its forest cover and asked the additional solicitor general to personally look into the matter. It flagged const-

ruction and encroachments as key issues affecting the city's green cover.

Delhi government will also boost its effort on installing solar photovoltaic panels on rooftops of government buildings and setting up more waste-to-energy plants.

The budget will be presented in Feb and is likely to have an outgo of over Rs 80,000 crore.

The gradual and consistent decline in the city's annual PM2.5 levels since 2015-17 was interrupted in 2023, according to the Centre for Science and Environment. Delhi's annual PM2.5 average for 2023 till December 29 stood at 100.9 micrograms per cubic metre, an increase of 2% from 2022 and 6% from the exceptionally clean 2020.

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**New Delhi:** To provide some respite to the people waiting for delayed trains in the chilly weather, the Delhi division of Northern Railway has created winter resting centres with makeshift tents at both the Ajmeri Gate end and Paharganj side of New Delhi Railways Station.

On Thursday, TOI had reported how fog-disrupted journeys and the severe cold was causing severe discomfort to thousands of rail passengers. TOI had seen hundreds lying on the floor at the holding area near the Ajmeri Gate ticket counter, many making do with just a plastic sheet as a mattress on the cement floor. Others were seen braving the cold under blankets on the platforms.

Prem Shankar Jha, executive adviser to the divisional railway manager, said, "We have put up two tents, at 440 sq metre one at the Ajmeri Gate side and a 150 sq metre one at the Paharganj side." He said that though the railways had requested people not to sleep on the platforms, they continued to do so. "We already have a big waiting hall on the Paharganj side where heaters have also been installed. Passengers should go there," he said.

Jha added that the two winter resting facilities were covered on all sides, had thick floor mats and had blowers to keep them warm. There are also water dispensers handy to ensure the waiting passengers did not have any problems.

"We also request people to check the train timings before reaching the platform. We are sending bulk messages to phones about trains that are delayed," he said.

Around 100 trains have been delayed, rescheduled or cancelled in the past three days due to dense fog. The cold



A team of Congress workers reached the New Delhi station and distributed blankets

YOU READ IT HERE

Fog Pulls The Chain, Passengers Left Out In Cold

TIME-FREEZE! Delays Run Into Hours, Hundreds Sleep On Floors At New Delhi Railway Station

At Ghaziabad station, endless wait for train that never arrived



Jan 18  
2024

ader, Ajay Maken, said, "Under the guidance of Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi, Congress workers distributed thousands of blankets." Having seen the plight of the passengers, the party felt it was important to reach out to them, Maken explained.

# Temperature rises a tad, but dense fog to keep city on toes for two more days

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The city saw a further rise in its minimum temperature on Thursday, although, several areas such as the airport saw dense fog towards the morning with visibility as low as 50 metres from 3am to 3am.

Visibility increased to 100 metres between 3am and 7am and improved further to over 300 metres afterwards.

The minimum and maximum temperatures on Friday are likely to be 7 degrees and 18 degrees Celsius, respectively.

On Thursday, 75 flights were delayed, at least five cancelled and four were diverted.

From early afternoon onwards, the weather was pleasant and the sky clear. The IMD has issued a yellow alert for dense fog on Friday and Saturday.

The minimum temperature was 6.6 degrees Celsius, a notch below normal, and against 5.7 degrees Celsius a day earlier. The last time Delhi saw a cold wave — minimum temperature below 4 degrees Celsius — was on Tuesday. The minimum temperature was 3.5 degrees Celsius.

The maximum temperature was 18.6 degrees Celsius, a notch below normal, but slightly warmer than 18.2 degrees Celsius a day earlier.

"Delhi will continue to see a respite from very harsh winter conditions with no cold wave for the next 4-5 days. The winds are still warm and easterly and the skies are clear, which causes warming during the daytime. No major fall in day and night temperatures," Kuldeep Srivastava, a scientist and head of the re-



Photos: Piyal Bhattacharjee



The minimum temperature on Friday is likely to be 7 degrees Celsius

gional weather forecasting centre, India Meteorological Department (IMD), said.

"The maximum temperature will continue to be around 18-20 degrees Celsius, while the

minimum will be around 6.7 degrees Celsius, he added.

The air quality index, which was 368 on Wednesday, dipped to 318 on Thursday, which was a slight improvement. According to the air quality early warning system, air quality is likely to remain in the "very poor" category on Friday too.

"The air quality is likely to improve gradually but remain in the 'very poor' category from Friday to Sunday. The outlook for the next six days shows that a predominant surface wind from the west/northwest direction is likely to hit Delhi with speed of up to 6 kmph, the IITM's air quality early warning system said. Clear skies with moderate to dense fog is expected on the morning of Jan 19.

Met officials said the fog's timing and intensity have varied from day to day. Sunday saw dense fog for over 11 hours, while on Monday, it lasted for almost five hours. "In contrast, on Tuesday, the dense fog was there for only two hours while only moderate fog was seen on Wednesday," Jenamani said.

Airport officials said pilots trained in CAT III procedures can make an aircraft land when visibility is of 50 metres. However, an aircraft can take off when visibility is 125 metres.

When visibility is under 50 metres, it is "very dense" fog. Visibility of 50-200 metres is "dense" fog, 200-500 metres is "moderate" and 500-1,000 metres is "shallow". TN

Along with Delhi, the restrictions on BS III petrol and BS IV diesel LMs (four-wheelers)

and industrial units, which were issued specific closure orders on account of violations and non-compliance of various statutory directions, rules and guidelines will not be allowed to resume operations without "any specific order from the commission," the CAQM said.

The ban on construction and demolition (C&D) activity will be a relief to daily-wage labourers who were out of work.

"However, C&D project sites and industrial units that were issued specific closure orders, Enhanced parking fees to

trains originate and terminate at this station. The number of trains per platform per day varies from 13 to 23. On average, the station handles around 250 trains every day.

Meanwhile, a team of Congress workers reached New Delhi Railway Station to distribute blankets. Their le-

# GRAP's grip loosened as air quality shows improvement

Photo: Piyal Bhattacharjee

## Fog delays 75 flights, causes 5 cancellations

**New Delhi:** Over 75 flights were delayed and at least five cancelled because of dense fog at Indira Gandhi International Airport on Thursday.

Visibility remained between 50 metres and 100 metres from 3am to 7am. The lowest visibility, at 50 metres, was from 3am to 3am.

Officials said two Delhi-bound flights were also diverted to Jaipur and one each to Mumbai and Hyderabad.

According to IMD, the dense fog lasted at the airport for nearly 7 hours. "The visibility was recorded at 100 metres from 3am to 7am and it improved to 300-400 metres from 7am to 9am," RK Jenamani, a senior scientist at IMD, said. Though the sun came out later, delays continued as a cascading effect.

Met officials said the fog's timing and intensity have varied from day to day. Sunday saw dense fog for over 11 hours, while on Monday, it lasted for almost five hours. "In contrast, on Tuesday, the dense fog was there for only two hours while only moderate fog was seen on Wednesday," Jenamani said.

Airport officials said pilots trained in CAT III procedures can make an aircraft land when visibility is of 50 metres. However, an aircraft can take off when visibility is 125 metres.

The restrictions were enforced on January 14 after Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) deteriorated to 447, which is the in "severe" category. This was the third time in this winter season when GRAP Stage III measures were imposed. It was first enforced from November 2-28 and again from December 22 to January 1.

The revocation came after the air quality index receded from the "severe" band to "very poor".

Measures still in force

Ban on DG sets for non-emergency purpose

C&D project sites and industrial units that were issued specific closure orders

Enhanced parking fees to

discourage private transport

Augmenting CNG/electric bus and metro services by inducing additional fleet and increasing frequency; differential rates to encourage off-peak travel

RWAs to provide electric heaters to security staff to avoid open biomass and municipal solid waste burning during winter

# Deadline looms, just 78,000 property tags issued

Vibha.Sharma@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Even as the deadline for taxpayers to geotag their properties nears, only 78,000 tags have been issued so far, mostly in non-residential areas. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has said that failure to geotag properties by Jan 31 will deprive taxpayers of rebates.

MCD has around 14 lakh taxpayers and around 13 lakh properties have been issued the unique property identification code (UPIC) number. A majority of these are struggling to comply with the geotagging requirement. In unauthorised colonies, the exercise doesn't seem to have started.

Queried about the response, MCD officials said that people were buying time and there would be a huge rush at the last moment. "The process is very simple and we are expecting that by the month-end, people will come forward to get their properties geo-tagged. We held over 200 camps, meetings with RWAs and market

## LAST DATE FOR GEOTAGGING: JAN 31

### STEPS

- 1 Download mobile app—Unified Mobile App (UMA)—available on Android and iOS, or visit <http://mcdonline.nic.in/mcdapp.html>
- 2 Select 'citizen' option
- 3 Log in, select UPIC for geotagging using a registered mobile number
- 4 Select property UPIC, go to 'action' button and click 'geotagging' for the map location to pop up
- If you don't have UPIC number of your property, you need to generate one and follow the steps mentioned above



- 5 Click on capture 'geo-coordinates'
- 6 To add photographs, click on 'photos for property' and add caption
- 7 Click on 'Yes' button to submit details

to geotag their properties by Jan 31, 2024, would not be able to avail a 10% rebate on the lump sum advance payment of tax for the 2024-25 financial year by June 30.

Geotagging of properties

involves assigning a unique latitude-longitude marker to a property on a GIS map by selecting current location against any unique property identification code to ensure that the properties have their location

geographically identified.

"In places where addresses have not been done properly, such as in densely populated areas, the geotagging will help MCD to identify each property geographically. Geotagged properties on the app will pop up on the GIS map," said the official.

Property owners, however, are critical of the civic body for having fixed the deadline for the completion of the process without providing proper assistance to them. They argue that officials held workshops at limited locations and have been unable to answer residents' queries. Confusion also persists about filing taxes in different categories such as bungalow floors, apartments, etc.

As PK Paul of East Bengal Displaced Persons Association, Chittaranjan Park, asked, "Why does MCD expect the public to do the geotagging task when it has all the information? And by withdrawing rebates, the civic body's revenue collection will be impacted."

Sanjay Rana of the Greater

Kailash II RWA pointed out that MCD had already reduced the rebate on advance payment of tax from 15% to 10% and now it was threatening to end even the truncated rebate if the geotagging wasn't achieved. "Instead of giving incentives, MCD has warned of ending rebates while forcing people to carry out the exercise on their own. There are many senior citizens in our area who need help at every step and are not tech savvy," said Rana.

Asked whether there was a possibility of extending the deadline, civic officials said that a decision on this could be taken depending on the scenario till Jan 31. "So far we are sticking to the deadline and have no plans to extend it," said an official.

New Delhi: A 39-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly kidnapping an 11-month-old baby boy from Delhi's Jaitpur. Motivated by the desire for a son, suspect Naveen Mishra, a BCom graduate, committed the crime, police said. His wife later surrendered the child to the cops.

Police received information about kidnapping at 8.34 pm on Wednesday. The boy's mother Rashmi told cops that she runs a beauty parlour at Nala Road in Jaitpur and had gone there with her children—a girl (about eight) and the boy.

"Around 8pm, when her son began crying, she asked her daughter to take him outside to quiet him down. After some time, when Rashmi went outside, she found her daughter alone. Her son was nowhere to be seen," said Rajesh Deo, DCP (south-east).

When the woman questioned her daughter, the girl told her that a man on a motorcycle had taken the boy away, police said. After reviewing CCTV's footage, police identified a suspect carrying the child on a motorcycle which was registered in the name of Kanchan Mishra, a Jaitpur resident, the DCP said.

At 10.40am on Thursday, Kanchan Mishra came to Jaitpur police station with the kidnapped child, Deo said, adding she could not give a satisfactory reply when questioned. Police immediately nabbed her husband from their house.

"He told us that when he was passing through Nala Road, he saw that a girl playing on the road and baby boy crying near her. He stopped his bike, took the child in his lap, and brought him home because he didn't have any son of his own," the DCP said, adding Naveen told the cops that after learning about the ongoing search for the child, he became frightened and asked his wife to hand the child over to police.

Kidnapped 11-month-old baby rescued, man held

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

S DELHI RESIDENT SAYS  
Why does MCD expect the public to do the geotagging task

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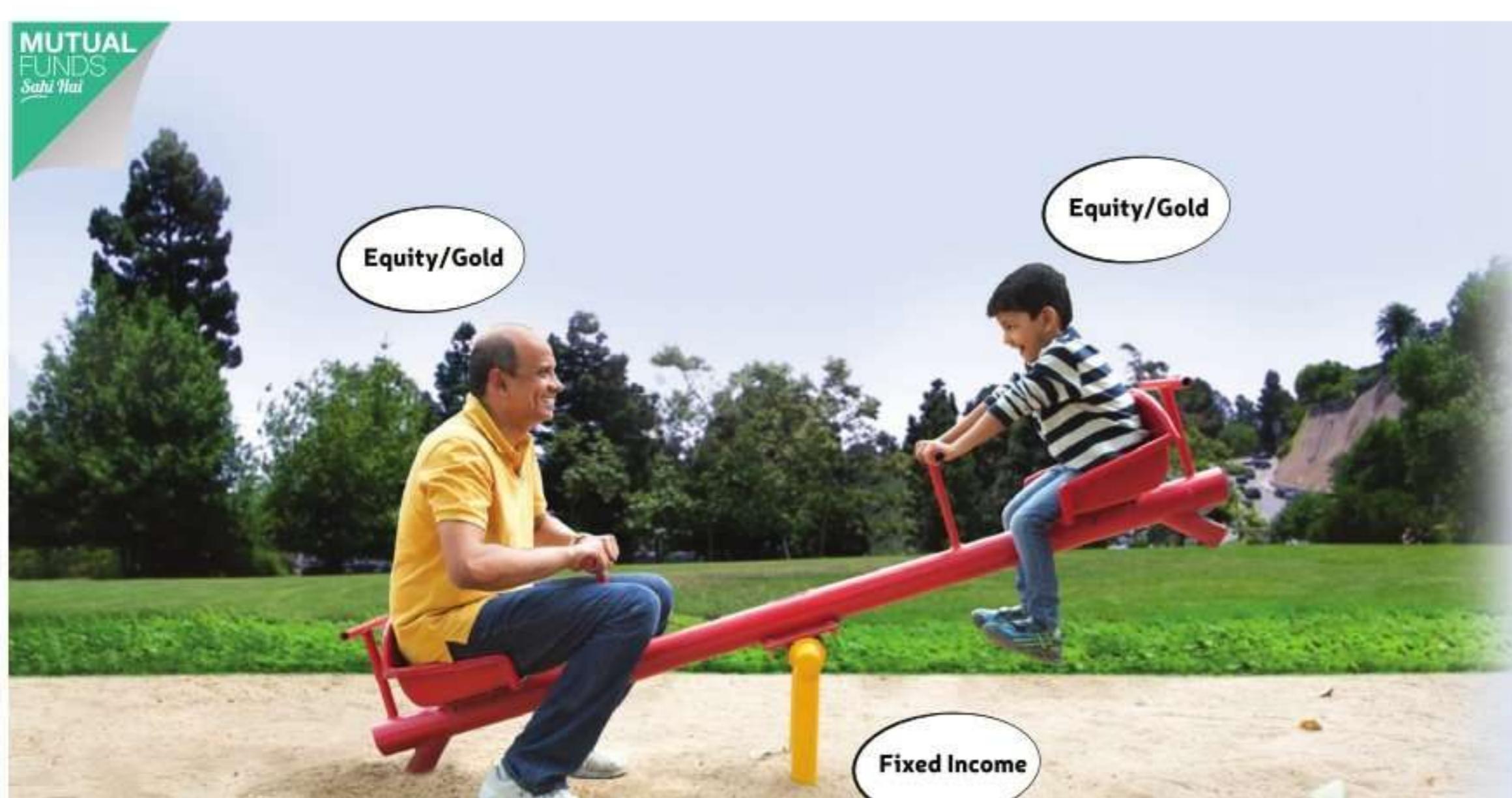
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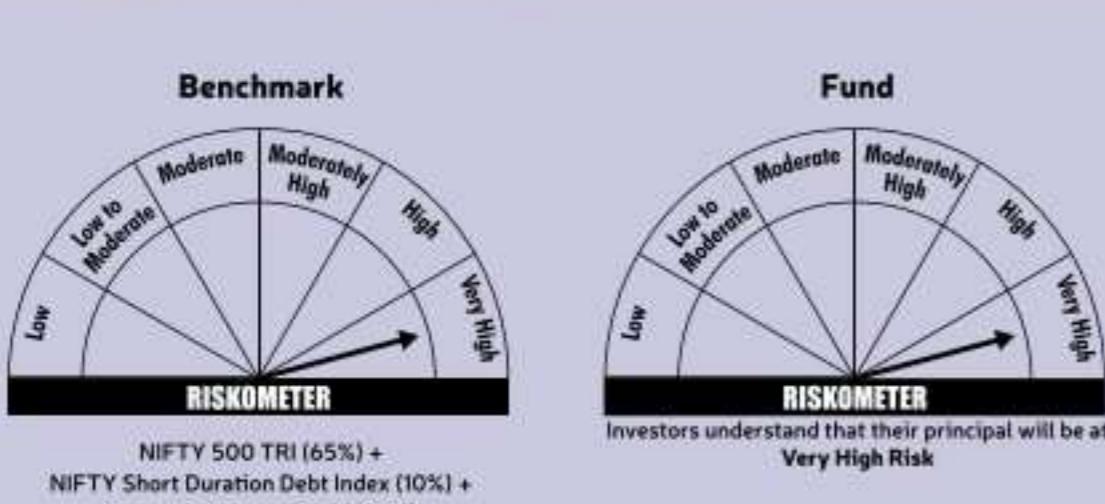


## Balancing Opportunities

Rolling 3YR CAGR			
% Occurrences with returns at	<0 pct	0-8 pct	>8pct
Nifty 50	2.8	24.4	72.8
Multi-Asset Portfolio	0.0	32.7	67.3

Back testing of the proposed portfolio says that the addition of Gold and Debt to Equity demonstrates that the occurrence of a loss is eliminated when you hold your investment for at least 3 years, and also the portfolio has a high frequency of delivering inflation beating returns. Average inflation during this period has been 6.43% per annum.

Source: Bloomberg. Computation: In-house. Data from Jan 2010 to Sep 2023. Rolling Returns calculated on a daily basis. Multi asset model portfolio considers theoretical allocation of 25% to Gold, 10% to 10Y G-secs and the rest towards Nifty 50. Equity allocation to Nifty 50 ranges from 50% to 65% based on asset allocation framework using market valuations. Past performance may or may not be sustained in the future. The index used is CPI combined (2012 base).



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The 4 instances highlighted in the table are examples of this:

		Nifty 50(%)	Gold(%)
Taper tantrum	Jun '13 to Aug '13	-6.3	24.6
Correction post election rally	Mar '15 to Feb '16	-17.7	11.2
Covid pandemic	Jan '20 to Mar '20	-28.6	0.7
Ukraine-Russia conflict	Jan '22 to Jun '22	-9.0	6.3

Source: Bloomberg, In-house computation. Gold returns based on MCX Gold Index. Data from Jan 2010 to Sep 2023. Past performance may or may not be sustained in the future.

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## HC sets aside expulsion of South Asian Univ student

Abhinav.Garg@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi High Court on Thursday set aside the decision of South Asian University (SAU) to expel a student on charges of indiscipline. Granting relief to the student, the court also held that SAU doesn't enjoy any specific immunity from legal proceedings and a student whose rights are affected can invoke the jurisdiction of court to seek relief.

Justice C Hari Shankar stated that expulsion of the master's student from the rolls of the university "has been effected in a manner contrary to the provisions of the SAU Act, its rules and regulations" and benefit of immunity from legal proceedings would "obviously not be available."

Quashing the decision taken by the university management, the court said that "the manner in which SAU proceeded against the petitioner is completely alien to the stipulated procedure contained in the rules and regulations of SAU...it is also in stark contravention of the most elementary principles of natural justice and fair play."

The court added that facts indicate that "SAU was determined to expel the petitioner from its rolls. There is no other explanation for SAU not providing to the petitioner the copies of the complaints against her and hearing the complainants and the witnesses who supported the complaint behind the back of the petitioner and proceeding to rely on the said material against her."

It said the manner in which the entire exercise was conducted "cannot even be elevated to the status of lip service to the principles of natural justice. It was, clearly, a sham, with a prima facie pre-determined intent to expel the petitioners from the university environs."

The student had moved court challenging the varsity's move to expel her forcing her to discontinue her studies. She maintained that the decision had been taken in violation of the binding statutes of the university.

Brushing aside SAU's objection to jurisdiction of the court to hear the plea, Justice Shankar said, "It is clear SAU is imparting education. Ergo, it is discharging a public function. The petitioner is a student in SAU. The decision of the university to expel the petitioner has resulted in curtailing her education. The challenge to the expulsion, therefore, amounts to seeking a mandamus to the university to continue to educate her."

# Pankaj Tripathi shines in this homage to Vajpayee's legacy

## CINEMA OF THE WEEK

**Main Atal Hoon (Drama) ★★★**  
**Cast:** Pankaj Tripathi, Raja Rameshkumar Sevak, Ekta Kaul, Daya Shankar Pandey, Pramod Pathak, Piyush Mishra  
**Direction:** Ravi Jadhav  
**Duration:** 2 hours 19 minutes  
**Language:** Hindi (UA)

**■ The biopic follows the life and times of the former Prime Minister of India, Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It also chronicles the various facets of his personality and the country's achievements under his leadership.**

Making a biopic on a stalwart like the 10th Prime Minister of India, Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee, is no mean feat. While the creators must weave a cohesive narrative from an exhaustive chronicle, the actor must portray the role befittingly. *Main Atal Hoon* stands out in both regards. Pankaj Tripathi delivers a pitch-perfect performance as Vajpayee, a poet, politician, statesman, and gentleman. Besides the mannerisms and speech, the actor perfectly nails the nuances of his personality. On the other hand, award-winning director-writer Ravi Jadhav (*Natrang*, *Taali*, etc.) and co-writer Rishi Virmani come up with aces in chronicling the life and times of one of the most admired figures in India.

Inspired by Sarang Darshane's book, *Atalji: Kavirhridayach Rashtrenetayachi Charitkhanai*, the movie succinctly covers Vajpayee's journey from being a freedom fighter to a revered leader. The narrative summarises all the prominent influences, pivotal events, and important



achievements under his leadership. From the Kargil War, the bus yatra from India to Pakistan, and the Pokhran Nuclear Test, many crucial episodes have been depicted through archival footage, making the narrative more engaging and authentic. However, the audience may need knowledge of Indian politics to understand a few parts of the movie. Although a narrator sets the context regularly, it would have helped to have some background in these portions.

The film initially moves at a steady pace but slows intermittently until the interval. It picks up its speed again in the second half when the

narrative shifts towards the peak of his days as a politico. Besides its writing and direction, the biopic boasts stellar cinematography by Lawrence Alex Decunha. The movie is a visual treat, from silhouettes to camerawork enhancing important scenes. Salim-Sulaiman, Payal Dev, Kailash Kher, and Amritraj provide a soundtrack that evokes inspiration, and Monty Sharma's background score makes the narrative more powerful. The use of Vajpayee's poetry recitation and lyrics in songs also add to the appeal.

While Pankaj Tripathi shines as Vajpayee and looks like his replica, especially in long shots, Raja Rameshkumar Sevak as LK Advani looks extraordinarily similar to the senior leader. Other political figures, such as Sushma Swaraj (Gauri Sukhtanker) and Arun Jaitley (Yogendra Patwal), have also been portrayed perfectly. Vajpayee's relationship with his father, Krishna Bihari Vajpayee (Piyush Mishra), is heartwarming and even elicits a few chuckles. The depiction of his equation with his classmate and long-time friend Rajkumari Kaul, nee Haksar (Ekta Kaul), is pleasant. Although the movie touches upon how Vajpayee met his adopted daughter, Namita Bhattacharya (Kaul), their relationship could have been elaborated.

The film's narrative, treatment, and stellar portrayal by Pankaj Tripathi will leave you enamoured. Watch this movie that will fill you with admiration for one of the most significant political figures in India.

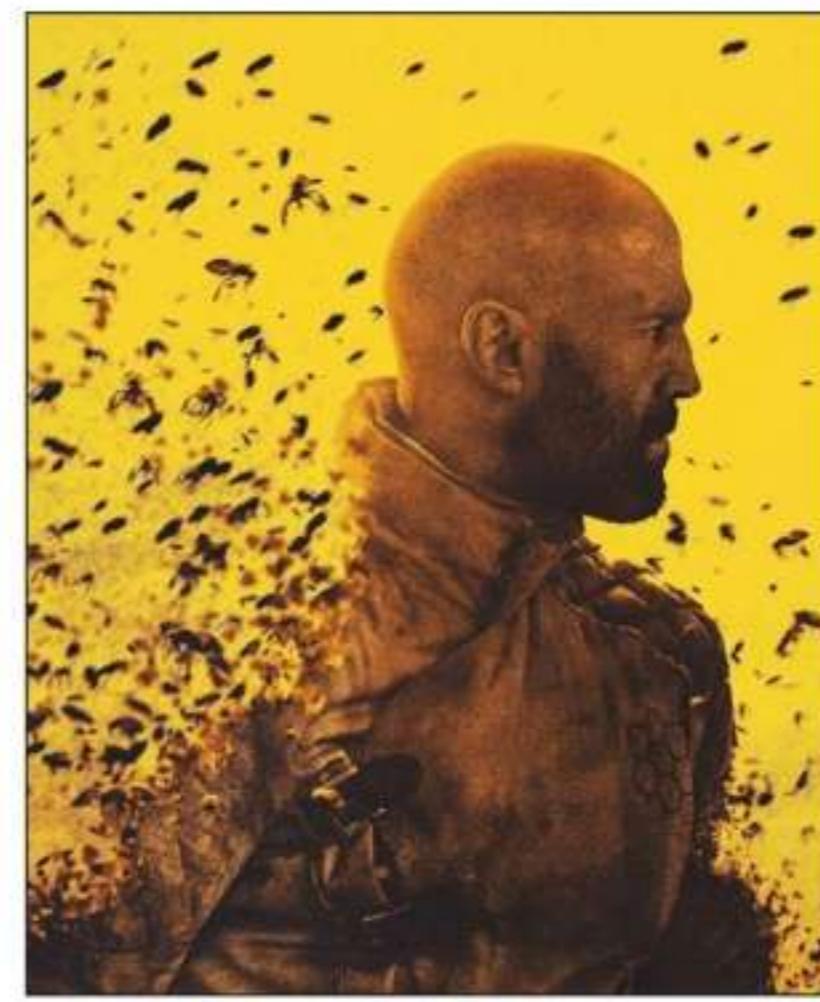
— Dhaval Roy

To review any movie and check show timings visit [etimes.in](#)

## The Beekeeper (Action) ★★★

**Cast:** Jason Statham, Emmy Raver-Lampman, Josh Hutcherson, Jeremy Irons  
**Direction:** David Ayer  
**Duration:** 1 hour 35 minutes  
**Language:** English (A)

**■ A beekeeper is on a mission to exact revenge for a defenseless phishing scam victim. And he will stop at nothing.**



destroy lives anyway. This premise is exciting and has immense scope to dive deep into a story about new-age scams that have become a sad reality of our life. But far from going deep, *The Beekeeper* barely manages to even skim the surface. Director David Ayer and his writer Kurt Wimmer make no effort to explain the intricacies of how a group of

young techies wipe off millions of dollars daily from people's bank accounts from a plush high-tech office and remain untraceable. Neither are they interested in showing us the scam itself in detail. It merely serves as a motivation and a reason for our man Adam Clay to unleash mayhem on the bad guys and go all guns blazing.

Like most high-octane actioners, *The Beekeeper* too succumbs to preposterous and illogical happenings. However, the one thing that keeps this one fresh and brimming with entertainment is Jason Statham's solid kicks and punches and the novel action choreography (by Gabriel Beristain). Right from the start, the action is the one element that remains unpredictable, even when the writing falters. The sweet satisfaction of a bloody revenge for those who have little regard for other people's hard-earned money, is rewarding to watch. This keeps the narrative on track even when most characters come across as bumbling stereotypes. Thankfully, the leading man Jason Statham doesn't seem to have lost his sheen. The actor can still pack a punch.

*The Beekeeper* is a gripping action thriller for most part, with a fresh narrative of vengeance. A more pronounced emphasis on the crime and its execution could have made this stinging revenge drama far more lethal.

— Ronak Kotecha

## RATING SCALE

TRASH ★ | BELOW AVERAGE ★★ | AVERAGE ★★★ | ABOVE AVERAGE ★★★★ | GOOD ★★★★ | VERY GOOD ★★★★★ | OUTSTANDING ★★★★★ | MASTERPIECE ★★★★★

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL



Haryana Tourism Corporation Ltd. on behalf of Directorate of Archaeology & Museums, Haryana intends to invite Bids from qualified and reputed agencies for **Selection of Firm for Preparation of Detailed Design & Project Management Consultancy Services for Development/Redevelopment/ Redesign/ Upgradation of various Museums in Haryana state**. Proposals are invited online from reputed firms having required qualifications, technical background, team strength, appropriate registrations. The details are available on the website of Directorate of Archaeology & Museums, Haryana i.e., [www.archaeologyharyana.gov.in](http://www.archaeologyharyana.gov.in) and [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in). Interested Applicants are requested to submit the online proposal on [etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) latest by **02.02.2024 till 14:00 Hrs IST**. The Director, Directorate of Archaeology & Museums, Haryana reserves the right to consider/reject any proposal without assigning any reason.

**Issued by**  
**Managing Director**  
**Haryana Tourism Corporation Ltd.**

Issued through:DPR,Haryana/Advt.No.24278/18/01/2024.

Government of Madhya Pradesh Office of the Engineer-in-Chief Water Resources Department, Jal Sansadhan Bhawan, Tulsibaug, Bhopal (M.P.) Email Id: <a href="mailto:ceproc.enqrwd.bpl@nic.in">ceproc.enqrwd.bpl@nic.in</a> Tel: 0755-2767635 Fax: 0755-2552406			
N.I.T. No. 1046/2023-24/E-in-C-e-tendering Bhopal, Dated 10.01.2024			
Bids for following works are invited on website <a href="https://www.mptenders.gov.in">https://www.mptenders.gov.in</a> Last Date of purchase/download of Bid Document and submission of bid is 07-02-2024, 17:30 hrs. Any amendment/modification can be seen only on the website. Detailed N.I.T. and other details can be viewed on above mentioned website.			
S No.	Tender No.	Work	District Amount (Lakhs)
1.	2024-WRD-324802	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction earthen dam and canal of Gunguch Tank Project, as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Seoni 1847.44
2.	2024-WRD-324885	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of 10 No's Roads (State Highway and other roads), 05 No's Bridges (with protection work), 05 No's Pipe culverts and 07 No's slab culvert affected by submergence Banda major Irrigation Project, as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Sagar 5511.02
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3.	Period of completion : 03 (Three) Calendar months.	4.	Other details : Construction of 1.5 mtr paved and 1.0 mtr earthen shoulder and utility space on each side) connecting NH-57 to Haladiapada Industrial Area, Khurda, Odisha.
Procurement Officer	Bid ID/Tender reference No.	Availability of Tender on-line for Bidding	
1	Bid ID/Tender Reference No P&C/EST-E-2521/01/2023/ 1188 dated: 11.01.2024	3	20.01.2024 up to 17.00 Hrs.
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Tower, Bhubaneswar.	P&C/EST-E-177/2023-24.	4	05.02.2024 up to 17.00 Hrs.
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, <a href="http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in">www.tendersodisha.gov.in</a> and Comrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal <a href="http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in">www.tendersodisha.gov.in</a> and <a href="http://www.idco.in">www.idco.in</a> .			
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Date 08/01/2024			
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2. Tender document is available on website <a href="http://www.govtprint.nic.in">www.govtprint.nic.in</a>			
3. Online E-Tender for this subject matter is invited online and will be opened at 04.00 PM on 31-01-2024 as per Key dates in the office of the undersigned in the presence of participants, or their Authorised representative.			
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## Anyone But You (Comedy, Romance) ★★

**Cast:** Sydney Sweeney, Glen Powell, Gata, Alexandra Shipp, Charlie Fraser, Dermot Mulroney  
**Direction:** Will Gluck  
**Duration:** 1 hour 43 minutes  
**Language:** English (A)

Following a disastrous first date, Ben and Bea both agree that they aren't a match. However, fate brings them back together at a destination wedding in Australia, and they're forced to pretend to be a couple in love.

When creators of romantic comedies find themselves short of ideas, they often turn to Shakespeare for inspiration. Loosely inspired by *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Anyone But You* proves to be a bland and boring romcom with little to offer. Marred by a feeble script, the film provides a scant opportunity for its actors to break out of conventional roles. While the film's premise may have appeared strong in theory, the execution lacks substance, resulting in moments that are cringe-worthy and challenging to endure. Despite its genre, the film fails to evoke laughter, and the romantic elements are convoluted and lack clarity.



The film's plot centers around Ben (Glen Powell) and Bea (Sydney Sweeney), who, upon their first meeting

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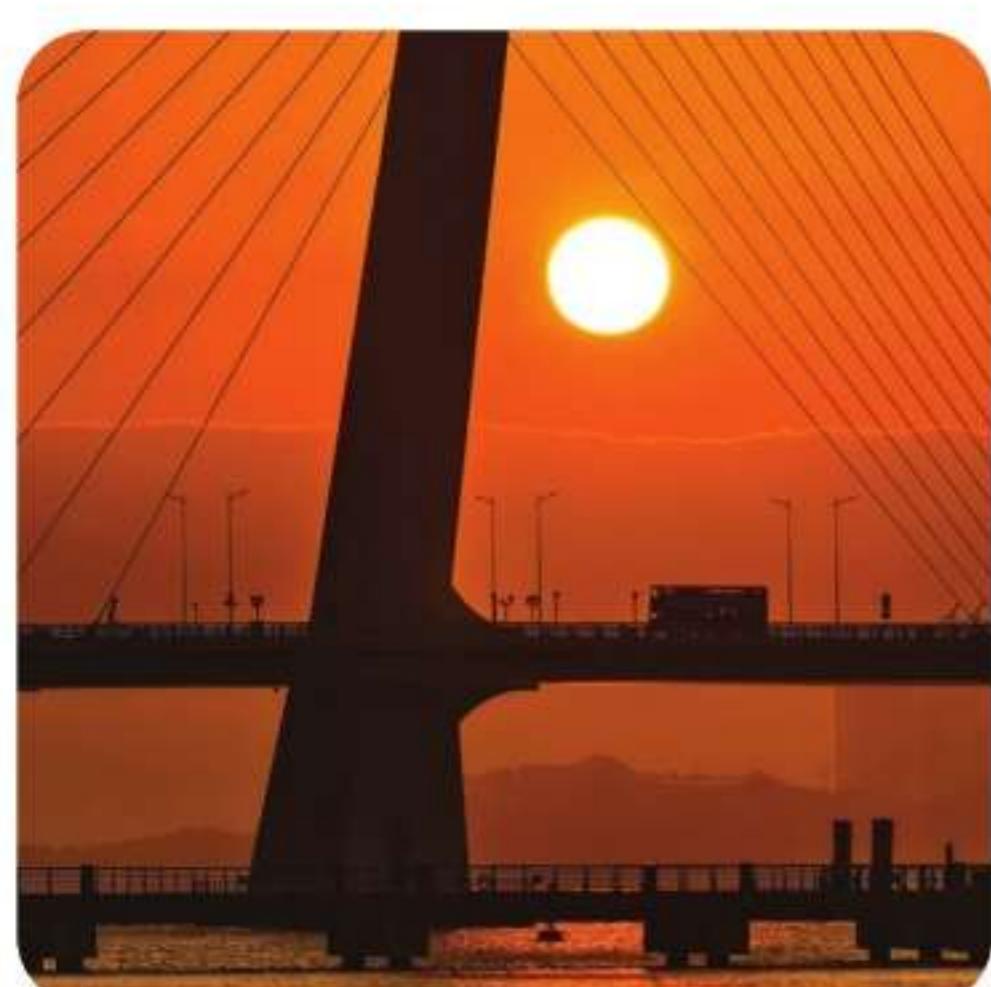
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# 90% of challans unpaid, transport department now writes to judiciary

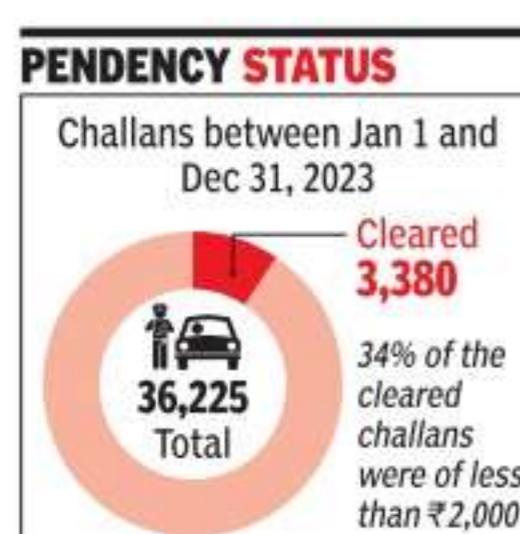
Abhinav.Rajput  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi government's transport department has written to the judiciary stating that 90% of the people have not responded to challans, thereby affecting the enforcement exercise.

The department has also flagged that over 75% of the challans, which were imposed during the period when the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) was enforced last year, are unpaid.

In a letter to the chief metropolitan magistrate, Tis Hazari Courts, the transport department said, "It is brought to your attention that the challan pendency status is becoming another challenge in the realm of enforcement of vehicles."

A transport department official said the number of challans increased substantially in 2023 compared with the previous year. "However, the generated challans have not been ta-



ken to their logical conclusion, which is making the whole process ineffective," he added.

According to transport department data, 36,225 PUCC (pollution under control certificate) challans were issued in 2023, of which 33,137, or 91%, are still to be renewed. There is a Rs 10,000 fine for not having a valid PUCC.

The transport department also pointed out that several challans were reduced by the mediation agencies, making the enforcement exercise toothless.

"Among the cleared challans, 30% got reduced to less

than Rs 2,000, where the fine is Rs 10,000 in case of PUCC and Rs 20,000 for plying BS3 petrol and BS4 diesel cars. It seriously affects the enforcement exercise and campaigns aimed at reducing pollution due to vehicles," said a senior official.

The department's letter stated that in order to tackle the issue of pendency of challans and reduction in penalty, "the issue needs to be taken up with the higher judiciary in order to create a system of clearance of all challans related to pollution without any reduction in penalty".

There were 1,095 challans for plying of BS3 petrol and BS4 diesel vehicles, in violation of GRAP measures, from Oct 1, 2022 to March 1, 2023. Of these, 75% are pending.

Another senior official of the transport department said the traffic police has also flagged several cases in which people have not paid online challans.

"We are thinking of making changes in the Delhi Mo-

tor Vehicles Rules, under which if people ignore multiple challans for a longer period, there would be provision for vehicles being impounded. If they still do not pay, then even registration can be cancelled," he added.

Till a few years ago, when drivers used to be stopped for violating rules, they would give innumerable excuses, argue with traffic policemen and even escape without paying a fine. E-challans, which are contactless, are considered better as there is no room for any argument with traffic cops and violators are caught with proof recorded on camera.

Repeat offenders engage in a cycle of committing traffic violations, said the official. "They have a tendency to break traffic laws without paying the pending notices of previous violations, which compromises road safety," he said, adding that such acts usually put the lives of other road users in danger.

VLPs, which use specially designed cartridges with pyrotechnic substances that produce intense light and heat on ignition, illuminating the area where it's fired. "These are harmless and produce a ball of light that illuminates the sky for some time, providing us some time to locate our suspects," explained an officer, who also requested people not to panic on seeing such flares.

Police have found operations in the dark challenge. "We were forced to rely on the headlights of our vehicles, torches and mobile flashlight," said the officer. "During riots, conducting raids at night can be dangerous because people hide, store Molotov cocktails and bricks on terraces. Flares may help avoid risks in such situations." In the West, VLPs are part of police gear.

Way back in 2002, Vadodara Police began using these guns to spot rioters who intended to damage streetlights and blow up transmission box fuses to enable cover of darkness. The VLPs have gained a lot of popularity among the youths after featuring in video

# No Longer Shot In Dark: Flare Guns Fire Up Police Response

Currently In Use For Patrolling In Yamuna Khadar, Forested Areas

Siddhiv.Singh@timesgroup.com

## BRIGHT IDEA

Delhi Police has started using flare guns during patrol in dimly lit areas like Yamuna Khadar and in jungles

### FEATURES

- Are compact and portable, fire one flare at a time
- Use specially designed cartridges as ammunition
- Flare cartridges contain pyrotechnic substances, including chemicals and a primer, to produce intense light and heat on ignition
- Pulling the trigger initiates the striking of the primer on the flare cartridge
- There are different types of flares | Hand-held, parachute, and smoke flares for prolonged visibility for signalling



The flare is designed to ascend to a significant height, making it visible from a distance

### HOW POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT USE IT

- |  |   |  |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| <b>1</b> Signalling To communicate over long distances, especially in emergency situations | <b>2</b> Search And Rescue Operations   Flare guns are commonly used in search and rescue operations to signal distress or mark locations | <b>3</b> Deterrence   The loud noise and bright light produced by a flare gun can serve as a deterrent | <b>4</b> Illumination   Used to light up large areas, enhancing visibility during security operations at night | <b>5</b> Coloured Smoke   The gun flare emits coloured smoke, serving as a visual signal for specific purposes |
|--|---|--|--|--|

games like PUBG and BGMI.

A video shared by a Delhi Police personnel on X shows the flare guns being pressed into action and producing a bright light. Joy Tirkey, DCP (North-East), said, "On Tuesday night, we used flare guns to illuminate the forest area in northeast Delhi to monitor potential illegal activities. The riverbank there is surrounded by jungles where antisocial

elements hide after dark. With 10-12 personnel deployed daily from 7pm to 11pm, our aim is to enhance security and surveillance by lighting up the jungle area along Yamuna Khadar."

Tirkey added, "Intensive patrolling and combing operations along the Yamuna riverbank and khadar area are going on as part of security preparedness for Republic Day. Efforts are being made to thwart any attempt to breach the law and order."

The Northeast district, which witnessed a deadly wave of violence during the riots in Feb 2020, is of strategic importance for the cops because it shares a long border with Uttar Pradesh. Besides the flare guns, police are also using drones for surveying and forest mapping of the area along the border.

## Vigilance seeks officers' suspension over 'unproductive expense' on ads

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Congress leader Ajay Maken had lodged a complaint in May 2016 for recovery of an 'unproductive expenditure' amounting to Rs 97 crore on AAP government's ads**

New Delhi: The directorate of vigilance of Delhi government has written to the ministry of home affairs (MHA) for the suspension of two Danics officers and initiation of disciplinary proceedings for a major penalty against them for alleged "unproductive expenditure" of Rs 97 crore on issuing political advertisements in 2015-16.

The directorate of vigilance in its communication also mentioned that five subordinate officers, who were then posted in the directorate of information and publicity (DIP), had already been placed under suspension but the Union home ministry was the competent authority to take action against Danics officers.

The two officers include Shammim Akhtar Tamanna, who is currently serving in the urban development department of Delhi government, and Manoj Dwivedi, currently posted in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

While Dwivedi could not be contacted, Tamanna said he has already appeared before CBI as a witness in the case and recorded his statement. "I will approach the President of India and the UN against harassment and injustice done to me," he said.

The directorate of vigilance stated in the letter that the case was placed before the National Capital Civil Services Authority. The panel is chaired by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and has chief secretary and additional chief secretary (home) as its two members. Its recommendations were also approved by the LG.

No immediate reaction was available from Delhi government.

According to the communication sent to the home ministry, a complaint was lodged by Congress leader Ajay Maken in May 2016 for recovery of "unproductive expenditure" amounting to the tune of Rs 97 crore over advertisements of Aam Aadmi Party government. The complaint was examined by the committee on content regulation on government advertising, which was constituted by the Union ministry of information and broadcasting following a Supreme Court order on a string of writ petitions to restrain the Centre and all state governments from using public funds on advertisements intended to project individual functionaries of the government or a political party.

The three-member committee was given the responsibility to regulate the content of advertising and eliminate unproductive expenditure of government revenue by AAP government.

The committee, in its report submitted in Sep 2016, found "stark violation" of SC guidelines in advertisements published by Delhi government and directed the DIP to assess and recover the expenditure incurred on publishing advertisements outside the territory of Delhi on various anniversaries, advertisements and advertorials having name of AAP, advertisements carrying Delhi chief minister's views on incidents in other states and those that targeted the opposition.

The DIP ascertained and quantified that an amount of Rs 97.1 crore had been spent on account of "non-conforming" advertisements of which Rs 42.2 crore had been paid to the publications through its advertising agency while the remaining Rs 54.8 crore was still pending disbursal.

The report was placed before the Delhi LG on March 29, 2017, who directed to recover the payments already released and freeze fresh payments. The DIP secretary on March 30, 2017 issued a notice for reimbursement of Rs 97 crore incurred on specified advertisements. The notice of recovery was challenged by AAP before the high court.

"However, neither a stay order was granted to AAP nor any temporary relief given. Efforts are being made by the DIP to recover the amount from AAP," said an official.

## LG paves the way for premature release of old, infirm prisoners

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Lieutenant governor VK Saxena on Thursday approved the draft notification for an amendment in the Delhi Prison Rules 2018, paving the way for premature release of "incapacitated prisoners" undergoing a fixed-term imprisonment in the city jails.

The amendment was made in view of a Delhi High Court order on a writ petition that sought the premature release of infirm prisoners as per the recommendations of All India Committee on Jail Reforms (1982-1983) Mulla Committee) and model Prison Rules, 2003.

Officials said the amendment would ensure a humanitarian approach towards old and infirm prisoners and also decongest the overcrowded jails.

Currently, only life convicts who have spent at least 14 years in jail are prematurely released on the recommendations of the sentence review board. As per the amendment, Rule 124-A has been inserted, allowing "incapacitated convict" aged 70 years and above and unable to perform his or her daily tasks could be released prematurely on the recommendations of a review committee, which has been especially set up for this purpose.

"Such prisoners include those undergoing either rigorous or simple imprisonment for a fixed term of sentence and those whose appeals against the convictions have been decided by the appellate courts," said a Raj Niwas official.

The new rule, however, will not be applicable on a convict awarded death or life sentence or imprisoned under the provisions of money laundering, treason, terrorism or the PoCSO Act, among others.

"A convict who has been declared incapacitated by a medical board and has undergone at least half the sentence awarded, without counting the period of remission earned, will be eligible to be considered for remittance of the sentence," said the official.

## Top cops from Delhi, other states discuss anti-terror measures

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

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New Delhi: Sealing of borders and real-time exchange of intelligence were some of the things discussed during a key interstate coordination meet held at the Delhi Police headquarters on Thursday.

Besides top cops from Delhi and neighbouring states such as UP and Haryana, officials from NIA, NCB, IB and NATGRID participated in the conference held ahead of Republic Day. "The officials shared intelligence related to terror inputs and the anti-terror measures, including border checking, verification of suspicious elements, etc. Issues related to movement of paragliders, drones and other flying objects from the open areas were discussed besides the formation of a WhatsApp group," said an officer.

"Advance information about the movement of any suspicious elements/vehicles was stressed upon. Interstate gangs operating in the NCR and incidents related to supply of illegal firearms and narcotics were also discussed," the officer added.

Traffic restrictions during Republic Day celebrations and steps to check unauthorised intrusion at borders were detailed and officers of other states were requested to cooperate for ensuring effective implementation.

It was agreed that a drive would be launched to trace and verify the criminals released from jail. All the criminals with a terrorist/radical background will be closely monitored. "Preventing the smuggling of firearms remains a priority area. There was emphasis on quick sharing of information, so that speedy action could be taken in time," the officer further stated.

Special commissioners, joint commissioners and DCPs were also present at the meeting, officials said.

## TIMES TRIBUTES RATE CARD

Publications	Rates per sq. cms
TOID Capital + NBT (Delhi+NCR)	1295
TOID Full Run ## + NBT (Delhi+NCR)	1360
THE TIMES OF INDIA (Delhi+NCR)	780
THE TIMES OF INDIA (Delhi) Full Run##	900
NAVABHARAT TIMES (Delhi+NCR)	595
THE ECONOMIC TIMES (Delhi+NCR)	715
SANDHYA TIMES (Delhi)	100

\*Placement on specified obit pages only. This rate benefit is extended up till the size of 320 sq. cm only. ## Full run includes Delhi City + NCR (Including Gurgaon + Noida) + Chandigarh + Western U.P. + Uttarakhand ▶ TOI Capital (Delhi & NCR) Includes TOI Gurgaon & TOI Noida.

Manish Dalmia +91 9810038557, Vedansh Dalmia +91 96676 63347

Wife: Prabha Dalmia

Son and Daughter in Law : Manish & Deepa Dalmia

Daughter & Son in Law : Manita & Shiketan Gupta, Neha & Amit Bagadia

Grand Children : Vedika Dalmia, Vedansh Dalmia, Shreya & Nippun Agarwal, Meha & Pratik Dhanuka, Viren Gupta, Ishita Bagadia, Ishaani Bagadia

Great Grandchildren : Samyra, Aryav Agarwal

Google meet link:- [meet.google.com/gae-faqv-eeb](https://meet.google.com/gae-faqv-eeb)

In Grief

PRAYER MEETING

Friday 19th, January 2024 | 3:00-4:00 PM

Venue: Mata Ka Mandir, Mata Mandir Road, Friends Colony East, Delhi

Google meet link:- [meet.google.com/gae-faqv-eeb](https://meet.google.com/gae-faqv-eeb)

Sh. RAMAVTAR DALMIA

26th March, 1942 - 16th January, 2024

OBITUARY

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN MEMORIAM

Col YP Khanna (Retd)

(01 Jun 1942 - 16 Jan 2024)

The Officer was commissioned in 29 Air Defence Regiment in Dec 1962 and served in 46 Air Defence Regiment. The Officer commanded 45 Air Defence Regiment before superannuating in May 1994.

Senior Colonel Commandant & Army Air Defence Fraternity

NOK: Mr Manesh Khanna (Son)

IC-22300F (DOC-02.07.1964)

LT COL JAGMAIL SINGH SANDHU (RETD)

(13.09.1935 TO 07.01.2024)

ASC fraternity prays to the Almighty to grant peace to the departed soul & fortitude to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss. Mobile : 8146735497, 9818520234. Col Manjinder Singh Sandhu (Retd), Son 1147, Ph-5, Mohali, Punjab-160059 DGST and all Members of ASC Association.



Government of India

**FIT**  
**INDIA**
**M. K. Stalin**

Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

**KHELE BHI, KHILE BHI**

CHENNAI | COIMBATORE | MADURAI | TRICHY

**5630**  
ATHLETES**36**  
STATES & UTS**26**  
DISCIPLINES**13**  
DAYS**Narendra Modi**

Prime Minister of India

**OPENING CEREMONY OF KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES 2023**19th January, 2024 at 06.00 PM  
Jawaharlal Nehru Outdoor Stadium, ChennaiWatch Live On: **SPORTS****Chief Guest****Narendra Modi**

Prime Minister of India

in the august presence of

**R. N. Ravi**

Governor of Tamil Nadu

**Anurag Singh Thakur**Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports, Information & Broadcasting,  
Government of India**M. K. Stalin**

Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

**Nisith Pramanik**Union Minister of State, Home Affairs, Youth Affairs & Sports,  
Government of India**Udhayanidhi Stalin**Minister for Youth Welfare &  
Sports Development, Government of Tamil Nadu**KHELO INDIA: TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO TRIUMPHS**

- **Financial assistance of Rs. 6.28 Lakhs given per athlete to 3000 Khelo India Athletes**

- **331 new sports Infrastructure constructed in 9 years**

- **1,000 Khelo India Centres and 32 Khelo India State Centres of excellence notified along with 296 academies under Khelo India strengthening grassroot sports ecosystem.**

- **831 Past Champion Athletes Engaged as coaches in KICs**



- **40,000+ Athletes Participated in 12 Editions of Khelo India Games**

- **56,000+ Women Athletes Participated in 520+ Competitions Across 20 Disciplines**



**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, NORTH BENGAL DENTAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, SUSHRUTANAGAR, DARJEELING TENDER NOTICE Memo No. 89/NBDC&H dt. 16.01.2024 e-Tenders invited by the Principal, NBDC&H, Sushrutanagar, Dt- Darjeeling, Pin-734012 from recognized publishers/ book agents/ distributors/ suppliers for purchase of latest/ required e-journals. Necessary information in this regard may be had from the office of the undersigned from 16.01.2024. Details can be downloaded from [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in), [www.wbhealth.gov.in](http://www.wbhealth.gov.in), [www.nbdc.ac.in](http://www.nbdc.ac.in) Sd/- Principal, NBDC&H ICA- T1188(4)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

e-TENDER NOTICE On behalf of the Governor of West Bengal, E-Tender is invited by the Member Secretary & Chief Medical Officer of Health, DH&FWS, Jhargram, Pin-721512 from eligible agency having experience in similar nature of work. Technical & Financial Bid Submission Closing Date: For e-NIT No. ENIT- 14 of 2023-24, 29/01/2024 at 04:00 PM. For detail, Please visit the website <https://www.wbhealth.gov.in> Sd/- Chief Medical Officer of Health, Jhargram. ICA- T1137(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

e-TENDER NOTICE On behalf of the Governor of West Bengal, 2nd call e-Tender is invited by the Mission Director, National Health Mission, West Bengal, GN-29, 4th Floor, Swasthya Sathi Building, Swasthya Bhawan Premises, Sector-V, Salt-Lake, Bidhannagar, Kolkata- 700091 for Selection of an OPERATION OF MOBILE BOAT CLINICS (MBC) IN WEST BENGAL National Health Mission, Government of West Bengal from resourceful, eligible agency having experience in similar nature of works. Technical & Financial Bid Submission Closing Date: For e-NIT No. ENIT- 14 of 2023-24, 29/01/2024 at 04:00 PM. For detail, Please visit the website <https://www.wbhealth.gov.in> Sd/- Chief Medical Officer of Health, Jhargram. ICA- T1137(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

e-TENDER NOTICE On behalf of the Governor of West Bengal, e-Tender is invited by the Mission Director, National Health Mission, West Bengal, GN-29, 4th Floor, Swasthya Sathi Building, Swasthya Bhawan Premises, Sector-V, Salt-Lake, Bidhannagar, Kolkata- 700091 for Selection of an agency PRINTING & SUPPLY OF SICKLE CELL CARD NATIONAL HEALTH Mission, Government of West Bengal from resourceful, eligible agency having experience in similar nature of works. Technical & Financial Bid Submission Closing Date: For e-NIT No. ENIT- 14 of 2023-24, 29/01/2024 at 04:00 PM. For detail, Please visit the website <https://www.wbhealth.gov.in> Sd/- Chief Medical Officer of Health, Jhargram. ICA- T1139(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

e-TENDER NOTICE On behalf of the Governor of West Bengal, e-Tender is invited by the Mission Director, National Health Mission, West Bengal, GN-29, 4th Floor, Swasthya Sathi Building, Swasthya Bhawan Premises, Sector-V, Salt-Lake, Bidhannagar, Kolkata- 700091 for Selection of an agency PRINTING & SUPPLY OF SICKLE CELL CARD NATIONAL HEALTH Mission, Government of West Bengal from resourceful, eligible agency having experience in similar nature of works. Technical & Financial Bid Submission Closing Date: For e-NIT No. ENIT- 14 of 2023-24, 29/01/2024 at 04:00 PM. For detail, Please visit the website <https://www.wbhealth.gov.in> Sd/- Chief Medical Officer of Health, Jhargram. ICA- T1139(3)/2024

**WBEIDC**

Webel Bhavan, Sector-V, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700 091. Notice Inviting e-Tender No 07 / Webel / IDM / JALPAIGURI / DT : 15.01.2024 Date : 15.01.2024 For Construction / Upgradation of Boundary Wall, Gate etc. for the proposed IT Hub at Jalpaiguri ". Due date of Submission : 21 Days from publication. Total no. of days : 14 days.

Interested parties may go through website [https://www.webel.in](http://www.webel.in) For details or contact 033- 2399 2270 / 2330 2387. ICA- T1138(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

WEST BENGAL GREEN ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD. CIN: U40999WB2007SC121189 (A Govt. of West Bengal Company) Bhupura Bhawan-Bldg No. 3/10/EP, GP Block, Salt Lake Electronics Complex, Sector-V, Kolkata- 700 091 Ph: 033-2357-6361, Email: [wbgedcl2007@gmail.com](mailto:wbgedcl2007@gmail.com)

**CORRIGENDUM NOTICE**

NIT No. WBGEDCL/NIT-02/2023-24 Date of downloading the bidding documents: 15.01.2024 from 1.00 A.M. Last date of Bid proposal Submission: 08.02.2024 upto 4.00 P.M. Sd/- Chief Engineer ICA- T1136(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

M.S.W. Rampurhat Govt. Medical College & Hospital, Rampurhat, Birbhum, invites Re-Tender (4th Call) for selling the logs of disposed trees from the campus of Rampurhat GMCH (Vide memo No. RPHGMCH/MS/PV/151 Date: 15/01/2024)

Bid submission End Date: 30/01/2024 till 12 noon

For Details, Please Visit: [www.wbhealth.gov.in](http://www.wbhealth.gov.in) <http://birbhum.gov.in> <http://www.rampurhatgmch.edu.in> ICA- T1136(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

e-TENDER NOTICE The Director, IPGMR-SSKM Hospital, Kolkata-700025 having its office at 244, A.J.C. Bose Road, Kolkata-700020 is inviting e-tender for purchase of few medicines(1 item) (1st call) from the bonafide bidders. Tender ID: 2024\_HFW\_646522\_1. Bid submission log on to [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in) Sd/- Managing Director, WBMSC & Special Commissioner, H&FWD, Govt. of West Bengal ICA- T1137(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER Bid reference no.: W-BMSCL/NT-06/2024, Dated: 16/01/2024. West Bengal Medical Services Corporation Ltd. is inviting online bids for "Annual maintenance for Civil and Sanitary & Plumbing works at Suri SSH, Bolpur SSH and Rampurhat SSH". Last date of submission of bid (online)- 01.02.2024 upto 3:00 P.M. The tender document can be download from [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in) or after 19.01.2024 at 11:00 A.M. Clarification requests, if any may be sent to cpc@wbmscl.gov.in Sd/- Managing Director, WBMSC & Special Commissioner, H&FWD, Govt. of West Bengal ICA- T1137(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

PWD TENDER NOTICE The Executive Engineer, Mursidabad Highway Division, No-I, N.I. 34 to tender for the work of - 1. NH-34 to Sonarpur Railway Station Road from 0.10 Km to 1.30 Km Patch Repair work in stretches under Raghunathganj Highway Sub-Division under Mursidabad Highway Division No-I in the District of Mursidabad, (3rd Call). NIT NO. 23 of 2023-24 (SI NO. 1 & 2), Tender ID-2024 SH\_646522\_1/2. Bid Submission start date (Online)- 19.01.2024 after 11.00 a.m. Bid Submission Closing date (Online)- 25.01.2024 upto 11:00 a.m. Corrigendum If any will be published in website. More details of bid and tender documents may be downloaded from : [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in) Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mursidabad Highway Division No-I, P.W. (Roads) Directorate. ICA- T1426(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

PWD TENDER NOTICE The Executive Engineer, Jhargram Zilla Parishad, Ref. No. 69/I/SS/SBM/G/12P/24 dated 17.01.2024 (Tender Reference Number: SBM/G/12P/24/1, Tender ID: 2024\_ZPHD\_646515\_1, Bid submission closing date & time 01.02.2024 upto 17:00 Hours. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Midnapore Division, P.H.E.Dte, ICA- T1439(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

PWD TENDER NOTICE The Executive Engineer, Jhargram Zilla Parishad, Ref. No. 69/I/SS/SBM/G/12P/24 dated 17.01.2024 (Tender Reference Number: SBM/G/12P/24/1, Tender ID: 2024\_ZPHD\_646515\_1, Bid submission closing date & time 01.02.2024 upto 17:00 Hours. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Midnapore Division, P.H.E.Dte, ICA- T1439(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

e-Tender Notice Extension of Dates 2nd Corrigendum Notice regarding Extension of dates vide ENIT No. 54 (2nd Call for Sl. No. 07) of EEE/MD 2023-2024 Dated : 18.01.2024. Last date of submission of Bid - 09.02.2024 upto 1 P.M. The details of the e-Tenders are available on the website <https://www.wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- Kejriwal, Hooghly Zilla R.M.C. ICA- T1459(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

e-Tender Notice of H & FW Dep.t. NIT No. of DHFW/S/APPD/CONS/23-24/10.1/1/20/2023 and Tender ID: 2024\_PHED\_636120\_1, CMOH, Alipurduar hereby invites E-Tender Notice for "Construction of New Su-Swasthya Kendra at Turturi GP under Alipurduar Block in the district of Alipurduar". Bid Submission closing date: 31/01/2024 at 17:00 p.m. Other details may be seen from the website: <https://www.wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- CMOH Alipurduar ICA- T1367(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

e-QUOTATION NOTICE e-Quotation is invited by the Executive Engineer, Midnapore Division, PHE Dte. on behalf of Governor of West Bengal Ref. No. PHE/MED/NIQ\_02/2023-2024 and ID: 2024\_PHED\_647081\_1 for Procurement of chemicals, glassware, plasticware etc. for 17 nos. Labs under Midnapore Division, PHE Dte. Details will be available in the website [www.wbtenders.gov.in](https://www.wbtenders.gov.in). The last date for submission of quotation is 09.02.2024 upto 18:00 Hours. Sd/- Executive Engineer, I.C. Division, P.H.E.Dte. ICA- T1449(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

PRESS NOTICE Tender Ref. No.: WBIDC/IP/MK/OM/2024/1(b) Tender ID : 2024\_WBIDC\_647043\_1 WBIDC Ltd invites e-Tender for the work "Operation & Maintenance Services (O) at Manikanchan SEZ, CN-1, Sector-V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700 091, W.Bengal, India (2nd Call)" Details are available at [www.wbtenders.gov.in](https://www.wbtenders.gov.in) & Official website [www.wbprd.gov.in](http://www.wbprd.gov.in) from 19.01.2024. By Order The Chairperson & managing Director WBIDC Ltd. ICA- T1454(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

e-TENDER NOTICE Tender Id No. 2024\_PHED\_646895\_1 To 24 E.M.M.D., P.H.E. Dte. invites NiT (Online) No-37 of 2023-24, Tender Reference No. WBPH/E/MED/NIET/NIET-03/2023-24/EE/SWDL/1WPBPHED and ID: 2024\_PHED\_646895\_1 for work under M.M.D. P.H.E. Dte Bid submission end date 02/02/2024 at 06:00 p.m. Details may be download from <http://www.wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, I.C. Division, P.H.E.Dte. ICA- T1454(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

e-TENDER NOTICE e-Tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, South 24-Pgs. W/S Division-I, PHE Dte. vide Ref. No. 43/2023-2024/EE/SWDL/1WPBPHED and ID: 2024\_PHED\_647640\_1 to 3 for works related Construction of Boundary wall, land development, road restoration, eucalyptus bullah piling etc. under SWDL P.H.E. Dte. Details will be available in the website [www.wbtenders.gov.in](https://www.wbtenders.gov.in) and may be downloaded from 19.01.2024 and the offer shall be submitted online upto 4.00 P.M. on 16.02.2024. Sd/- Chief Engineer ICA- T1360(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE e-Tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, South 24-Pgs. W/S Division-I, PHE Dte. vide Ref. No. 43/2023-2024/EE/SWDL/1WPBPHED and ID: 2024\_PHED\_647640\_1 to 3 for works related Construction of Boundary wall, land development, road restoration, eucalyptus bullah piling etc. under SWDL P.H.E. Dte. Details will be available in the website [www.wbtenders.gov.in](https://www.wbtenders.gov.in) and may be downloaded from 19.01.2024 and the offer shall be submitted online upto 4.00 P.M. on 16.02.2024. Sd/- Chief Engineer ICA- T1360(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

TENDER NOTICE e-Tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, South 24-Pgs. W/S Division-I, PHE Dte. vide Ref. No. 43/2023-2024/EE/SWDL/1WPBPHED and ID: 2024\_PHED\_647640\_1 to 3 for works related Construction of Boundary wall, land development, road restoration, eucalyptus bullah piling etc. under SWDL P.H.E. Dte. Details will be available in the website [www.wbtenders.gov.in](https://www.wbtenders.gov.in) and may be downloaded from 19.01.2024 and the offer shall be submitted online upto 4.00 P.M. on 16.02.2024. Sd/- Chief Engineer ICA- T1360(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

TENDER NOTICE e-Tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, South 24-Pgs. W/S Division-I, PHE Dte. vide Ref. No. 43/2023-2024/EE/SWDL/1WPBPHED and ID: 2024\_PHED\_647640\_1 to 3 for works related Construction of Boundary wall, land development, road restoration, eucalyptus bullah piling etc. under SWDL P.H.E. Dte. Details will be available in the website [www.wbtenders.gov.in](https://www.wbtenders.gov.in) and may be downloaded from 19.01.2024 and the offer shall be submitted online upto 4.00 P.M. on 16.02.2024. Sd/- Chief Engineer ICA- T1360(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

TENDER NOTICE e-Tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, South 24-Pgs. W/S Division-I, PHE Dte. vide Ref. No. 43/2023-2024/EE/SWDL/1WPBPHED and ID: 2024\_PHED\_647640\_1 to 3 for works related Construction of Boundary wall, land development, road restoration, eucalyptus bullah piling etc. under SWDL P.H.E. Dte. Details will be available in the website [www.wbtenders.gov.in](https://www.wbtenders.gov.in) and may be downloaded from 19.01.2024 and the offer shall be submitted online upto 4.00 P.M. on 16.02.2024. Sd/- Chief Engineer ICA- T1360(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

TENDER NOTICE e-Tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, South 24-Pgs. W/S Division-I, PHE Dte. vide Ref. No. 43/2023-2024/EE/SWDL/1WPBPHED and ID: 2024\_PHED\_647640\_1 to 3 for works related Construction of Boundary wall, land development, road restoration, eucalyptus bullah piling etc. under SWDL P.H.E. Dte. Details will be available in the website [www.wbtenders.gov.in](https://www.wbtenders.gov.in) and may be downloaded from 19.01.2024 and the offer shall be submitted online upto 4.00 P.M. on 16.02.2024. Sd/- Chief Engineer ICA- T1360(3)/2024

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

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#### TODAY'S MATCHES

TIME: 10:30

Loser Match 13

**VS**

Loser Match 14

TIME: 13:30

Winner Match 13

**VS**

Winner Match 14

TIME: 16:30

Loser Match 15

**VS**

Loser Match 16

TIME: 19:30

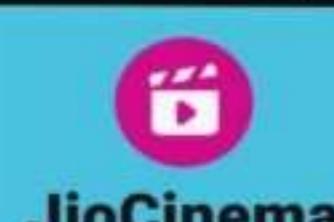
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**VS**

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► INDIA

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08:30 am Onwards

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DRAWING + 3Bed +  
2 Toilet, Lift + Prkg 48+48  
=96 Sqmtr H.No. 209-210,  
Pkt. G-29, Sec-3, Rohini  
1.65Cr-SF, with loan

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# Continue Funding 12 Colleges In Interest Of Students: DU VC

Asks Atishi To Withdraw Letter Demanding Their De-Affiliation

Shreya.Ghosh@timesgroup.com

**YOGESH SINGH SAYS**  
These colleges were set up with the provision of 100% funding for catering to needs of Delhi students. The issue of de-affiliation is a matter for the academic council, executive council, and the court of DU

New Delhi: Following Delhi government's announcement last month that it would grant funding to 12 Delhi University (DU) colleges only after de-affiliation, vice-chancellor Yogesh Singh has written to education minister Atishi, stressing the colleges will remain with the university and the state should continue funding them.

Requesting withdrawal of Atishi's letter, Singh stressed the importance of maintaining funding continuity for these colleges in the interest of students.

These 12 colleges are fully funded by Government of NCT of Delhi. These colleges were established from 1996 to 1998 on the proposal received from Delhi administration with the provision of 100% funding for catering to the needs of Delhi students. The issue of de-affiliation is a matter for the academic council, executive council, and the court of DU." Singh said in his letter dated Jan 16.

He highlighted the colleges' long-standing association with DU, saying de-affiliation could adversely impact students and the learning environment.

The grant for the colleges is received in the name of the society with certain conditions viz. submission of utilisation certificate, maintaining the separate account, auditing by CA... Grants have been received uninterrupted since their formation from Delhi government," Singh added.

On Dec 2, Atishi had written to Union education minister

Dharmendra Pradhan highlighting alleged irregularities in the functioning of 12 Delhi government-funded DU colleges. Urging him to either hand over full control to Delhi government or take charge of their funding, she had suggested de-affiliating the colleges from DU and converting them to the campus of Ambedkar University. If the colleges remained affiliated with DU, Delhi government would not allocate them grant-in-aid from the next fiscal, she added.

Sources in Delhi government stated, "Funding will be provided only once these colleges are de-affiliated. If DU decides against de-affiliation, funding must come from the central government or UGC due to the irregularities."

Maya John, member of DU's academic council, said, "Scores of teachers, non-teaching staff and students in the 12 colleges are not even being treated as stakeholders. Decisions on affiliation are being taken without any consultation and dialogue with them."

**DU must investigate lapses, hold officials accountable: Atishi**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Education minister Atishi said on Thursday the special audit of six of the 12 DU colleges, funded by Delhi government, conducted in 2020 highlighted several instances of "grave irregularities" and "procedural lapses of highest levels" in expenditure exceeding hundreds of crores.

Atishi demanded an "urgent and comprehensive inquiry" by the university to ascertain and hold accountable the officials responsible for "arbitrary and illicit decisions" that led to the misappropriation of funds. "This is a critical imperative to ensure transparency and accountability," Atishi said, adding that Delhi government will start funding these colleges only after their affiliation to a state university.

"We are a staunchly honest government accountable to the people of Delhi. Every penny is spent on the public's welfare, so we can't tolerate such grave irregularities at any cost," she said.

Atishi alleged the transgressions made by the colleges involved expenditures worth hundreds of crores from the public exchequer. She said the 12 colleges consistently received an annual grant in aid of over Rs 300 crore from Delhi government for several years and the irregularities

persisted due to the diffused accountability structure in place. She said the respective governing bodies created 1,365 teaching staff posts and 1,173 non-teaching staff posts without the requisite approval from their administrative departments and the concurrence of the finance department while the government had given its approval for creating 426 and 215 positions, respectively.

"Such post-creation imposes a recurring liability on government for decades. Obtaining the concurrence of the government is not a mere procedural formality; it is absolutely to ensure fiscal responsibility and long-term financial prudence," she said.

She added contracts amounting to crores were awarded for security and sanitation work, "blatantly sidestepping" the general financial rules. "Basic accounting principles, as well as the bookkeeping and provisions of the 'pattern of assistance' for the release of grant-in-aid approved by the directorate of higher education, were disregarded. This signifies a blatant neglect of established norms and a disconcerting shift from approved procedures," she said. She added despite such glaring issues, only DU, and not Delhi government, possessed the authority to address and rectify these irregularities.

## CM: Business Blasters to be introduced in govt-funded colleges



Kejriwal and Atishi hand over excellence award to a student

Shreya.Ghosh@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal announced on Thursday that the Business Blasters programme will now be introduced in Delhi government-funded colleges. Till now the entrepreneurship programme was being run in government schools.

Kejriwal announced this at the Excellence in Education Awards functions at Thyagaraj Sports Complex on Thursday, where he was the chief guest and education minister Atishi, the guest of honour. While Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, Rajkot, received the Chief Minister's Trophy for the best school in Delhi, 13 institutions received the Education Minister's Trophy for best in the districts. Twenty schools were awarded the Zonal Best Schools and 218 students, including 54 with special needs, were felicitated as top mark scorers in the board exams.

For the first time this year, the best school management committees were also recognised and awards were given to 12 schools in this category. Addressing the students and teachers, Kejriwal said, "The Business Blasters programme shaped the students' mindset about becoming job givers, not job seekers. We will introduce the same curriculum in the colleges funded by our government and money will be sanctioned to start the curriculum." The programme is an extended practical component of the Entrepreneurship Mindset Curriculum that provides Class XI and Class XI students with Rs

2,000 each as seed money to develop business ideas.

Kejriwal credited government schoolteachers with the "education revolution" in the capital. "We haven't changed the teachers; we only gave them an environment to excel. Because of them, even the underprivileged children are role models to their students," Kejriwal said.

For her part, Atishi said, "The excellence we currently witness ensures the future of our country. Developed countries are rooted in providing quality education for children. The dream of government schools surpassing the private schools is becoming a reality in Delhi."

The education minister said significant changes had been brought about in the last nine years. She claimed that in the last four years, more than three lakh students had left their private schools to enrol in government schools.

Atishi also said, "Education was not accessible to all, especially children with special needs who were often marginalised. At present, more than 23,000 children with special needs are studying in Delhi government schools. We provide education to students with disabilities up to Class XII and have assigned special educators to support them."

## DU to allow students participating in R-Day parade to sit for missed exams

New Delhi: Delhi University students who are participating in the Republic Day parade will get an opportunity to sit for their missed exams. The final-year students who are part of the Delhi contingent of National Cadet Corps (NCC) will march at Kartavya Path on Jan 26.

To ensure that their academic year was not wasted, a special chance to sit for missed exams will be given to the parade participants, OSD examination Ajay Arora said. The university may also consider including first and second-year students participating in the parade for the special examination after assessing the number of students who will need the relaxation, he added.

The datesheet for the examination will be released soon. TNN

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The datesheet for the examination will be released soon. TNN

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## tender &amp; notices

## CAUTIONARY NOTICE

**(NOT TO PURCHASE ELAINE WATER BOTTLE)**  
 Varahi Limited ("the Company"), a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956, having address at WZ-8/1, Kirti Nagar Industrial Area, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi-110015. The Company is market leader in the packaged natural mineral water industry. The Company has filed suit CS Comm 471/2023 against the infringing parties Elaine Beverages Private Limited and Panchgavya Food and Beverages Pvt Ltd. (referred as "Defendants") before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi. That vide order dated 31.07.2023, the Hon'ble Court has been pleased to order that ex-parte injunction is issued directing the Defendants not to manufacture and sell mineral water under the impugned bottled designs as under:



It has been brought to our attention that some individuals/distributors/retailers/manufacturing entities are illegally manufacturing, packaging and selling the above shown said impugned mineral water bottle/goods in the market.

We hereby notify and caution such individual/distributor/ retailer entities to abstain from illegal transactions including sale/purchase of the impugned design bottles which wrongfully projects an alleged association between their businesses and Defendants in the suit. Any such individuals/distributor/ retailer entities found to be illegally selling impugned goods shall be liable for civil and criminal legal action and the infringing party shall be solely liable for all the costs and consequences thereof.

Members of the public having any knowledge/information of the above-mentioned impugned goods being used by any person or entity/distributor/ retailer are informed to contact Plaintiff Company legal attorneys at the address mentioned below:

**Davesh Vashishtha Advocate**

300 Masjid Moth, South Ext 2, New Delhi 110049,  
Email: dev.adv300@gmail.com, Mob.: 7982104633

## tender &amp; notices

## PUBLIC NOTICE

## CORRIGENDUM

This is with reference to our advertisement in English edition of Times of India, Delhi dated 13 January and 14 January, 2024. The property no. E-1/3 Vasant Vihar New Delhi was wrongly mentioned. Public is advised not to consider this property as part of our advertisement. Inconvenience to anyone is regretted.

**EKUM**  
(Formerly known as LEW By Pramod)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 It is known to public at large that my client Ms. Rupin Chis & Financial Private Limited, having its registered office at A23, Vishal Enclave, New Delhi-110027, has lost original sale deed of its double storey built up property bearing Municipal No-10743, constructed on plot No-10743, Plot No-15, part of Main Road no 5027/810, Sector 10, Western Extension Area, Kard Bagh, New Delhi-110055, somewhere at Rajouri Garden Market. If anyone finds the lost sale deed then kindly return the same to my above named client in its office and if anyone has any claim over the property then he/she can raise the same within thirty days from the date of publication of this public notice after that any objection from general public will be deemed as null and void.

Vineet Sharma (Advocate)  
125/2, Gali No. 14, West Azad Nagar, Krishna Nagar, Delhi - 110051

NABFINS LIMITED,  
an NBFC-MFI  
(Subsidiary of NABARD)

is inviting proposals for the  
**SELECTION OF VENDOR FOR  
SUPPLY, IMPLEMENTATION,  
MAINTENANCE AND  
MANAGEMENT OF CORE  
MICRO-FINANCE SOLUTION  
ON CLOUD**

For further details visit :  
[www.nabfins.org](http://www.nabfins.org)

From 10:00 AM on 18th Jan,  
2024 onwards.

Last date of submission :  
13th Feb, 2024 till 03:00 PM

## TENDERS

**INDIRA GANDHI  
INSTITUTE OF  
DEVELOPMENT  
RESEARCH**  
(Deemed to be University)  
Gen A.K. Vaidya Marg,  
Film City Road, Mumbai-400065

**Tender Notice**  
(NIT No: IGIDR/  
Tender/2023-24/CC/05)

Tender bids are invited from reputed Vendors for the mentioned works below at Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR)

**Name of Work :** Supply,  
Installation, Testing &  
Commissioning of Wi-Fi  
SYSTEM

Tender documents shall be downloaded from our website:  
<http://www.igidr.ac.in/tenders>

The last date for submission of Tender documents is 08 February 2024 by 5:00 pm. Contingendum or addendum, extension of time, if any, regarding the above tender notice will be published on the Institute's website on the above link. No separate communication will be sent.

IGIDR reserves the right to accept or reject any proposals without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/- Registrar

Circle Office East Delhi  
Ground Floor,  
Scope Tower Laxmi Nagar,  
Delhi - 110092

Punjab National Bank invites sealed

tenders from contractors for the

Annual Maintenance Contract for Specialized Housekeeping, Upkeep & Allied Services of Punjab National Bank at Scope Tower Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi - 110092 during office hours.

The completed duly sealed & signed offer should reach the undersigned on or before: 25.01.2024 up to 02:00 PM at the above address.

A non-refundable amount of Rs. 500/- plus GST i.e. Re.50/- (Rupees Five hundred, ninety Only) through demand draft (DD) in favour of Punjab National Bank payable at New Delhi is to be submitted by the participated bidders.

Date : 19.01.2024 Sd/-  
CIRCLE HEAD

## business

## BUSINESS PROPOSALS

**FOR SALE@12.9Cr, 3000Sqm PWR & DISTRIBN TRANSFORMERS MFC UNIT in NCR nr NE4, acvt licenses, 8 Cr worth orders-in-hand. Email: awrrelnk@gmail.com**

The last date for submission of Tender documents is 08 February 2024 by 5:00 pm. Contingendum or addendum, extension of time, if any, regarding the above tender notice will be published on the Institute's website on the above link. No separate communication will be sent.

IGIDR reserves the right to accept or reject any proposals without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/- Registrar

Circle Office East Delhi  
Ground Floor,  
Scope Tower Laxmi Nagar,  
Delhi - 110092

Punjab National Bank invites sealed

tenders from contractors for the

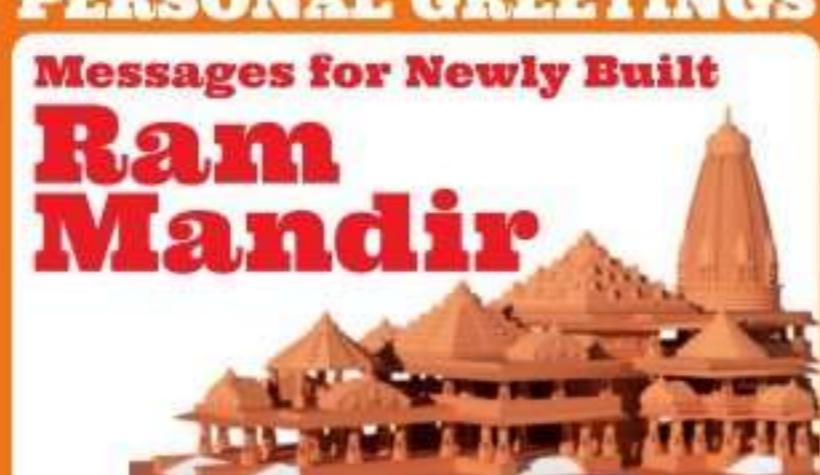
Annual Maintenance Contract for Specialized Housekeeping, Upkeep & Allied Services of Punjab National Bank at Scope Tower Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi - 110092 during office hours.

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Date : 19.01.2024 Sd/-  
CIRCLE HEAD

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## SITUATION VACANT

## TECHNICAL

## ENGINEERS

**REQUIRED** B.Tech /  
Diploma Civil Engineers in  
Robini/Narela Salary 25000-  
30000 Contact : 9871815610

**GST 5% Extra**

**For Details Contact: Vinod@  
9958992088 | Pankaj@ 8130604727**

## tender &amp; notices

## personal

## CHANGE OF NAME

**WE**, Father Sandeep Mahato and Mother Swati Singh, have changed our minor son's name from Shaurya Singh Mahato to Shaurya Singh as per the affidavit dated 18.01.2024.

I, Pradeep Garg Resident of Dream Homes - wave City Ghaziabad change my name to Pradeep Kumar Garg for future purposes

**LOST & FOUND**

**I**, Shantanu Banerjee, declare that my original Pass Certificate of Indian Certificate of Secondary Education of 2008 from De Nobili, Mathtow, Dhanbad is lost. Index No/T/4677/048 Address: F-643, 11th Avenue, GC2, Noida

**THE** original education certificates and documents of class 10th and all other education documents are lost somewhere and couldn't be found. Priyanka Garg, D/O Praveen Kumar, C-58, Sector-52 Noida, Gautambudh Nagar, U.P.

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## GENERAL

I, Debashish Halder, S/o Shri Dayal Kanti Halder, R/o A-29 Manglapuri, Phase-2, Palam Colony, Delhi at present no KN-518 my name & my mother's name have been wrongly mentioned as Dewashish Halder and Sunita Devi Halder but actual name is Debashish Halder & Sunita Devi Halder respectively for all purposes.

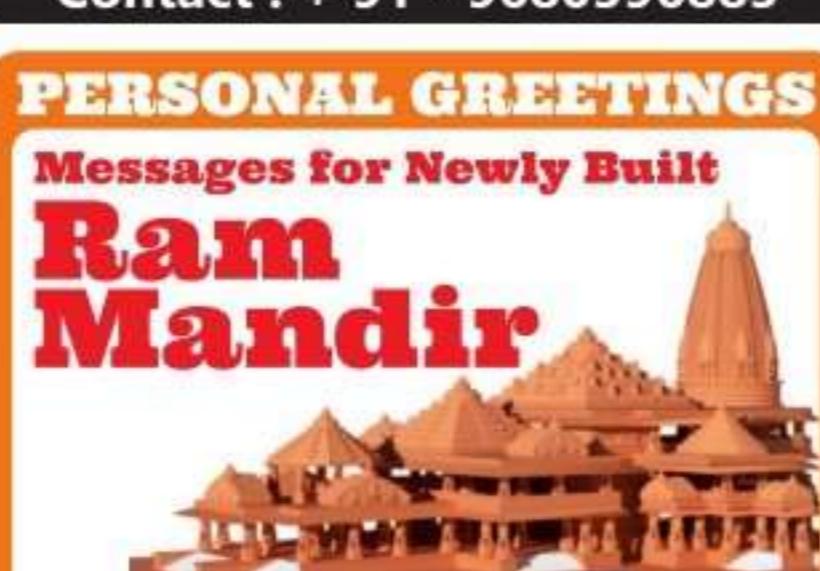
**BUSINESS SOLUTIONS**

Discover the perfect opportunity to own a fully furnished café in a bustling area! at C-Scheme, Jaipur (Rajasthan)

This 1800 sq. ft. space is equipped with top-notch amenities and boasts an inviting ambience with tasteful motifs.

**Key Features:** 1800 sq. ft. of well-utilized space. Fully furnished with high-quality equipment. A welcoming atmosphere Strategic location in a busy and vibrant locality. Act now and step into the thriving world of café ownership!

Contact : + 91 - 9680596885



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**Hindi Message in Nav Bharat Times** **Rs. 700**

**Hindi Message in Sandhya Times** **Rs. 300**

**English Message in The Times of India** **Rs. 1000**

**Hindi Message in NBT Delhi+ Lucknow** **Rs. 750**

**Message in TOI Delhi+NBT Delhi+ Lucknow+SNT Delhi** **Rs. 1500**

**GST 5% Extra**

**For Details Contact: Vinod@  
9958992088 | Pankaj@ 8130604727**

## How Snatchers Scripted A Near-Perfect Money Heist

Change Of Clothes, Pillion Rider Swap Among Steps To Cover Tracks

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** It was the biggest snatching incident in the past one year in terms of loot. On Jan 13, motorcycle-borne masked men fled with a bag containing Rs 75 lakh from a businessman's employee entrusted with collections in northwest Delhi's Shahimer Bagh.

An extensive probe followed, in which footage from over 300 CCTV cameras in a 20km radius was analysed. Five days on, cops have managed to crack the case. Five suspects have been arrested so far and more than ₹ 60 lakh recovered.

Special commissioner (law and order) Ravindra Singh Yadav said the probe revealed that the bikers took a number of steps to cover their tracks after the heist, but a cocktail of clues emerging from footage, technical leads and human intelligence culminated in unravelling of the mystery.

"The bikers not only stopped midway, removed their caps and changed their clothes, but even interchanged the pillion riders and the cash bags. They stopped again after 5km and changed the route of both the bikes and went in opposite directions," the special CP added.

The arrested men have been identified as Vicky (33), Robin (25), Sudhanshu (50), Mukesh (23) and Abhishek (21).

Vicky was an insider, the cops said. He worked as a driver at the firm whose employees were targeted. Debt-ridden, he roped in his relative, Robin, who was also in dire need of money. The duo went on to hire professional snatchers with criminal history.

Police were alerted about the incident around 9pm. The victim, Nitesh Goyal, told cops that he had sent his employee, Manish, to collect about Rs 75 lakh from a known person near a hospital in Janakpuri. Manish, along with driver Vicky, went in a car and collected the cash. He had just parked the vehicle outside the office and was walking on foot when the robbery happened.

A case was registered after a PCR call was made by the employees and several teams led by inspectors Anand Singh and Vijender Nagar

## 300 CAMS IN 20KM RADIUS ANALYSED

Jan 13  
9pm  
Haiderpur,  
Shalimar Bagh  
(Northwest Delhi)

**What happened**  
► Four men on two  
bikes snatched a bag  
containing ₹ 75 lakh from a  
businessman's employee  
► Cops formed multiple team  
to nab the culprits



## HOW POLICE CRACKED THE CASE



## WHAT PROBE REVEALED

Cops say a debt-ridden  
employee of the  
company hatched plot,

roped in a relative

► They hired two  
professional  
snatchers and  
committed the crime

► Cops have  
recovered over  
₹ 60 lakh, arrested  
5 people till now

They hired two  
professional  
snatchers and  
committed the crime

Cops have  
recovered over  
₹ 60 lakh, arrested  
5 people till now

cussed his plan with his brother-in-law Robin, who was also in financial trouble because of a big loan he had taken for his sister's wedding," an officer said.

Vicky told Robin about the transaction that was about to take place, and Robin shared this information with his friend Sudhanshu, who informed his father Mukesh about it, the officer added.

"Mukesh called two of his friends, Abhishek and Rohit. He then formed the plan with them with vehicles and weapons," police said, adding that Mukesh was found to be involved in four other robbery cases. Police are on the lookout for Rohit, who is absconding.

The two were taken to a private hospital. Some men gave the snatchers a chase, but they sped off. "Sakshi suffered grievous injuries on the head and will undergo a surgery. Rashi is stable but admitted," he added.

The bag, according to Aman, contained around Rs 2,000, and some documents.

Nimish Patel, DCP (trans-Hindon), said an FIR had been registered at Link

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

1. The Executive Engineer, HPPWD Kotkhai, Distt. Shimla, H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the online bids on percentage rates, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System of the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sr. No.: 1 Name of Work :- C/o Additional Accommodation at Govt. Senior Secondary School Devgarh Distt. Shimla, H.P. (SH- C/o, Building Portion, Water Supply and Sanitary Installation Septic tank Rain water harvesting system & Site Development) Estimated Cost- Rs. 2,42,50,168/- EMD- Rs. 4,85,100/- Cost of Tender- Rs. 5000/- Time- 12 Months Eligible class of contractor: Class B & Class A.

Sr. No.: 2 Name of Work:- C/o School Building at Govt. Senior Secondary School Gumma (Kotkhai) Distt. Shimla, H.P. (SH- C/o, Building Portion, Water Supply and Sanitary Installation Septic Tank Rain Water Harvesting System and Site Development) Estimated Cost- Rs. 2,59,75,131/- EMD- Rs. 5,19,800/- Cost of Tender- Rs. 5000/- Time- 12 Months Eligible class of contractor: Class B & Class A.

Tender document and other instructions can be downloaded or viewed online from the portal <https://htptenders.gov.in> by the firm / individual registered on the website which is free of cost.

**Key Dates :-**

1. Date of Online Publication	24-01-2024, 1100 HRS
2. Document Download Start and End Date	24-01-2024, 1130 HRS upto 07-02-2024, 1730 HRS
3. Bid Submission Start and End Date	24-01-2024, 1130 HRS upto 07-02-2024, 1800 HRS
4. Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document	08-02-2024 upto 1030 HRS
5. Date of Technical Bid Opening	08-02-2024, 1100 HRS
6. Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid.	Date to be announced

Executive Engineer,  
(B/B) Division HPPWD,  
Kotkhai.

On behalf of Governor  
of Himachal Pradesh

Advt.No:- 5082/18/01/2024

**बीकानेर नगर निगम**

सभा भवन बाहर, बीकानेर (राजस्थान) डिस्ट्रिक्ट - 061-2226902, फोन : 061-2226902, ई-मेल : [nagernigam@gmail.com](mailto:nagernigam@gmail.com), वेब साइट : [www.bikanermc.org](http://www.bikanermc.org)

दिनांक - दिनांक/2023/773-81

**ई-निविदा सुचना 03**

बीकानेर नगर निगम के समर्पण क्षेत्र में कवरज मलबा / मलबा भरने, अतिक्रमण कार्य, नाला साफाई कार्य, मानसून व आपातकालीन रिपोर्ट से अन्य समस्त कार्यों हेतु नगर निगम के 05 बैंक होलोडर से सम्बंधित नगर निगम के अन्य समस्त कार्यों हेतु नगर निगम के 05 बैंक होलोडर से सम्बंधित नगर निविदा के लिए इ-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से संबंधित विवरण राज्य सरकार के इ-निविदा प्रोटोकॉल <http://www.eproc.rajantran.gov.in, www.sppp.rajantran.gov.in> एवं नगर निगम के वेबसाइट [www.bikanermc.org](http://www.bikanermc.org) पर देखी जा सकती है।

कार्य की अनुमति लागत:-1,40,00,000/-

UBN Number :- DLB2324SL0B29272

अमंत्रित  
दिनांक/2023/12210  
वेब साइट, बीकानेर

**IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED**  
NAVRAATNA COMPANY  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)  
Website : [www.ircon.org](http://www.ircon.org), CIN - L43030DL1976G008171

e-Procurement Notice  
e-Tender No.: IRCON/2025/KSDP/ELECT/FOB-Lift-Escalator-01 Date 19.01.2024  
e-Tender for and on behalf of West Central Railway is invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of "Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Passenger Lift & Escalators at Behoari & Bargawan Railway Station in Katni Singrauli Doubling Project of West Central Railway."

Estimated Cost of the work ₹ 2,53,94,59/-

Last Date & Time of e-Bid Submission 07.02.2024, 15:00 hrs.

For further details, visit website : <http://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website. Chief General Manager (Elect.), IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED 1st Floor, above Maruti Suzuki Showroom, Near Jhunjhunu Police Station, NH-7, Jabalpur Road, Katni-483501

**THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA**  
[Set up by an Act of Parliament]  
ICAI Bhawan, Indraprastha Marg, New Delhi-110002

**Notice Inviting Tender**

**Empanelment of Service Providers for production of highly engaging advanced video content for Self-paced Online Modules of CA Course**

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed and experienced service providers. The last date for submission of the sealed bids is 10<sup>th</sup> February 2024 upto 05.00 P.M. The tender document along with detailed terms and conditions is available at ICAI's website i.e. [www.icai.org](http://www.icai.org).

Secretary, ICAI

**Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Ltd**  
Shankarsheth road, swargate, Pune - 37

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL – PROCUREMENT OF BUSES ON GCC BASIS**

Duration : 18/01/2024 TO 11/02/2024 till 05.00 pm  
Acceptance Details : 18/01/2024 TO 11/02/2024 till 05.00 pm  
Pre-Bid Meeting : 25/01/2024 at 02:30 pm  
Technical tender opening date : 12/02/2024 till 05.00 pm

Tender No. Department Work Description Tender set price Estimate Amount Earnest Money Work Period

02-CE-2024 PMPM – Chief Mechanical Engineer Selection of Operator(s) for Procurement, Operation and Maintenance of 400 nos. of 12-meter BRT compliant Non-AC CNG Buses within Pune Metropolitan Region on Gross Cost Basis

All relevant details of the procurement are available in Request For Proposal (RFP) document. The RFP document is available & can be purchased online from [www.mahatenders.gov.in](http://www.mahatenders.gov.in). All subsequent notification, announcement, changes, extension & amendments would be posted on website.

sd/-  
(Dr. Sanjay Kolte, IAS)  
Chairman & Managing Director

Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Ltd.

**Government of Maharashtra  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION HINGOLI**

**E-TENDER NOTICE NO 78 (IIIrd Call) YEAR 2023-2024**

E-Tenders for ONE (01) works in B-1 form is invited by the Executive Engineer Public Works Division Hingoli Phone No 02456 220612 from the registered contractors in appropriate class of Public Works Department of Govt of Maharashtra for the improvement roads/two yearly maintenance of roads /repairs of building /Bridge /construction of new buildings/Gram Vikas works in Dist Hingoli

The details can be viewed and downloaded from following website [www.mahapwd.gov.in](http://www.mahapwd.gov.in) <https://mahatenders.gov.in/>

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Public Works Division  
Hingoli

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**

Tender Notice No: 12720232024

**E- TENDER NOTICE**

Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering)/North Central Railway/Prayagraj, and on behalf of the President of India invites the following E-Tender on prescribed form for the following works up to 13:30 hrs. On 08.02.2024 The details of the tenders are as under:

SN. 1. Tender No.: 328 Approx. Cost of Work (₹): 1,53,80,677.53

Name of work: Loading Leading and unloading of P-way material in the section of ADEN/Line/CNB

Completion period: 24 Months

Similar work for Eligibility Criteria: Any Civil Engg. Work or transportation Work

SN. 2. Tender No.: 329 Approx. Cost of Work (₹): 2,30,16,805.74

Name of work: Improvement of sewer line and man hole by Provision in Tejab Mill & Fajalganj area colony in the section of SSE/W/HQ/CNB under ADEN/HQ/II/CNB

Completion period: 08 Months

Similar work for Eligibility Criteria: Any Civil Engineering Work

Date of Opening of tender (For SN. 1 & 2) : 08.02.2024. Note:- 1. Tender on line can be submitted up to 13:30 hrs. on 08.02.2024. 2. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on Website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) up to 13:30 hrs. on the due date of tender opening i.e. 08.02.2024.

11224 (ADM)

North central railways @CRONCR @northcentralrailway www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

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WPSL/PR/2024/02/24

General Information

Key Dates :-

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3. Bid Submission Start and End Date 24-01-2024, 1130 HRS upto 07-02-2024, 1800 HRS

4. Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document 08-02-2024 upto 1030 HRS

5. Date of Technical Bid Opening 08-02-2024, 1100 HRS

6. Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid. Date to be announced

Executive Engineer,

(B/B) Division HPPWD,

Kotkhai.

On behalf of Governor

of Himachal Pradesh

Advt.No:- 5082/18/01/2024

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**AMIT SHAH INAUGURATES CYBER SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTRE FOR ASSAM RIFLES | 19**

**HC REFUSES TO RESTRAIN OFFICIALS FROM EVICTING TMC'S MAHUA MOITRA FROM GOVT BUNGALOW | 17**



## SC to take call on TDS for nuns & priests at govt-aided schools

Dhananjay.Mahapatra  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Should salaries of nuns and priests working as teachers in government-aided Christian missionary schools be subjected to income tax? Supreme Court has agreed to adjudicate this question raised by nearly 100 dioceses and congregations from Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

The main ground taken in these appeals is that incomes of nuns and priests become the income of the congregation which runs the school and that these teachers personally do not acquire the money paid as salaries. The income gets transferred to the congregation or diocese running the school, and the congregation submits returns wherever necessary.

A bench headed by CJRDY Chandrachud agreed to examine this question after senior advocate Arvind Datar said that 78 of the appeals are against decisions of the Madurai bench of Madras HC which had rejected their plea for exemption from I-T, a relief enjoyed by aided mis-



TAX TEST

silious schools since 1944 for 70 years till the Centre decided to impose tax deduction at source in December 2014.

Datar and advocate Romy Chacko said nuns and priests take a vow of renunciation and their salaries get transferred to the diocese or congregation immediately after being deposited in their accounts. The bench posted the matter for hearing after three weeks.

One of the petitioners said, "To become a 'nun' and member of a congregation, a candidate has to undergo rigorous training and at the final stage she has to take three sacred vows — of obedience, chastity and poverty."

"Once a candidate becomes member of a congregation, she cannot own any

property and cannot have any income of her own... These sisters, by renouncing their worldly lives, dedicate themselves as servants of God and spend their lives for charitable purposes and services like, education, health, rehabilitation of the poor, orphans and destitutes. They do not marry... They do not have family lives. They live in abstinence by leading an ascetic life," she said.

The 1944 Central Board of Direct Taxation (CBDT) circular had said, "No I-T should be levied on fees received by missionaries for services rendered by them, which by the conditions of their service and the rules of their society, they are required to make over to the society". A 1977 circular had echoed this.

However, on December 1, 2014, I-T department instructed state educational authorities to effect TDS from members of all religious congregations receiving salaries from the government. This was unsuccessfully challenged before Madras and Kerala HCs. These decisions are now being challenged before SC.

## After being bitten, Lt Col wages war against SP's canines in Goa

Murari.Shetye@timesgroup.com

Panaji: Lieutenant Colonel Suresh Furtado has been engaged in a battle he hadn't trained for — over the past three years, he has been combating for justice after then Goa superintendent of police (headquarters) Bossuet Silva's dogs attacked him. The incident happened at Margao on Oct 31, 2020. Currently, Silva is SP (anti-narcotics) cell.

After approaching Goa Police, the CM and state government, Furtado has now appealed to the Goa Human Rights Commission (GHRC). The matter is likely to come up for hearing on Jan 29.

On the day of the incident, Furtado filed a written complaint with the Fatorda police. He said that he was out on a morning stroll when the SP was walking his dogs, two of whom bit him.

**DOGGED FIGHT**  
"The SP's dogs attacked me, causing severe levels—three bites. However, no FIR was registered and I had to run from pillar to post seeking justice," Furtado said.

"When I approached the chief minister, he ordered an inquiry." Furtado said that the inquiry was not completed even after the chief secre-

tary issued directions. "Three earlier police inquiries declared the SP innocent and blamed my nervousness for instigating the dogs," Furtado said.

In a report on Nov 13, 2020, Fatorda police said: "During the inquiry, SP Silva said that the incident was an accident and he had no intention of causing it."

In his complaint to GHRC, Furtado said: "Silva was walking with four dogs, two were unleashed and they pounced on me... Silva did not command his dogs to stop the attack nor did he intervene. Instead, after the attack, he walked away with his dogs."

### Tender Notice - 137(2023-24)

#### Project Implementation Unit, Gandhinagar (Gujarat)

##### (Health & Family Welfare Dept.)

Online tenders for Health Care facilities Civil works of Various Districts Gujarat as below are invited by the Superintending Engineer, Project Implementation Unit, NRHMPIU Building, 4th Floor, Civil Hospital Campus, Gandhinagar-382012, Ph. 079-23231434, 23231393.

Impalement and Appointment of Consultant for Architectural, Engineering, Design Services for new/existing Government Medical College, Nursing College, Hostels, Teaching Hospital, District Hospital, Sub District Hospital, CHC, PHC, SC, Renovation Work, Repairing Work, & allied infrastructure and Campus Development for:

1- Zone-1 - Devbhumi Dwarka, Porbandar, Junagadh, Gir Somnath, Jamnagar, Rajkot, Amreli, Bhavnagar, Botad, Morbi

2- Zone-2 - Patan, Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Mehsana, Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Aravali, Kutch

3- Zone-3 - Kheda, Panchmahal, Vadodara, Dahod, Chhotaudepur, Mahisagar, Anand, Surendranagar

4- Zone-4 - Bharuch, Surat, Narmada, Tapi, Dang, Navsari, Valsad

Interested consultants can download RFP documents from [www.nprocure.com](http://www.nprocure.com) and submit the tender online. Last date of online submission is dtd.07/02/2024 upto 18.00 Hrs, Submission of Tender Fee, EMD & Other Documents on dtd.07/02/2024 to Dtd 13-02-2024 upto 18.00 Hrs., by R.P.A.D. Technical Bid Opening of the tender dtd.07-02-2024 at 18.05 Hrs. Pre Bid Meeting Dtd 30-01-2024 at 12.00 Hrs.

INF/2256/23-24

### कार्यालय नगर निगम बरेली।

पत्रांक : - 12/प्रओथि/लिवे०१०३/२०२४

### इ-निविदा सूचना

Municipal Corporation Bareilly is conducting e-tender for inviting from NGO/Agencies/Organization for the work of Operation and Maintenance of Operation and maintenance of Prefabricated Packaged/Portable container based wastewater treatment plant having capacity of 25 KLD for three years at Akshar vihar Park, Bareilly.

Name of Service	Earnest money deposit (Rs.)
Operation and maintenance of Prefabricated Packaged/Portable container based wastewater treatment plant having capacity of 25 KLD for three years at Akshar vihar Park, Bareilly	EMD & Tender Fee shall be submitted online in the Account No.: 3647000100980707, Name of Bank: Punjab National Bank, Branch: Patel Chowk, Bareilly, IFSC Code: PUNB0364700
I RFP Downloading Start date	19-01-2024 Time 04.00 PM
II RFP Downloading End Date	29-01-2024 Time 03:00 PM
III Opening of Tender	29.01.2024 Time 05.00 PM

The tender document can be downloaded from <https://etender.up.nic.in>, "Corrigendum if any. Would appear only on the <https://etender.up.nic.in> site and not to be published in any News Paper."

प्रभारी अधिकारी (लियुड वेस्ट मैनेजमेंट)

नगर निगम, बरेली।

Office of The Superintending Engineer 7th Circle PWD, Gopeshwar					
E-mail: sepwdgope@rediffmail.com					
Letter No. 294/50 Yatayat-7/2024		Dated: 18.01.2024			
<b>E-tender Notice (Two Bid)</b>					

Superintending Engineer, 7th Circle, P.W.D., Gopeshwar invites bid on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand by e-tendering under two bid system for the following works. Information regarding bid will be available from 20.01.2024 on <https://www.uktenders.gov.in>

Sl. No	Name of Work	Amount of Earnest Money (Rs. Lakhs)	Cost of e-tender document	Validity of tender (in days)	Completion Period (in months)	Contractor's Category of Registration
1	Re-Construction of Damages by Reliance Jio from km 1 to 35 on Rudraprayag Pokhri Motor Road (Under the deposit).	4.80	5000 + 18% GST	120	6	Registered in Category "B" and above for Road work in Uttarakhand State

## Andhra caste census to kick off today; 2nd state to go for it

Samdani.MN@timesgroup.com

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh will become the second state in the country, after Bihar, to hold a caste census. The elaborate exercise will begin on Friday. The move will coincide with the unveiling of the "Statue of Social Justice"—a 125-foot-tall statue of Dr B R Ambedkar—in Vijayawada city, believed to be the tallest statue of the dalit icon in the world.

The entire exercise will be done through village and ward secretariat staff mapping 1.7 crore households. The state government wants to complete the census exercise by Jan 28. The census is also being conducted at a time when general elections are just round the corner. Andhra Pradesh will see both assembly and Lok Sabha elections being held simultaneously.

Sources said the state government wants to know the exact proportion of SCs, STs and backward classes through census. The state has developed a mobile application to capture caste details of individuals instantaneously when village and ward secretariat staff visit households. Around 726 castes and communities have been listed in the application. Government has also decided to go for a second round which will be held for five days, from Jan 29 to Feb 2 for those who left un-covered in the first phase.

## Driver fleeing without paying for fuel runs SUV over cop

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bhopal: A police officer was rammed and killed by an SUV speeding away without paying for fuel at a bunk in MP's Chhindwara on Thursday. ASI Naresh Sharma tried to stop the driver at a checkpoint but the man drove into him and sped off, say police.

Sharma (52) died in hospital. He was posted at Mahuljhir police station, around 200km from Bhopal. The accused was identified as Lokjeet Singh from Gadarwara, in neighbouring Narsinghpur district. Police say Singh was drunk. A police team caught Singh after a high-speed 60-km chase that ended with the Bolero overturning. Singh had already hit two motorcycle cops who had tried to stop him, struck some pedestrians, smashed through a toll booth barrier, and hit a cow before fatally running over ASI Sharma, say police.

ASI Sharma had responded to a Dial 100 alert that a Bolero driver had taken off after filling his tank with diesel. He had allegedly attacked and injured fuel pump staff when they tried to stop him.

ASI Sharma promptly set up a naka in front of Mahuljhir police station. Cops saw the SUV driver speeding towards the barrier and signalled him to stop. Instead of slowing down, however, he hit ASI Sharma, and zoomed off.

The ASI sustained severe injuries to his face and head. He was rushed to Chhindwara district hospital, around 100km away, but died. He was booked for attempted murder, which was converted to murder under IPC 302 after ASI Sharma died.

The DGHS has also sent a similar letter to all the medical associations in the country. In addition, Goel has

## ASER: More rural girls than boys aspire to study beyond class XII

Many Say Going To School Gives Respite From Household Chores

Manash.Gohain  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: More girls than boys aspire to continue studying after class XII in rural India, says ASER 2023 report released on Wednesday. In general, boys were able to take or at least shape these decisions by dropping out regardless of their family's preferences. Among girls, these decisions were often not in their hands, it says.

The aspiration to complete class XII is higher among boys (19.4%) than girls (16.7%), but beyond that 44.3% girls want to continue till undergraduate levels and 21% till PG levels as compared to boys (41.2% and 18.2% respectively).

Among girls, shifting social norms with regard to the appropriate age of marriage emerges as a key driver of young women's ability to study further, the study notes, with some exceptions like in Sitapur, where "most girls talked about how they



**GENDER AT PLAY:** The difference in aspirations for higher studies is grounded in the very different roles and responsibilities that young men and women see as central to their future, the report says

expected to get married only at age 21 or 22, giving them time to continue to study until then".

This difference, the report says, is grounded in the very different roles and responsibilities that young men and women see as central to their future.

As one girl in Sitapur says: "I think girls' lives are different from that of boys. Boys only have to do their job. Boys also have other responsibilities, but all house-

hold responsibilities fall on women." Although dislike or resentment of these responsibilities is expressed from time to time, none of the respondents actively challenges these priorities.

In this context, the survey finds two reasons why most girls actively desire to continue their education. The first has to do with the view that education would enable them to become better homemakers. The second and more compelling reason is that they like coming to school.

"It provided them a respite from their everyday routine. Even though household chores routinely ate into the limited time available for studies (some had to study late into the night so that they could finish their chores), many talked about how they like to go to school because it is their only escape from household duties... and so they were keen to continue to study as long as they could," the report says.

household responsibilities — an aspect of their lives that structures and constrains how they frame both their present and their future options.

As one girl in Sitapur says: "I think girls' lives are different from that of boys. Boys only have to do their job. Boys also have other responsibilities, but all house-

hold responsibilities fall on women."

# GM crops in national interest: Centre

**Will Make India Self-Sufficient & Ensure Food Security, It Tells SC**

AmitAnand.Choudhary  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Seeking approval for environmental release of GM mustard, the Centre on Thursday told Supreme Court that production of genetically modified crops was the need of the hour to ensure food security and to make India self-sufficient in food production as use of the technology could increase output by 25-30%.

A day after the top court observed that it would be guided by what is good for the country, solicitor general Tushar Mehta told a bench of Justices B V Nagarthna and Sanjay Karol that import of edible oil and other agricultural products was not

only hurting consumers and farmers but also the economy as a whole. He said foreign exchange worth lakhs of crores could be saved if the country became self-dependent and cultivation of GM crops was the way out.

"Union of India is committed to increasing farm productivity and the income of farmers through development of low input-high output agriculture and make the country self-sufficient in edible oil and legumes. Strengthening of plant breeding programmes, including use of new genetic technologies such as GE technology, is critical in meeting emerging challenges in Indian agriculture and ensuring food security while reducing foreign de-



Govt said foreign exchange worth crores could be saved if India became self-dependent, and cultivation of GM crops was the way out

pendency," Mehta told the bench.

Armed with data on production and import of edible oil over the years, the SG said 55-60% of edible oils consumed in 2023 was imported and around Rs 1.1 lakh crore was spent. He said most imports were GM oil and people have been consuming GM edible oil for

many years and asked why its production should not be allowed.

"55-60% of edible oil is imported. Total edible oil demand in India is 24.6 million tonnes (2020-21) with domestic availability of 11.1 million tonnes and 13.5 million tonnes (54%) of demand met through import worth about Rs 1.1 lakh crore, which includes palm oil (57%), soybean oil (22%), sunflower oil (15%) and a small quantity of canola quality mustard oil. In 2022-23, 15.5 million tonnes (55.8%) of edible oil demand was met through imports," the SG said. He questioned the motive of petitioners and said there were vested interests which wanted the country to continue imports. He said the court should back the rights of farmers and consumers who would benefit, and urged the court to allow trials of GM mustard in open fields.

"The present trial, and if the

trial is successful, subsequent production will have a direct bearing on the dependency on import of this basic food commodity and will have direct and inevitable bearing on the prices at which citizens of this country will be able to procure this food commodity," Mehta said.

He said the trials would be conducted on very small fields of less than 600 sq metres at eight places and it would be done under constant supervision.

"As India is importing and consuming oil derived from GM crops, opposition to such technology based on such unfounded fears of adverse impact is only hurting farmers, consumers and industry," Mehta said and added that the GM mustard hybrid DMH-11 showed increased per hectare yield by 25-30% over traditional varieties due to exploitation of hybrid vigour.

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**Lava Int'l MD denied bail in Vivo money laundering case**

Manash.Gohain  
@timesgroup.com

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** A Delhi court has denied Hariom Rai, the MD of mobile firm Lava International, bail in a case linked to alleged money laundering and tax dodging by Chinese phone major Vivo and its associates. ED has pegged the sum at a whopping Rs 62,476 crore.

Judge Kiran Gupta noted that Rai neither falls in the category of "sick" nor "infirm" as specified under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, under which Rai was arrested recently by ED along with three others. All are in judicial custody.

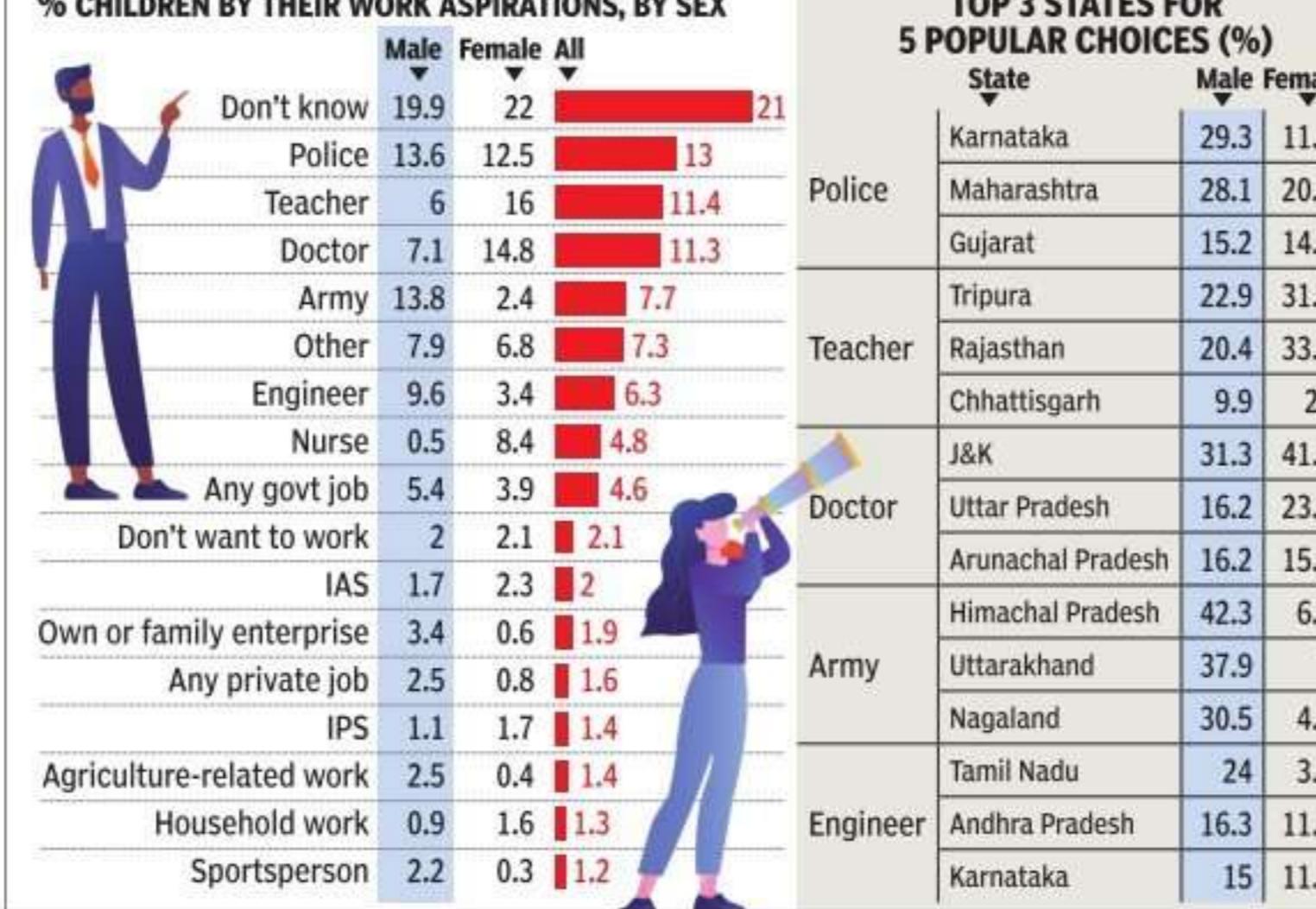
The plea for releasing the accused (Rai) on medical grounds as per the said provision is accordingly dismissed. Nothing stated herein above shall tantamount as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case," the order stated.

The court pointed out that accused are entitled to bail under PMLA when "sick" or "infirm", clarifying that not every ailment qualifies as such. "The sickness should be so serious that it is life-threatening, the treatment is so specialised that it cannot be provided in the jail hospital and the prison authorities incapable of providing the required care, including in referral hospitals," it said.

The court had on Jan 8 reserved its order on Rai's bail plea. Last month, the court had taken cognisance of the chargesheet filed against four suspects — Rai, CAs Nitin Garg and Rajan Malik, and Chinese national Guangwen Kuang. ED has claimed the four helped Vivo make wrongful gains after busting the alleged money laundering racket in raids.

## Police, teacher, doctor are top career options for rural kids

**42% OF HIMACHAL TEENS WANT TO JOIN ARMY**



Tripura, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, with more than 30% girls aspiring to be a teacher in the first two states.

Nationally, another popular option, Army, is the leading choice in the three hill-states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Nagaland.

However, girls' preference for the Army in these states are 7% and less. Engineering, which is among the top five professional pursuits rural children are eyeing, is highest in the southern region of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, where

the percentage of males preferring this field is over 15% in all the three states.

Comparatively, from 2017,

the first time Pratham Foundation surveyed rural children of this age group, males aiming to join Army or police or becoming engineers, and

females showing preference for teaching and medicine remains unchanged over the last seven years. Police is now the third top choice for girls, ahead of becoming a nurse.

Analysis of data of the surveyed girls who participated in the Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) amplify the fact that the socioeconomic context of the location in which these girls were living and growing up made a huge difference to their thinking about the possibilities for future work as in many cases these "girls" future had little leeway for individual choice," as their "...skills did not reflect their aspirations, but simply means of generating some supplemental income for the household."

A deviation in the report highlighted is that while the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2022-23 shows that 58.4% of individuals in rural India work in agriculture, the ASER report showed that this sector does not hold aspirational value for children.

Agriculture is often associated with failing school and dropping out, and the data shows a meagre 1.4% children aged 14-18 want to pursue agriculture as their primary work. As per the report, "Rather, it is seen as hard labour and associated with having to work long hours in the sun. Some youth said that their parents aspired for them to do 'better' than they have by pursuing a more respectable line of work."

With as many as 1 in every 4 children surveyed not able to name a future work option, the role of schools was also analysed, the role they need to play but often don't.

## School took money for water park visit, but took kids to lake: Kin

► Continued from P 1

While some went for boating, the rest were engaged in other recreational activities.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief and announced Rs 2 lakh for the family of each deceased child and Rs 50,000 each for the injured.

The state declared Rs 4 lakh for each death and Rs 50,000 to the injured. CM Bhupendra Patel visited the lake and ordered strict action. The district magistrate was directed to submit a probe report within 10 days. An FIR was lodged against five people for culpable homicide. VMC officials could not be re-called for comment.

Naushin Gandhi, sister of Class VI student Ayan Gandhi, one of the deceased, blamed the school authorities. She alleged that the school officials had collected

Rs 750 each for the picnic, telling parents that the kids will be taken to a water park, but were taken to the lake instead. "Since the tragedy, I desperately tried to contact the school authorities but nobody responded. I want my brother back," said Naushin.

The deceased teachers were identified as Chhaya Patel and Falguni Surti, both 45. Heart-rending scenes were witnessed at state-run SSG Hospital, where six bodies had been brought till late Thursday while a rescued 13-year-old girl was in ICU. "Her condition is improving," hospital superintendent Dr Ranjan Aiyer said.

The father of one of the rescued children said he got a call from a teacher asking him to rush to the lake. "I was not informed about the capsise, only that my son is extremely scared and shaken," the father added.

## HC refuses to stop Mahua's eviction from govt bungalow

New Delhi: Delhi high court on Thursday refused to restrain authorities from evicting TMC leader and former MP Mahua Moitra from her government bungalow on cancellation of allotment following her expulsion.

Justice Girish Kathpalia noted that Mahua was allotted the accommodation due to her being an MP but she has been expelled from Parliament and Supreme Court didn't stay the expulsion.

"The petitioner having

been allotted the government accommodation incidental to her status as a Member of Parliament and that status having ceased upon her expulsion, which expulsion has not been stayed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court despite hearing afforded to her; presently she has no right to continue in the said government accommodation and accordingly, under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, she cannot be granted protection as sought," HC observed. TNN

**राजकीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान**  
**GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES**  
(An Autonomous Institute under UP Government)

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Email ID: gimsnoida16@gmail.com website: www.gims.ac.in

Advertisement No.: GIMS/2024/Manpower/01 Dated-18.01.2024

FACULTY APPOINTMENT

The GIMS, Greater Noida invites application on prescribed format for the positions of Faculty Posts on REGULAR basis in various departments as below.

S. No.	Department	Professor			Associate Professor			Assistant Professor		
		UR	SC	EWS	UR	SC	OBSC	UR	EWS	SC
1	Orthopaedics	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-
2	Ophthalmology	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Obs & Gynaec	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	1
4	Emergency Medicine	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	1
5	Anaesthesia	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	1
6	Community Medicine	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1*
7	General Medicine	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	4	1
8	General Surgery	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	2
9	TB & Chest	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
10	Blood Bank	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
11	Dermatology	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
12	Paediatrics	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
13	Pathology	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
14	Pharmacology	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
15	Physiology	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	Forensic Medicine	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
17	Microbiology	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	Radio Diagnosis	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-
19	Psychiatry	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>
										<b>10</b>
										<b>6</b>

\* Post is reserved for Statistician

1. Pay Scale & Level

Sr. No.	Post	Level	Pay Scale
1	Professor	14</	

# Ayodhya likely to be sunny on day of consecration, says IMD

Vishwa.Mohan@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** North India continues to be in the grip of fog and cold wave conditions, and the situation will more or less remain the same for the next five days in most parts, including Ayodhya, where the consecration ceremony at Ram temple will take place on Jan 22.

A dedicated webpage launched by India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Thursday to provide weather-related information for Ayodhya and neighbouring areas shows that the situation in the holy city is, however, expected to be slightly better than most parts of north-west India, including Delhi-NCR, Punjab and Haryana, due to sunny days there on

the day of the ceremony.

IMD—the country's national weather forecaster—has predicted that minimum (night) temperatures may be around 6-8 degrees celsius whereas the maximum (day) temperature is expected to be around 15-17 degrees celsius in Ayodhya on Jan 22. Its latest forecast on Thursday evening also predicted persistent fog conditions in the city continuously for five days.

Maximum (day) temperatures are running below normal by 5-8 degree C over plains of north India since Dec 29 with a brief respite during Jan 7-8. On the other hand, the minimum (night) temperatures have been running below 4 degree C at many places of north-

west India since Jan 12. According to the latest forecast, the overall weather is likely to be "dry and shallow to moderate fog (200-300m visibility)" in the morning in Ayodhya. The sky will be mainly clear later—it means there is no possibility of rain on the day of the consecration ceremony at Ram temple.

Visitors can have a look at updates on the IMD's dedicated web page for weather forecasts of Ayodhya and neighbouring cities including Prayagraj, Varanasi and Lucknow. It will provide the most updated information on all weather parameters, including temperature, precipitation, humidity, and wind patterns in major languages spoken worldwide, such as Hindi, English, Urdu, Chinese, French, and Spanish round the clock, IMD said.

## Cabinet Secretariat Department (Directorate of Civil Aviation)

Patna Airport, Patna – 800014.  
TEL No.: 0612-2225659, 2224423, Fax 0612 2224614  
e-mail - cadbihar@bihar.gov.in

Letter. No: CBN/Misc.-J-01-47/2023

## CORIGENDUM

(PR.NO.015173 (Cabinet)/2023-24)

## CHANGE IN LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF TENDER AND CORRECTION IN TERM AND CONDITIONS

With reference to our Tender Ref. No.CBN (Estt.)-01-47/2023-25 published on date 11.01.2024 for hiring of One 7+2/8+2 seating capacity VIP/VVIP Configuration twin Engine Helicopter on wet lease for a period of 12 months.

### Due to unavoidable Circumstances:-

- We hereby revise last date of submission of Tender to **24.01.2024 at 05:00 PM**.
- Also Para 2 of TERM AND CONDITIONS should be read as "One in number Twin Engine helicopter 7+2/8+2 (Passenger+Pilot) Seater required for VIP/VVIP operation in Bihar and all airport in India initially for a period of 12 months. It can be extended on same term and conditions for another 03 months. Minimum utilization of flying hours will be 25 hrs. per month."

Participants are requested to contact Director, Operation (8757894141).

Alternatively, interested and qualified agencies may send their queries through mail [cadbihar@bihar.gov.in](mailto:cadbihar@bihar.gov.in).

For detailed notification or further updates, kindly visit the following website: [www.state.bihar.gov.in/csd](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/csd)

Other terms and conditions of the tender published in PR.NO.015173 (Cabinet)/2023-24 will remain unchanged.

This bears approval of the Add. Chief Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat Department.

This information is available on [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) also

(Nishith Verma)  
Director, Operation

PR. No. 015665 (CSD) 2023-24  
नशे की मार, वर्वाद करे सुखी परिवार।

## विहार सरकार

भवन प्रमंडल, सीतामढी  
केवल ई-निविदा के अनुसार एवं [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर<sup>PTI</sup>  
ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना दु-बीम सिस्टम में दर S.B.D. CONTRACT  
पुनः ई-निविदा संख्या – 16 / 2023 – 24

क्रम संख्या	कार्य का नाम	परिमाण विप्रकरण की राशि (₹० में)	अधिकारी की राशि (₹० में)	परिमाण विप्रकरण का मूल (₹० में)	ई-निविदा प्रोसेसिंग बाजार का मूल (₹० में)	कार्य सम्पादित करने की अवधि
1	सीतामढी विलासगंगा मंजरीप्रबन्ध में 520 आसानाले अया पिलाड़ी दर्भानी की ओर से आवासीय विवाहार प्रक्रिया – सह-अंवर टेकारी जिला गया में विवाह भवन (720 आसान) का निर्माण कार्यालयसंस्थान सहित	52,54,80,200.00	62,55,000.00	10,000.00	eproc2 वर्कसाप्ट के अनुसार	18 माह

- विवाह दाता का नाम एवं साथ एवं समय
- परिवार प्रति विप्रकरण (आवासीय विवाहार प्रक्रिया की ओर से आवासीय विवाहार प्रक्रिया के अंदर करने की अवधि एवं समय)
- निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय
- परिवार खोलने की तिथि एवं समय
- प्रीवीड मिटिंग की तिथि एवं समय
- प्रीवीड मिटिंग की तिथि एवं समय
- परिवार विप्रकरण की तिथि एवं समय
- निविदा प्राप्ति का स्थान
- निविदा प्राप्ति का तिथि
- निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय

विस्तृत जानकारी [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,  
भवन प्रमंडल, सीतामढी

PR. No. 015544 (BCD) 2023-24

विहार में शाराका का व्यापार, विक्री एवं सेवन अवैध है।

इससे संबंधित शिकायत इस नंबर पर दर्ज करायें, आपकी जानकारी गुप्त रखी जाएगी।

टॉल फ्री नं.- 15545 या 1800 345 6268

## विहार सरकार

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय  
भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमंडल, गया

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

श्रुति पत्र

संचाराधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि अपरिहार्य कारोबारों से इस कार्यालय के प्रबंधक – 8078 दिनांक – 28.12.2023 द्वारा निर्गत ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं- 17 SBD/ET/BCD/Gaya/2023-24 राज्य विवरण में दर आवासीय विवाहार प्रक्रिया – सह-अंवर टेकारी जिला गया में विवाह भवन (720 आसान) का निर्माण कार्य एवं संचारण के लिए Operation, Maintenance & Repair सहित। दिनांक – 04.01.2024 PR NO-014536 (BCD) 2023-24 जो विभिन्न सामाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित हुई है, अपरिहार्य कारणवश संशोधित करते हुए निम्न रूप से अवधि विस्तारित किया जाता है:-

क्रम संख्या	विवरण	पूर्व में निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय	संशोधित तिथि एवं समय
1	निविदा कार्यालय प्राप्त करने (आपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय)	दिनांक – 16.01.2024 से 06.02.2024 के 15:00 बजे तक	दिनांक – 26.01.2024 से 14.02.2024 के 15:00 बजे तक
2	निविदा प्राप्ति (आपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय)	दिनांक – 07.02.2024 के 15:00 बजे तक	दिनांक – 15.02.2024 के 15:00 बजे तक
3	प्रीवीड मिटिंग की तिथि, समय, एवं स्थान	दिनांक – 19.01.2024 के 15:00 बजे अधीक्षण अभियंता, एवं स्थान भवन अंचल, गया एवं दिनांक – 23.01.2024 मुख्य अभियंता (दो) भवन निर्माण विभाग, पतना का कार्यालय कर्म।	दिनांक – 29.01.2024 के 15:00 बजे अधीक्षण अभियंता, एवं स्थान भवन अंचल, गया एवं दिनांक – 02.02.2024 मुख्य अभियंता (दो) विभाग, पतना का कार्यालय कर्म।
4	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय (कार्यकीय दो)	दिनांक – 08.02.2024 के 15:30 बजे	दिनांक – 16.02.2024 के 15:30 बजे
5	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय (विवीटी दो)	दिनांक – 15.02.2024 को 15:30 बजे	दिनांक – 22.02.2024 को 15:30 बजे

इसे हड तक संबोधित समझा जाय।

शेष शर्त यथावत रखेंगी।

PR - 15567 (B C D) 2023-24

कार्यपालक अभियंता,

भवन प्रमंडल, गया।

# Lord Ram's appeal cuts across national geographies, says PM

## Releases Six Temple Stamps, Philatelic Album

Akhilesh.Singh@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Amid mounting excitement over the consecration of Ram Mandir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released six special commemorative postage stamps dedicated to the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi temple along with an album carrying similar stamps released by other countries, the US and Canada included, and said Lord Ram has been a global role model.

In a video message released on the occasion, the PM said Lord Ram's appeal cut across national geographies.

"Ramayana, which shows sacrifice, unity and courage even in the most difficult times, teaches the victory of love and connects entire humanity with itself. This is the reason why Ramayana has been the centre of attraction all over the world," Modi said, adding, "Ram, Sita and Ramayana are connected to every person, beyond the boundaries of time, so-



A security jawan keeps vigil in Ayodhya on Thursday, ahead of the Jan 22 event

## Makeshift 'shikhar' now adorns temple's top

A makeshift 'shikhar' atop the Ram temple's sanctum sanctorum was readied by Thursday in a race against time to pre-empt any controversy ahead of the shrine's consecration on Jan 22. The "Gudi mandap" will be completed by Friday, the temple trust said, reports **Shabab**.

The trust had asked the construction firm building the structure to install a makeshift top after theories started floating around about whether it was appropriate to schedule the consecration before the entire temple was ready. The original deadline to finish the superstructure is Dec 31. A kalash and a dhwaja (flag) will be placed over the makeshift "shikhar", the temple authority said.

"Ramayana, which shows sacrifice, unity and courage even in the most difficult times, teaches the victory of love and connects entire humanity with itself. This is the reason why Ramayana has been the centre of attraction all over the world," Modi said, adding, "Ram, Sita and Ramayana are connected to every person, beyond the boundaries of time, so-

ciety, caste, religion and region."

Modi said the album released by him showcased how Lord Ram

was an equally great role model outside India, and was an influence on all civilisations of the world and modern nations. "The books being launched today are a reflection of these sentiments as to how Lord Ram, Mata Sita and Ramayana are viewed with great pride all over the world. It will be very interesting for the youth of today's generation to see how different countries have been issuing postal stamps based on Shri Ram," Modi said in his message as a massive build-up is taking place for the consecration ceremony on Jan 22.

He said America, Australia, Cambodia, Czech Republic, Fiji, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Thailand, Guyana and Singapore had issued postal stamps on the life stories of Lord Ram with great respect and affection.

The six stamps released by him feature the Ram temple, Lord Ganesh, Lord Hanuman, Jayat, Kevatraj and Shabari. Components of the stamps' design include the Ram temple, Chaupati 'Mangal Bhavan Amangal Hari', Sun, Saryu river and sculptures in and around the temple.

The PM also praised the saints who, along with the Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, guided the postal department in coming up with the commemorative stamps.

## Jets of VIPs to be parked at 12 airports across 5 states

Arvind Chauhan & Rajiv Dixit | TNN

# Centre committed to making Net safe for all citizens: Shah

**Assam Rifles First Among CAPF To Get Cyber Security Ops Centre**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Home minister Amit Shah on Thursday inaugurated Assam Rifles' cyber security operations centre (CSOC) — first of its kind for central armed police forces—at its headquarters in Laitkor, Shillong. It will carry out real-time monitoring of the Assam Rifles wide area network (ARWAN), mitigation of external threats and prevention of cyber violations in the force's network.

In his address at the inauguration event, Shah said that as "Bharat takes a quantum leap towards digitisation under PM Modi's leadership", prevention of cybercrimes is a key priority. Stating that the Modi government is committed to making the internet secure for every citizen, Shah praised the efforts of Assam Rifles in modernising its operations by creating a cyber security operations centre with



Shah said the rise in cyber attacks has made it imperative to safeguard networks from nefarious intruders and hackers

state-of-the-art network and data monitoring devices to provide 24x7 services.

The cyber security operations centre will strengthen the cyber security posture of the Assam Rifles, he said.

Shah underlined that the increased cyber attacks in present times "have made it imperative to safeguard our networks from nefarious intruders, hacking and other

cyber incursions".

"The present infrastructure enables the integration and management of diverse aspects affiliated with operations," he said while appreciating Assam Rifles' concerted efforts to ensure seamless and secure digital services within the force.

Shah is currently on a three-day visit to Meghalaya and Assam. On Friday, he will

attend the 71st plenary session of the North Eastern Council as well as the 11th meeting of the NESAC Society in Shillong. The same day at 4.30 pm, he is scheduled to visit the Mahabhairab temple in Tezpur, Assam for darshan and swachata seva (cleanliness service). He will wind up the day by attending a cultural programme dedicated to Assamese artist Bhupen Hazarika, also in Tezpur.

On Saturday morning, Shah will preside over the 60th Raising Day function of Sashstra Seema Bal in Tezpur. At noon, he will attend the 13th triennial conference of the All Barthou Mahasabha in Sonitpur. He will then move to Guwahati, where he will preside over the passing out parade for 2,551 Assam police commandos, followed by launch of the book 'Assam's Braveheart La-chit Barphukan' at the Srikrishna Sankardeva International Auditorium.

## Malik refuses opportunity to cross-examine eyewitness

► Continued from P 1

Deposing before a special CBI court in Jammu, the former IAF corporal pointed at Malik, who was attending the proceedings via video-conferencing from Delhi's Tihar Jail, where he is serving life sentence in a terror funding case since 2019. Malik was given an opportunity to cross-examine the eyewitness, but he refused and insisted on physical appearance in court. The court fixed the next hearing for Feb 15.

Malik's identification by the eyewitness as the main shooter was a big shot in the arm for the prosecution, CBI counsel Monika Kohli said. Besides the four IAF killed, 22 people had also sustained injuries in the terror attack carried out by Malik, along with some other JKLF operatives.

CBI filed a chargesheet against Malik and others before the designated TADA court in Jammu on Aug 31, 1990. In March 2020, the special court framed charges against the JKLF chief and six others — Ali Mohammed Mir, Manzoor Ahmed Sofi alias Mustafa, Javed Ahmed Mir alias Nalka, Showkat Ahmed Bakshi, Javed Ahmed Zargar and Namaji.

Malik is also an accused in the 1989 abduction of Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of then Union home minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed. Rubaiya had also recognised him, along with three others, as her kidnappers, in a TADA court in July 2022.

(With Sanjay Khajuria in Jammu and agency inputs)

## In Gulf of Aden, Navy helps out drone-hit cargo vessel

Rajat Pandit | TNN



New Delhi: In another swift operation on the high seas, an Indian destroyer came to the aid of a cargo vessel soon after it got hit by a drone in the Gulf of Aden, even as Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar on Thursday asserted his force will not allow any "instability" or piracy in the Arabian Sea.

The drone strike on the Marshall Island-flagged ship, INS Genco Picardy, with 22 crew members (including nine Indians) at 11.15 pm on Wednesday has further spiked global concerns over attacks on merchant ships transiting through the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea, which has disrupted crucial maritime trade between Europe and Asia.

While the US-led multinational 'Operation Prosperity Guardian' is under way in the Red Sea since last month, Washington has now also re-listed the Houthi rebels of Yemen as "specially-designated global terrorists" for attacking ships in the backdrop of the Israel-Hamas conflict.

India, in turn, has inde-

pendently deployed an unprecedented 10-12 frontline warships in the region stretching from the north and central Arabian Sea to the Gulf of Aden.

Guided-missile destroyer INS Visakhapatnam, deployed on anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden, swiftly responded to the distress call by MV Genco Picardy after the drone attack around 60 nautical miles south of the Port of Aden.

The destroyer intercepted the merchant vessel by 12.30 am on Thursday. There were no casualties and the fire was under control on the vessel, "Navy spokesperson Commander Viresh Madhwani said.

They are trying to do their best to secure the Indian shipping lanes and also giving support to others, he said.

"It is a matter of concern to us. We give a lot of importance to freedom of navigation and freedom of commerce in that region. Whatever is happening there not just impacts us, but it also impacts economic interests and several other interests of so many people across the world," Jaiswal said on the situation in the Red Sea.

## MEA: Red Sea situation under close watch

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The MEA said it's deeply concerned about the situation in the Red Sea and that it's closely monitoring the situation.

"We are concerned over what is happening, the deterioration in the security situation," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, adding Indian Navy has been carrying out patrolling in key sea lanes.

They are trying to do their best to secure the Indian shipping lanes and also giving support to others, he said.

"It is a matter of concern to us. We give a lot of importance to freedom of navigation and freedom of commerce in that region. Whatever is happening there not just impacts us, but it also impacts economic interests and several other interests of so many people across the world," Jaiswal said on the situation in the Red Sea.

## Coaching centres may face action for exorbitant fees

Manash.Gohain  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Coaching centres can be made to pay up to Rs 1 lakh or have their registration cancelled for charging exorbitant fees that causes undue stress, leading to student suicides, or for other malpractices.

New guidelines issued by the education ministry bar centres from hiring any tutor who has been convicted of any offence involving moral turpitude. Also, each branch of a coaching institute will now be treated as a separate entity.

An institute will not be registered unless it has a counselling system as per the requirement of these guidelines. "Information about the names of psychologists, counsellors and the time they render services may be given to all students and parents. Trained counsellors could be appointed," the guidelines said.

The rules come on the back of a rising number of suicides by students, and question marks raised over

the methodology of teaching in the coaching centres.

"The guidelines are to be implemented by the states/UTs as education till Class 12 level is in their jurisdiction. Even otherwise it is not legal to enrol junior students for coaching when they should be attending schools. As mentioned in the guidelines, enrolment age cap is a prerequisite for (existing) registration and those in violation of these rules would be denied the same," said a senior ministry official.

"No coaching centre shall engage tutors having qualifications less than graduation. The institutes cannot enrol students below 16 years of age or only after secondary school examination," the guidelines said. They also barred centres from making claims on the result procured by them or by students who attended classes there.

The ministry said the coaching centres shall have a website with updated details of the qualification of tutors, courses/curriculum, duration of completion, hostel facilities, and

the fees being charged".

According to the guidelines, the tuition fees for different courses and curricula being charged should be fair and "if any student has paid for the course in full and is leaving the course in the middle of the prescribed period, he / she will be refunded from out of the fees deposited earlier for the remaining period on a pro rata basis within 10 days".

The Centre has written to the states/ UTs that the number of unregulated coaching centres continues to grow in the country due to absence of any laid down policy or regulation.

The regulations define "coaching" as tuition, instructions or guidance in any branch of learning imparted to more than 50 students but does not include counselling, sports, dance, theatre and other creative activities and "...established or administered by any person to provide coaching for any study programme or competitive examinations or academic support to students at school, college, and university level".

## FIR in Assam over Cong Yatra route deviation

Jorhat: An FIR was registered against 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' and its chief organiser KB Byju for allegedly deviating from its permitted route inside Jorhat town in Assam on Thursday, police said.

According to an official, the march took a different turn in the town instead of going towards KB Road as permitted, and it led to a "chaotic situation" in the area.

Leader of the opposition Debrabrat Saikia said that the FIR was a ploy to create unnecessary obstacles before the Yatra.

"Himanta Biswa Sarma is scared of the Yatra's success on the first day (in Assam) and now wants to derail it," he added. PTI

## 3 BSF personnel wounded in Thoubal ambush

► Continued from P 1

The latest killings in Manipur coincided with a rally by women in Imphal to protest the death of the village volunteer, identified as Takhellambam Manoranjan, 26, while trying to resist a militant attack the previous night from the Kangchup foothills overlooking the valley. Another village guard was wounded. The armed group had opened fire from the hills of Kangpokpi towards villages in Imphal West around 11pm.

In Thoubal district, three BSF troopers were wounded when unidentified gunmen fired at them late Wednesday. An indefinite curfew was clamped in the dis-



Women protest in Imphal on Thursday to press for a meeting with CM N Biren Singh

two of them ASIs, are being treated in a private hospital in Imphal.

Moreh, where police commandos Takhellambam Saileshwar of the 1st IRB and Wangkhem Somorjith Meitei of Manipur Rifles' 6 BN died in coordinated militant attacks on security outposts from around 9am on Wednesday, reported a second wave of firing and bombing late in the night that left three more IRB commandos wounded. One of the injured was evacuated to Imphal on Thursday.

Pressure mounted on the Centre from protesters in the valley, mainly women's organisations, to hand over charge of the unified command for security back to CM N Biren Singh.



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The post would be filled up by deputation or by direct recruitment on contract basis.

Eligible candidates are requested to send their applications in the prescribed format available on ASRTU/CIRT website mentioned below and should route it through proper channel, wherever necessary, so as to reach Executive Director, Association of State Road Transport Undertakings, ASRTU Bhawan, Plot no. 4A, PSP Block, Pocket-14, Sector-8, Dwarka, New Delhi-110077 on or before 26th February 2024.

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**Man killed as rival groups clash in Bihar:** One Aman Singh, 23, son of a retired Army jawan and younger brother of a police sub-inspector in Jharkhand, was shot dead during a fierce fight between two rival groups of youths in Jagdevnagar locality of Bihar's Ara town. TNN

## CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

## OPEN GLOBAL E-TENDER NOTICE

No. COS/CRJ/PU/B-e-Tender/19/012, Date: 16/01/2024. The following e-Tenders can be accessed under the link [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in). Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link [www.reps.gov.in/login](http://www.reps.gov.in/login) - E-Tender Stores' Supply. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any. Dy. Manager CLW/Chittaranjan, 0341-2552594 or SMM/CON/HQ, 0341-2535631. Office Address : Office of the PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan, SI. No.: Tender No.; Brief Description of Item; Quantity; Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees/USD); Tender Closing Date & Time (IST) are as follows: [1]: 81230257B; BASIC RESIN SI-32, Specification No. 4TMS.096.094 Alt-1, STR No. CLW/TM/STR/12110 (Rev.1), [Warranty Period : 30 Months after the date of delivery]; 713.00 Kgs - 1.37,560.00 (INR)/1660.00 (USD); 19/02/2024 at 11:00 AM, [2]: 81230252D; Auxiliary Material - 38 or Equivalent Spec. No. 4TMS.096.093 Alt.1 STR: CLW/TM/STR/12100 (Rev.1), [Warranty Period : 30 Months after the date of delivery]; 332.00 Kg: 0.00 (INR)/0.00 (USD); 23/02/2024 at 11:00 AM. [PR4-292] PCMM/CLW/CHITTARANJAN Like us on: [www.facebook.com/clwrailways](https://www.facebook.com/clwrailways)

## Centre forms panel for Madiga welfare

Ambika Pandit &amp; Subodh Ghildiyal | TNN

**New Delhi:** Eager to carry forward its Madiga offensive from the recent assembly elections to the upcoming Lok Sabha contest in Telangana, the Centre has formed a high-level committee to look into how it can extend welfare benefits targeting the Dalit sub-group exclusively. The panel is likely to steer clear of the issue of sub-categorisation, which has been long-standing demand of the community, was seen by many among the group as underwhelming.

Sources said the panel, formed this month, includes the cabinet secretary, and secretaries of home, social justice, tribal affairs and law.

In the heat of Telangana election campaign in Nov, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told a Madiga

reservation rally that the Centre will form a panel to look into ways for empowerment of the community. The announcement created a splash in terms of BJP's overt wooing of the Dalit sub-group, but a panel for empowerment without a categorical assurance on sub-categorisation, which has been long-standing demand of the community, was seen by many among the group as underwhelming.

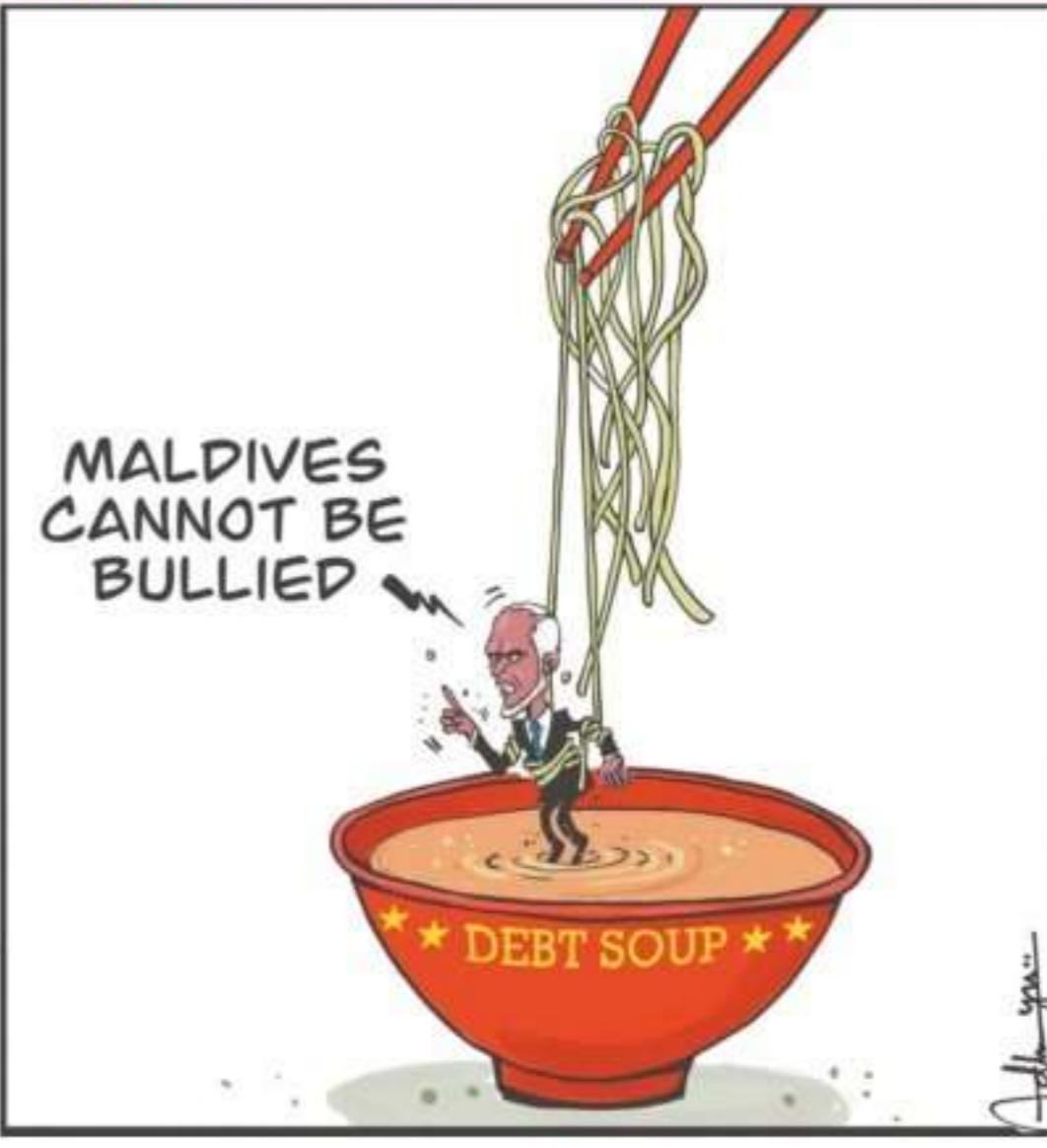
Now, the formation of the panel may put debate on the controversial issue back on front burner. Sub-categorisation implies apportioning of 15% SC reservation quantum among the different Dalit sub-groups in proportion to their population.

BJP's persistence suggests a be-

lief that it can corner a substantial chunk of Madiga votes in Telangana in the upcoming elections which can give it a stronger footing to take on Congress and the principal opposition BRS. Madigas are viewed as the largest among Dalit sub-castes in Telangana, and are seen as antagonistic to dominant Mala community.

Sources said the committee will look into how the SC sub-group can get targeted welfare benefits, which would be different from how consolidated benefits like reservations are given to the "Dalit monolith" that includes the dominant Mala community. Once a mechanism like a special scheme is conceived, it may also be extended to other "backward Dalits".

## TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL SANDEEP ADHWARYU



## Maldives minister meets EAM, renews troops withdrawal call

**New Delhi:** Maldives foreign minister Moosa Zameer, in a meeting with his counterpart S Jaishankar on the margins of the NAM summit in Ugandan capital Kampala, once again brought up the issue of withdrawal of Indian forces from the Indian Ocean country.

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu has insisted on removal of Indian military personnel and last week formally asked India to do so by March 15. The Indian side, however, says talks are still on to find a "workable solution" to the issue.

While Jaishankar only said they had a frank conversation on India-Maldives ties, Zameer said in a post on X they exchanged views on the ongoing high-level discussions on the withdrawal of Indian military personnel, as well as expediting the completion of ongoing development projects in the Maldives, and cooperation within SAARC and NAM. "We are committed to further strengthening and expanding our cooperation," he said.

The mention of SAARC summit is also significant as South Asia group, which includes Pakistan, remains dormant because of India's refusal to move ahead with the summit process. India sees Pakistan's support to cross-border terrorism as negating any progress under SAARC process. TNN

## Tiger strays out of Sariska, attacks farmer

A three-year-old male tiger from Rajasthan's Sariska Tiger Reserve (STR) ventured into the state's Khushkhera region in Bhawali district, nearly 100km from the park, and attacked a farmer Thursday. The tiger, identified as 2303, charged at Raghuvir Yadav, 75, when he was changing irrigation pipes in his mustard field. He suffered wounds from the tiger's paw. TNN

## CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

## CORRIGENDUM

## No. PCMM/CLW/HWH-E-Procurement-CORRIGENDUM/14/02 Dated: 16.01.2024.

The following Corrigendum of E-Tenders is for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective/likely suppliers are requested to look up the website [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) for detailed instructions. E-Tenders are E-Tender only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. SL : 101; Tender Notice No.: SLN.00282 of PCMM/CLW/HWH-E-Procurement/23/64 Dated: 14/12/2023; Tender No.: 34230001; Tender Opening Date: Tender Opening Date is to be read as "08/02/2024" instead of existing entry. PRS-293 PCMM/CLW/HOWRAH Like us on: [www.facebook.com/clwrailways](https://www.facebook.com/clwrailways)

## CHENNAI METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, CIRCLE-I, CONSTRUCTION WING FIRST FLOOR, KOYAMBEDU, CHENNAI - 600 107.

## SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE Dt.18.01.2024

E-tenders are invited from the reputed firm / registered contractors by the Superintending Engineer, "Development along Eastern side of Islands Grounds with Modern Urban amenities such as Urban Plaza, Exhibition Pavilions, Landscaping, Open air Theatre, etc., in Phase - I at Chennai" E-tender Notice No. : 20/2023-24 dt.18.01.2024 Last date & Time of receipt of tender : 13.02.2024 at 3.00 P.M. Downloading the tender document : From 22.01.2024 to 13.02.2024 upto 3.00 pm by Free of Cost For further details visit website : <http://tntenders.gov.in> Superintending Engineer Circle-I, CW, CMDA, Ch - 107 DIPR / 277 / Tender / 2024



Ministry of Textiles  
Government of India

## National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM)

## Invitation of application for empanelment of Companies for providing internship under Technical Textiles

Ministry of Textiles, under National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM), is inviting applications for Empanelment of (1) Companies engaged in Production, Manufacturing or Assembling of different application areas of technical textiles and value chain thereof including Specialty fibres and composites; (2) Companies engaged in Manufacturing of any kind of machinery (preferably Technical Textile Machinery manufacturers); (3) Textile Research Associations (TRAs)/Centre of Excellencies (CoEs) under Ministry of Textiles; and (4) National & State Industry Associations & Chambers for providing internship to students in areas of Technical Textiles under the 'Grant for Internship Support in Technical Textiles (GIST)' of NTTM. The Government will provide financial assistance to the empaneled companies for providing stipend to the interning students who are pursuing undergraduate courses in prestigious colleges like IITs, NITs, IIEST, NIFT and other Premier Public/ Private Institutes in India. The stipend support to be provided is upto INR 20,000 per student per month for a maximum period of two months. The General guidelines are available on the official website of Ministry of Textiles (<https://nttm.texmin.gov.in>, under Documents Tab).

Contact: [dmd\\_nttm-textiles@nic.in](mailto:dmd_nttm-textiles@nic.in)

CBC 41101/11/0012/2324



## Thane Municipal Corporation , Thane

Public Works Department  
Tender Notice



Online tender for one Work for "Construction of EWS and MIG units at Betawade Survey No. 15/1 & Betawade Survey No. 78 at Betawade village, thane on AHP (Affordable Housing in Partnership) - PPP (Public Private Partnership) basis under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana" is invited by Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC). The details are available in Tender Document (RFP & Concession Agreement). The details are available in Tender Document (RFP & Concession Agreement) with Terms and conditions will be available on website [www.mahatenders.gov.in](http://www.mahatenders.gov.in) from dt. 19/01/2024 to Dt. 20/02/2024 upto 16:00 Hours. The Prebid Meeting will be held on Dt. 12/02/2024 at 11:30 am. in the office of City Engineer, 3rd floor, TMC Main Building, Dr. Almeda Road, Panchpakhadi, Thane {w.}. On-line tender shall be received on the website <http://mahatenders.gov.in> upto 16.00 hrs. on or before Dt. 20/02/2024 and will be opened on Dt.22/02/2024 at 16.00 hrs. if possible in the presence of the tenderer or their representatives.

TMC/PRO/PWD-HQ/1200/2023-24

SD-

City Engineer,  
Thane Municipal Corporation

Dt.18.01.2024

Please visit our official web-site

[www.thanacity.gov.in](http://www.thanacity.gov.in)



## New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Administrative Building, Sector - 6, Noida - 201301 (U.P.)

Website : [www.noidaauthorityonline.in](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.in)

## E-TENDER NOTICE

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

A) Fresh-Tender Work: -

S. N.	Job No.	Name of Work	Tender Amt. (In Lacs)
1	57/DGM (E&M)/S.M./E/M-III/23-24	Providing Façade Lighting arrangement for Sector 18 Underpass, Noida	Rs. 195.29
2	58/DGM (E&M)/S.M./E/M-III/23-24	Providing lighting arrangement in Different Location of blocks-A, B, C & D due to Dark place in sector-47, Noida	Rs. 132.09
3	42/DGM (E/M)/Sr.M. (E/M)-IV/2023-24	Supply of LED Street light fitting and Flood Fitting for Yamuna Pusta Road & Various Dark Spot of E/M-4 Area, Noida.	Rs. 140.46
4	39/DGM/Sr.M.(E&M)-II/2023-24/ET	D/o Vill's (Providing Distribution Line Network in Vill-Bishanpura), Sector-58, Noida.	Rs. 190.34
5	43/DGM (E/M)/Sr.M. (E/M)-IV/2023-24	Supply of LED Street light fitting and flood light fitting for Maintenance of Street light and other project work of E/M-4 Area Noida	Rs. 151.22
6	44/DGM (E/M)/Sr.M. (E/M)-IV/2023-24	Providing Street lighting arrangement in Duplex Sector-135, Noida.	Rs. 108.94

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 01.02.2024 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 02.02.2024 at 11:00 AM.

Short Term E-Tender Work

A) Fresh-Tender Work :-

S. N.	Job No.	Name of Work	Tender Amt. (In Lacs)
1	46/DGM/Sr.M.(E&M)-II/2023-24/ET	Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Testing of Architectural illumination of underpass at Sector-33, Noida.	Rs. 146.46
2	47/DGM/Sr.M.(E&M)-II/2023-24/ET	Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Testing of Architectural illumination of underpass at Sector-62, Noida.	Rs. 183.31
3	48/DGM/Sr.M.(E&M)-II/2023-24/ET	Supply and Installation of Decorative pole for Beautification of H-Block Market Sector-63, Noida.	Rs. 127.06
4	49/DGM/Sr.M.(E&M)-II/2023-24/ET	Supply and Installation of Decorative pole for Beautification from Sector-62 Round about to Chhajsi road at Sector-63, Noida.	Rs. 143.36

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 25.01.2024 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 29.01.2024 at 11:00 AM.

B) Re-Tender Work :-

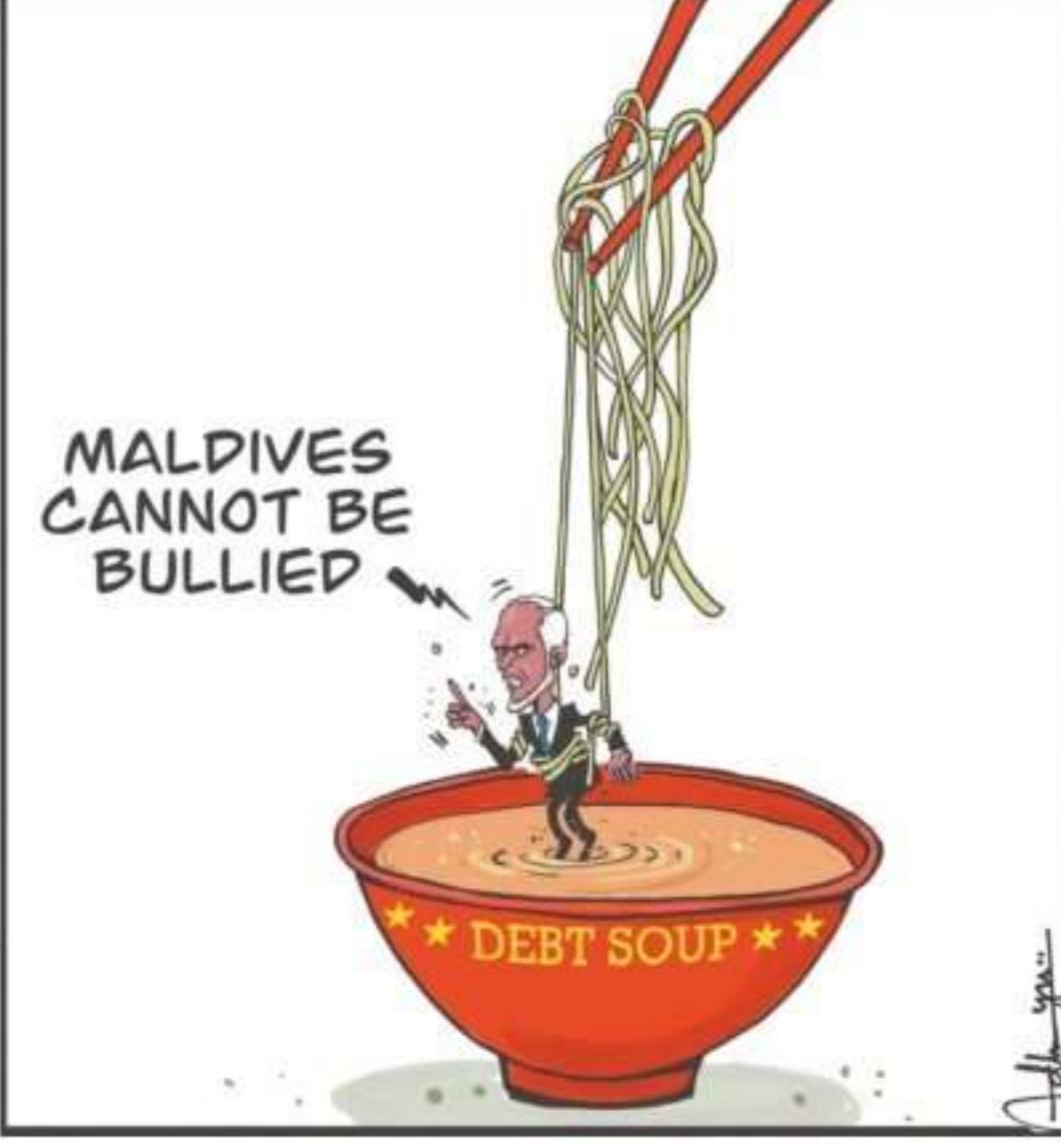
S. N.	Job No.	Name of Work	Tender Amt. (In Lacs)
1	44/DGM (E&M)/S.M./E/M-III/23-24	Strengthening of Street Light with low Height Pole in sector-14, Noida.	Rs. 133.51

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 25.01.2024 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 29.01.2024 at 11:00 AM.

Dy. General Manager (E&M) NOIDA

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

## TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL SANDEEP ADHWARYU



## Maldives minister meets EAM, renews troops withdrawal call

**New Delhi:** Maldives foreign minister Moosa Zameer, in a meeting with his counterpart S Jaishankar on the margins of the NAM summit in Ugandan capital Kampala, once again brought up the issue of withdrawal of Indian forces from the Indian Ocean country.

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu has insisted on removal of Indian military personnel and last week formally asked India to do so by March 15. The Indian side, however, says talks are still on to find a "workable solution" to the issue.

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**Cong notice to neta for loss jibe at Kamal Nath**

New Delhi: Congress on Thursday sent a showcause notice to its spokesperson Alok Sharma for his remarks alleging former Madhya Pradesh unit chief Kamal Nath of sabotaging assembly elections which the party lost to BJP "despite a perceived sentiment in its favour".

Sharma has been asked to reply within two days failing which will lead to "appropriate action" against him. TNN

# Chandigarh mayor polls put off, protests erupt

Cong, AAP Slam BJP After Postponement Due To Presiding Officer's Illness

**Chandigarh:** The Chandigarh mayoral polls, slated for Thursday, were postponed to February 6 after presiding officer Anil Masih fell sick, triggering protests from Congress and AAP councillors.

The development pertaining to the postponement of the mayoral polls came just ahead of polling that was to take place at 11am in the assembly hall of MC.

Several councillors received a message saying, "A telephonic message was received regarding

ill health of Anil Masih, presiding authority for the meeting scheduled on January 18 for the post of mayor u/60 (a) read with Regulation 6 (1) of the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation (Procedure and Conduct of Business) Regulation, 1996. In view of the above, it is requested not to reach the MC office till further orders are received."

This triggered protests by Congress and AAP that are fighting the polls in an alliance under the

INDIA bloc. A letter from joint commissioner of Chandigarh MC to duty magistrates, while referring to the ill-health of Masih, also stated that it is requested to restrict entry in view of the law and order situation till further orders are received.

Congress and AAP slammed BJP, accusing it of not allowing to hold the elections in the wake of its "imminent defeat".

AAP later moved Punjab and Haryana HC, which issued notices

to the UT administration and MC for their replies while not granting any immediate relief.

Senior Congress leader Pawan Kumar Bansal said, "This is unprecedented. If the presiding officer had fallen sick, they should have nominated another one."

AAP's Raghav Chadha also hit out at BJP while equating it with a child who takes his bat home after he gets out in a gully cricket and does not allow the cricket match to take place. PTI



Applications are invited for the following regular posts:-

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Total No. of Posts*	Reservation					Pay Level (as per 7th CPC)
			UR	SC	ST	OBC	EWS	
1	Personal Assistant	01	01	00	00	00	00	Pay Level - 6 (₹ 35,400 - 11,2,400)
2	Stenographer	02	01	00	00	01	00	Pay Level - 4 (₹ 25,500 - 81,100)
3	Upper Division Clerk	02	01	00	00	01	00	Pay Level - 4 (₹ 25,500 - 81,100)
4	Lower Division Clerk	03	02	00	00	00	01	Pay Level - 2 (₹ 19,900 - 63,200)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>08</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>01</b>	

\*Vacancies shown are tentative and may increase/decrease at any stage of recruitment. The last date of submission of application forms is 04.03.2024 up to 05:30 PM. The applications should be submitted through online mode only. Corrigendum, if any, shall be published on the Institute's website only.

Admin Officer

## SUPREME COURT MONITORED AMRAPALI HOUSING PROJECT

(Amrapali Stalled Projects and Investments Reconstruction Establishment)  
executed through NBCC (India) Limited (A Navratna CPSE of Govt. of India)

### NOTICE

IN FURTHERANCE TO EARLIER NOTICE ISSUED DATED 07.11.2023, BELOW IS THE FINAL LIST OF HOME BUYERS WHO HAVE REGISTERED IN THE CUSTOMER PORTAL BUT NOT MADE ANY PAYMENT AGAINST THEIR RESPECTIVE UNIT IN THE UCO BANK ARE HEREBY CANCELLED. NOW FURTHER NO REVIVAL REQUEST WILL BE ENTERTAINED. AS FAR AS BUYERS, WHO HAVE ANY QUERRY MAY APPROACH COURT RECEIVER OFFICE WITHIN 15 DAYS FOR NECESSARY CORRECTION AT C- 56/40, SECTOR-62, NEAR INSTITUTIONAL AREA, NOIDA- UTTAR PRADESH.

**NOTE:** WITH REFERENCE TO EARLIER NOTICE WE ARE OMITTING THE NAMES OF HOME BUYERS WHO HAVE BEEN SHIFTED TO CRYSTAL HOMES, NOIDA FROM ADARSH AWAS YOJNA, SUBVENTION BUYERS, JV ADJUSTMENTS BUYERS, BUYERS WHO ALREADY HAVING NOC & POSSESSION.

NAME OF BUYER	UNIT NO.	Area (Sft)	RAJIV PRAKASH AGARWAL	A-1063	975	BALBIR SINGH SIROHI	G1-0703	975	GIRISH AGARWAL	F11-1205	1360	MR. GULBIR SINGH PANWAR	D3-203	1425	ANWARUL HASAN	S-2202	1310
PROJECT : AMRAPALI ADARSH AWAS YOJNA, GREATER NOIDA			CAPTAIN S.K. BHATI	H1-1004	1000	SHANTI LAL SURANA	G1-0304	1100	SUMIT AGARWAL	F11-1503	1360	MRS. POOJA	D4-1801	1115	HEMANT SHARMA	A-0108	1220
SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH	B1-0502	975	ASAD ALI	A-1304	1100	SURINDER SINGH	F3-1806	885	MAINTA AGARWAL	F12-1202A	1360	M.R. RAJENDRA KUMAR SRIVASTAVA	D1-G06	1115	PREM PRAKASH NANDA	S-2904	1310
RAJNIT BAJAJ	A1-0707	1220	ANUJ TANGRI	G1-2404	1100	KHANNUJA	F7-1503	1215	VIKAS AGARWAL	F7-1603	1215	K. K. VAID	Y-G04	1220	SURESH KUMAR	C-G02	1230
ANKITA BAJAJ	H1-0202	975	SACHICHIDANAND MISHRA	G1-2405	1100	JYOTI JAIN	F7-1703	1215	Mrs. MUKUL KANOJIYA	J4-401	945	BITTI ARORA	Q-1902	1220	KRISHNA KUMAR SINGH	E-2002	1450
AKRITI BAJAJ	H1-0302	975	SHASHANK MOHAN SRIVASTAVA	H1-2405	1100	ANUJ AGARWAL	F9-1604	1215	Mrs. MOUSMI SINHA	D2-906	1115	ASHISH MISHRA	C-2903	1230	ABHINAV GUPTA	X-1601	1220
AJAY KUMAR	H1-0801	975	SHIV PRATAP SINGH	A1-3107	1220	CHHAVI AGARWAL	F9-1704	1215	PARUL GYANDAS WADHWANI	R-3304	1000	PARUL SAHAY	S-2302	1310	AWADHESH KUMAR SINGH	E-2002	1450
VIJAYANT MADHAV	H1-2203	1100	SHAILENDRA KUMAR TANDON	B1-2201	1100	CHHAVI AGARWAL	F10-1204A	1115	PROJECT: AMRAPALI LEISURE PARK, GREATER NOIDA			ASHISH MISHRA	C-2903	1230	PRAKRITI BHARGAVA	A-G04	1100
RAJ KUMAR SAJNANI	G1-2304	1100	ANUPAM MISHRA	G1-2201	1100	CHHAVI AGARWAL	F10-1402	1115	M/s FINANCIAL WORLD LTD.	F5-1401	1450	PARUL GYANDAS WADHWANI	R-3304	1000	SANJOY KUMAR VERMA	V-2902	1100
BRAJESH KUMAR SHRIVASTAVA	E1-0603	975	ROHTAS KUMAR	B1-2003	975	ANSHU AGARWAL	F9-1205A	1115	M/s FINANCIAL WORLD LTD.	C1-1203A	1145	PRAMESH PANT	V-2602	1100	PRAMESHVER DAYAL SHARMA	X-1405	1100
KRISHNDEV	B1-3204	1100	VIKAS RASTOGI	H1-2001	975	ANSHU AGARWAL	F9-1405	1115	M/s FINANCIAL WORLD LTD.	C1-G06	1145	SIDDHARTH KUMAR	T-1602	1100	PRAMESHVER DAYAL SHARMA	X-1405	1100
RAJ KUMAR KHARE	A1-0601	1100	PRABIR KUMAR ROY	G1-2105	1100	SANGEETA SINGH	F2-2106	1530	M/s FINANCIAL WORLD LTD.	C2-1203A	1145	SANGEETA SRIVASTAVA	X-2703	1220	PRAMESHVER DAYAL SHARMA	X-1405	1100
BHUJVENESH PRAKASH SHARMA	C1-1003	975	PRAMOD KUMAR JAIN	A1-1801	1100	BIKAS KUMAR	B1-2207	805	M/s FINANCIAL WORLD LTD.	C1-G06	1145	RANJANA SINGH	L-1802	2135	PRAMESHVER DAYAL SHARMA	X-1405	1100
CHANDRA SHEKHAR KUMAR	C1-1101	1100	UPENDRA NATH RAI	G1-2904	1100	REKHA GOSWAMI	E1-1602	1215	M/s FINANCIAL WORLD LTD.	C2-1203A	1145	NEERAJ DHIMAN	R-0403	1100	PRAMESHVER DAYAL SHARMA	X-1405	1100
SHOAB ALAM ANSARI	G1-2006	1000	MOHIT BAHL	F1-1910	1185	SURESH CHANDER KOTHARI	E3-0905	1360	M/s GRAPHISADS PVT. LTD.	A1-0605	955	PRAMESHVER DAYAL SHARMA	X-1405	1100	PRAMESHVER DAYAL SHARMA	X-1405	1100
SWATI JOSHI	G1-1905	1100	VIJAY KUMAR	F1-2105	1100	SUNIL KUMAR	F10-1704	1115	PROJECT: AMRAPALI ENCHANTE, GREATER NOIDA			PRAMESHVER DAYAL SHARMA	X-1405	1100	PRAMESHVER DAYAL SHARMA	X-1405	1100
SUBIR VERMA	E1-2706	975	PRAMOD KUMAR JAIN	A1-1801	1100	MR. RAMESHWAR SINGH	H8-0403	1150	Mr. KALYAN KUMAR	A-143	1825	PROJECT: AMRAPALI O-2 VALLEY, GREATER NOIDA			PRAMESHVER DAYAL SHARMA	X-1405	1100
RAJSHRI MUDGAL	E1-3103	975	UPENDRA NATH RAI	G1-2904	1100	MRS. SAPNA SRIVASTAVA	H8-0206	850	Mrs. ARTI	B-465	2950	Mr. RAJENDRA KUMAR SRIVASTAVA	D-1003	1145	ANIL CHAUHAN	V-2402	1100
AVINASH RANJAN THAKUR	E1-0606	975	PRATEEK RASTOGI	F8-1202	990	MRS. RITA AGRAWAL	H9-2105	850	M/s POOJA MINING & MARBELS Pvt. Ltd.	B-394	2525	PRAMOD KUMAR	E-3201	1300	PRAMESHVER DAYAL SHARMA	X-1405	1100
RAVINDRA BAHADUR SINGH	A1-1003	975	RAJUKA	F1-0904	1100	MR. DEEPAK DUGGAL	T3-1603	1700	Mr. BHASKAR BANERJEE	B-462	2950	MR. RAJENDRA KUMAR SRIVASTAVA	X-1405	1100	PRAMESHVER DAYAL SHARMA	X-1405	1100
YURENDRA KUMAR SINGH	A1-1904	1100	RAHUL KUMAR GUPTA	D1-2406	1000	MR. UDAYA PRATAP	T9-2403	1700	PROJECT: AMRAPALI PLATINUM, NOIDA			ANIL CHAUHAN	V-2402	1100	PRAMESHVER DAYAL SHARMA	X-1405	1100
HENA FIRDAUS	G1-1104	1100	ASHA VERMA	F1-0805	1000	MR. ANIL KUMAR BHARDWAJ	T9-1302	1375	MR. RAMESHWAR SINGH	H-1605	1050	Abhijit Soni	F18-1101	1185	PRAMESHVER DAYAL SHARMA	X-1405	1100
PRAMENDRA SINGH	E1-2203</																

## Ensure airlines' sites accessible to the blind, court tells DGCA

Ambika.Pandit@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** A busy corporate lawyer based out of Delhi, Amar Jain has never let blindness come in the way of his work but travelling poses a big challenge given that most websites of airlines and travel agents are far from accessible despite directorate general of civil aviation having detailed guidelines in place.

Jain's complaint over the severe gaps in the booking process to the Court of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities has resulted in a significant recommendation. DGCA has been asked to issue instructions to all airlines and travel agents to make their websites accessible and certified for all disabilities or else be prepared to face action.

The chief commissioner for persons with disabilities and secretary department of empowerment of persons with disabilities Rajesh Aggarwal said in the order that if airlines or travel agents fail to comply with the accessibility guidelines, then DGCA should levy fines for non-compliance. Also DGCA must not allow non-compliant agents to sell air tickets on any websites throughout the country. An action taken report has been sought within three months.

Speaking to TOI, Jain shared that despite being an accessibility professional who works on making apps and websites accessible, he has to depend on friends and family for booking his tickets. "This needs to change. The booking process should be accessible to PwDs having varying requirements based on their disability," he added.

Reacting to the response of DGCA that the travel agents are under the control of the tourism ministry, the CCPD has said that "DGCA cannot abdicate their responsibility by saying that the travel agents are not under their control."

DGCA has also been asked to submit a report on the action taken by it on its own motion for deficiencies in service by any airlines.

The court also directed that steps be taken to allow passengers with disabilities to indicate the special assistance required at the time of booking just like booking a wheelchair and thereafter they should be able to do web check-in minus the seats, which are disallowed for a particular disability.

# Viksit Bharat yatra a 'chariot of trust', ensures growth: PM

**'To Be Extended Beyond Jan 26 Due To Unprecedented Response'**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



PTI  
Till now, 15 crore people have joined the campaign, the PM told the beneficiaries of the 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' on Thursday

possible possible," he added.

He explained this by giving the example of PM Awas Yojna. He said, the scheme provided more than four crore poor families with a pucca house with 70% of the units being registered in the name of women.

"This not only tackled poverty but also empowered women. Size of the houses was increased, people's choice was respected in the construction, construction speed was improved from 300 days to 100," the PM said.

The PM said that the campaign began with the blessing of Bhagwan Birsa Munda on 15th Nov, has turned

Thousands of beneficiaries from across the country joined the event. The programme was joined by Union ministers, MPs, MLAs and local level representatives.

"Yatra's Vikas Rath has turned into Vishwas Rath and there is trust that no one will be left behind," the PM said as he directed the concerned authorities to extend the VBSY beyond Jan 26.

The PM said that the campaign began with the blessing of Bhagwan Birsa Munda on 15th Nov, has turned

ed into a people's movement and till now 15 crore people have joined it, which has covered about 80% panchayats.

The PM illustrated the approach of prioritising the deprived by the example of government's policies for the transgenders. "This is our government which, for the first time, was concerned about the difficulties of the transgender community. In 2019, our government enacted a law protecting the rights of transgenders," he said.

The PM said "India is changing rapidly. Today people's confidence, their faith in the government, and their determination to build a new India are visible everywhere." Referring to his recent interaction with particularly vulnerable tribal groups, PM Modi recalled the initiative of tribal women in even the most backward areas and praised their determination to educate their people to get their rights.

## Tribals with land rights must get PM-Kisan benefits: Govt

Ambika.Pandit  
@timesgroup.com

**Tribals with patta under the Forest Rights Act should get the income support benefit of Rs 6,000 per year, the Centre has told the states**

da — have decided to cover all FRA beneficiaries holding individual land rights with PM-Kisan.

According to officials, agriculture ministry had through a notification in 2019 extended the PM-Kisan benefits to scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers holding land lease rights under FRA have been linked to PM-Kisan.

There are over 23.4 lakh individual land rights holders under FRA as of Wednesday on the records of the ministry of tribal affairs.

The letter sent to states stated that the ministry of tribal affairs and the ministry of agriculture — both led by minister Arjun Mun-

filled and states have also been asked to take measures to help correct errors in the documents of genuine eligible beneficiaries," an official said.

The drive to link FRA rights holding farmers to PM-Kisan first started in the last week of Dec 2023 as part of the newly-launched flagship PM-Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN) scheme to register people from particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs) for various welfare schemes.

Data for the last 25 days show that over 26,700 PVTGs have been linked to PM-Kisan; over 37,000 PM Jan Dhan Yojana accounts have been opened; around 50,000 caste certificates have been made and new FRA patta given to over 12,000.

MoTA has asked states to update the records of FRA rights holders in a prescribed format and provide the same to the ministry to enable monitoring of the linkage with PM-Kisan.

**Bilkis case convict cites angiography to seek more time**

►Continued from Page 1

**C**onvict Govindhbhai Nai said he underwent an angiography recently and was to undergo another operation for the treatment of "haemorrhoids".

The plea of another convict, PR Modhiya, reads, "The applicant's wife died due to kidney failure. She was working as a teacher and pursuant to her death, some departmental procedure is due pertaining to her service benefits which will be given to the surviving members. The applicant, being the only member at home, has to complete the procedure".

Among the nine who sought similar relief are Bipin Chandra Joshi, Ramesh Chandana and Mitesh Bhatt.

On Jan 8, Supreme Court had quashed Gujarat government's decision to grant remission to 11 convicts who gangraped Bilkis and killed 14 of her family members during the 2002 communal riots.

## IIT-K PhD student ends life at hostel, 3rd suicide in a mth

Abhinav.Malhotra  
@timesgroup.com

**TIMES VIEW:** It is a matter of serious concern that three students have died by suicide within such a short span in one of India's most prestigious institutes. Authorities should investigate the matter, and see if it is related to any systemic issue. The report should be readied in a fixed timeframe and made public. That apart, counselling should be more readily and easily available in the institute. Students must feel that the authorities and the teachers are supportive when they are feeling low.

**Kanpur:** A 29-year-old PhD student of IIT-Kanpur, Priyanka Jaiswal, hanged herself from the ceiling fan in her hostel room on the campus on Thursday. This is the third suicide at the institute in the past 30 days.

A native of Dumka in Jharkhand, Priyanka had enrolled for a PhD in chemical engineering at IIT-Kanpur only on Dec 29, 2023.

Police reached the campus after being informed by the IIT authorities, brought down the body and sent it for postmortem examination, ACP Abhishek Pandey said, adding that the student's parents had been informed.

Possible reasons behind the suicide would be known only after a preliminary probe, said additional DCP (west) Akash Patel.

IIT-K issued a statement mourning the "untimely and unfortunate demise", and said the institute had lost a bright and promising young student. The institute is awaiting police investigation to determine the likely cause of the death," it added.

According to the police, the body was discovered af-

**ED attaches assets worth ₹37 crore in J&K mediclaim scam**

**New Delhi:** In the J&K mediclaim insurance scam, ED on Thursday said it has attached properties and bank balances worth Rs 37 crore of Reliance General Insurance Pvt Ltd (RGIPL) and Trinity Reinsurance Brokers (TRBL) related to fraudulent awarding of tenders for mediclaim insurance policy for J&K govt employees and pensioners. The attachment included land worth Rs 4 crore of Globus Trade Links Pvt Ltd, a subsidiary of TRBL and fixed deposit receipts of Rs 32.5 crore of Reliance General Insurance Pvt Ltd.

It was on a complaint filed by J&K administration that a case was lodged by CBI to probe the involvement of officials and the insurance companies. Later, ED initiated a money laundering investigation.

"Investigation revealed that J&K's finance department deliberately awarded the tender for engagement of intermediary (i.e. insurance broker) for designing, floating the tender for and implementation of the said health scheme for govt employees and pensioners," ED said.

The agency has found "dubious selection/shortlisting process" through which TRBL was awarded the work though it did not have essential eligibility criteria. TNN

## Orphanage horror: Hung upside down, branded with hot iron

Sagar Choukse &

Karishma Kotwal | TNN

**Kids of an Indore orphanage told a government team that they were also tortured with red chili smoke**

fined to bathroom for hours for defecating in their trousers. He was not given food for 2-3 days," the FIR stated.

Chandrabhan Singh, in charge of Vijay Nagar police station, told TOI: "Sub-inspector Keerti Tomar, the investigating officer, recorded statements of the children at government shelters. They did not speak about being hung upside down, as mentioned in the FIR, but did say they were mistreated and beaten up."

The children at the facility are orphans from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Odisha, and Madhya Pradesh. How they got here, is not yet known.

The orphanage has branches in Indore, Jodhpur, Surat, Kolkata, and Bengaluru. The organization did not respond to TOI's calls.

## CORPORATE BUZZ

### PM inaugurates 3 major ports in Kerala

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated three major infrastructure projects worth more than Rs 4,000 crore in Kochi, Kerala on January 17. They include New Dry Dock (NDD) at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), International Ship Repair Facility (ISRF) of CSL, and LPG Import Terminal of Indian Oil



Corporation Limited at Puthuvypeen, Kochi. These major infrastructure projects are in line with the PM's vision to transform India's ports, shipping, and waterways sector and build capacity and self-sufficiency in it. Emphasizing the role of every state in the journey of making India "Viksit Bharat" during the Amrit Kaal, he recalled the role of ports in India's erstwhile prosperity in earlier times and envisaged a similar role for ports now when India is taking new strides and becoming a major center of global trade.

### HUDCO inks pact with NSG

The Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO) took a significant step towards sustainable development by signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National Security Guard (NSG). This MoU will pave way for setting-up an advanced material



recovery facility under the objective of developing NSG Manesar campus as carbon neutral. The MoU was executed in the presence of Sanjay Kulshrestha, CMD, HUDCO; and M.A. Ganapathy, IPS, DG, NSG; under the guidance of Deepak Kumar Kedia, IPS, IG, NSG. It will mark the beginning of a CSR project aimed at establishing a carbon-neutral campus through sustainable waste

management at the NSG Manesar campus. The collaboration aims to implement a comprehensive waste management infrastructure in the campus, aligning with the Swachh Bharat Mission of the Government of India. M. Nagaraj, Director (Corporate Planning), and Manzil Saini, IPS, DIG (Admin), NSG, executed the MoU in the presence of the top leadership.

### ICG's heroic rescue operation

On January 16, the Indian Coast Guard executed a swift and commendable rescue operation by deploying hovercrafts from Haldia for rescue of approximately 182 pilgrims stranded on a grounded ferry near Namkhana, Kakdwip. The incident occurred as the pilgrims were returning from Ganga Sagar Mela after holy dip on Makar Sankranti,

and the ferry ran aground due to extremely poor visibility. The ferry vessel MV Swasthya Sathi was ferrying about 400 pilgrims from Ganga Sagar Mela at Sagar island to Kakdwip. Upon receipt of the information, the operations team of Coast Guard swung into action and immediately dispatched two ACVs (hovercraft) from Haldia and Sagar island to provide rescue assistance. The hovercrafts completed evacuation of 182 pilgrims on board ferry by 1100 hrs on January 16.

### KVIC launches 'Khadi Sanatan Vastra'

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has launched a new range of 'Sanatan Khadi Vastra' with 20 per cent discount. Manoj Kumar, Chairman, KVIC, launched 'Sanatan Vastra' made from khadi clothes at the flagship Khadi Bhawan in Connaught Place, Delhi. The design has been prepared at the Khadi Center of Excellence (COEK) located at NIFT. Addressing the media at the inauguration, Kumar said that the manufacturing of khadi does not involve any kind of mechanical or chemical process, hence Sanatan textiles prepared as per Indian tradition are unique in themselves. He further informed that Khadi Bhawan, New Delhi, will



offer discount of up to 20 per cent on Sanatan Vastra and 10 per cent to 60 per cent on khadi and village industry products from 17 to 25 January 2024.

### Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra draws huge crowds

In just two months, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra has captivated India, drawing over 15 crore participants. Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra is a landmark initiative aimed at ensuring 100 per cent saturation of government schemes across the nation. People's participation increased dramatically after the campaign was launched in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana. While the Yatra had reached out to 2.06 crore people at the end of December 13, 2023, the numbers swelled to 15.34 crore participants covering 2.21 lakh Gram Panchayats and 9,541 urban locations. Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it aims to reach every eligible individual with welfare schemes through IEC vans travelling across cities and villages. Through these vans, it equips communities with knowledge about government schemes, sustainable farming, and access to affordable healthcare, sanitation, and financial independence.

### Defence Secretary visits NCC camp

For the country's youth, the cadets of National Cadet Corps (NCC) are the role models who inspire them to excel in their respective field and contribute to nation building. This was stated by Defence Secretary, Giridhar Aramane, while addressing the cadets at the



NCC Republic Day Camp at Delhi Cantt. on January 17, 2024. He emphasised that the NCC, with its philosophy and vision, energises the youths and trains them into better citizens. During his visit, Aramane witnessed a cultural programme featuring group dances and ballets that showcased our nation's rich cultural heritage by the NCC cadets. He also visited the 'Flag Area', prepared by 17 NCC directorates showcasing various social awareness schemes depicted through sand models. He was also briefed on various projects undertaken by NCC cadets on 'Waste to Wealth'.

### P&SB opens new branch at Nathdwara

Punjab & Sind Bank has opened its 1553rd branch at Nathdwara, District Rajasamand, Rajasthan, to extend its reach in rural and remote belt of Rajasthan. Swarup Kumar Saha, MD & CEO Punjab & Sind Bank, while inaugurating the branch, informed that the

bank continues to deliver best of the customer services and provides the right mix of banking products to the customers in order to meet their requirements. Further, the bank has special focus on promotion of various government schemes launched to reach each beneficiary.

### BIS Faridabad branch celebrates Foundation Day

The Faridabad branch office of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) celebrated its 77th Foundation Day on January 6, 2024, with a spectacular event held at Hotel Golden Galaxy, Faridabad. The celebration showcased decades of dedication to quality standards,



innovation, and excellence in the realm of industry and product quality. The chief guest was Dr. Vikas Kumar, Managing Director of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC). Rajeev Ranjan Singh, Director and head of the production and general engineering department at BIS headquarters, graced the occasion as the guest of honour. Winners of online quizzes conducted by BIS for Standards Club students were felicitated, encouraging a culture of learning and awareness of standards from an early age.

### GM NR reviews performance

Shobhan Choudhuri, General Manager Northern Railway, held a review meeting with the departmental heads of Northern Railway and DRMs. Deliberations were held on keeping focus on mobility enhancement and infrastructure works and safety on tracks. He instructed officials to keep a strict vigil during heavy fog season. The GM also presented Safety Awards to four vigilant employees for their contribution towards maintaining high standards for safety and security of passengers and railway property.

He instructed the divisions to expedite the works related with mobility enhancement and conducting drives to check the progress.

### Appointment

**Sheela Rani appointed ED (Strategy & Alliance Mgmt), BEML**

Sheela Rani has been appointed as Director (Strategy and Alliance Management) in BEML Limited, a 'Schedule 'A' Company under Ministry of Defence, Government of India. She possesses the degrees of B.E. (Electronics & Communication), MBA in HR, and Post Graduate Diploma in Finance. Rani has vast experience of around 30 years in the field of power systems communication, marketing business, telecom project monitoring, data centre implementation, power systems and asset management. She has also been involved in implementation of BharatNet Phase-I project in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, and Jharkhand. BEML Limited serves India's core sectors like defence, railways, power, mining and infrastructure.

## Tests on India's own space station by next year: Isro chief

New Delhi: Isro plans to carry out the first tests of the proposed Bharatiya Antariksha Station (Indian space station) next year and "talks are on with the industry to manufacture, test and launch its first module by 2028", the space agency's chief S Somasundaram said on Thursday, reports Surendra Singh.

On the sidelines of the India International Science Festival in Faridabad, Somanath said, "It (space station tests) will happen next year. On Tuesday, I reviewed the Bharatiya Antariksha Station by 2035 and land an Indian astronaut on the Moon by 2040."

The Isro chief said the PM's announcement has really created an enthusiasm in the agency and Isro has begun discussing the project with industry partners.

He said the agency also plans to launch a mission to Venus in 2028.

## EPFO will no longer accept Aadhaar to verify date of birth

New Delhi: Employees' Provident Fund Organisation has said it will no longer use Aadhaar as a valid document to verify date of birth, in line with a directive to this effect by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).

EPFO's Jan 16 circular

said it has also removed Aadhaar from the list of documents that will be considered valid for rectifying birth date errors.

As per UIDAI's Dec 22 circular, Aadhaar is only regarded as a valid document for verifying the date of birth, which is not allowed as per the Aadhaar Act, 2016. It also said many

high courts in their orders have said Aadhaar is not a valid proof of date of birth.

Correcting the anomaly, the EPFO circular said documents like birth certificate, marksheets, and PAN cards will continue to be used as valid proof for date of birth. TN



Narendra Modi  
Prime Minister



Eknath Shinde  
Chief Minister, Maharashtra

## Inauguration of Various Development Projects by auspicious hands of

Prime Minister

# NARENDRA MODI

Date :

19<sup>th</sup> January, 2024

Place :

**Ray Nagar Housing Project, Kumbhari, Solapur**

Time :

10.30 am

### Ray Nagar Housing Project



### Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)



### ATAL MISSION (AMRUT 2.0)



### PM SVANidhi Scheme



### Handing over ceremony of 15,024 houses

- Ambitious project of largest scale in the country having 30,000 households Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) at Ray Nagar, Kumbhari, Dist. Solapur.
- First phase of this largest housing project allocated 15,024 houses to Unorganized labourers.
- Ground breaking ceremony (Bhoomi Poojan) was done by the Prime Minister on 9th Jan. 2019
- Beneficiaries from unorganized sector like Ragpickers, Beedi Workers, Construction Workers, Textile Workers etc. covered
- Basic infrastructure including provision of water supply, electricity and sewerage system along with solar energy and Digital address are provided.

### Dedication of more than 90,000 houses, completed under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban in Maharashtra

### Groundbreaking Ceremony of 7 project Under AMRUT 2.0

### ITAL MISSION FOR REJUVENATION AND URBAN TRANSFORMATION

- Groundbreaking Ceremony of Water Supply and Sewerage Projects under AMRUT 2.0 at Kalyan Dombivali, Ulhasnagar, Bhiwandi Nizampur, Sangli, Satara, Shegaon & Bhadravati.

### PM SVANidhi Scheme : Cheque Distribution Ceremony

- Under PM SVANidhi Scheme, disbursement of First/Second/Third instalment to 50,000 street vendors in the state and token cheque disbursement to three street vendors.



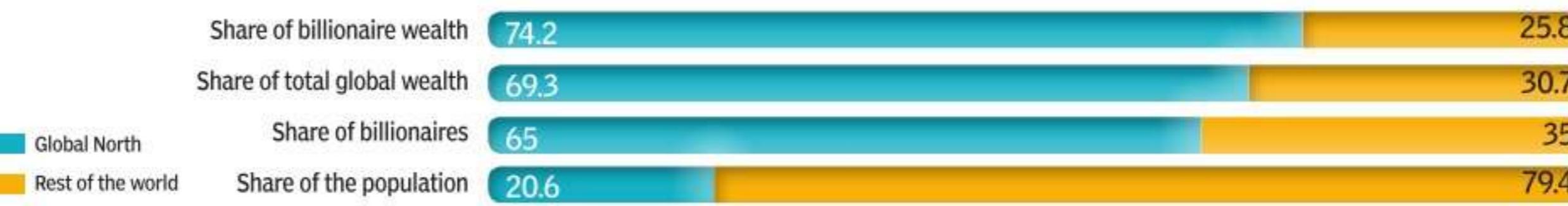


In the time that the combined wealth of the top five richest men increased from \$405 billion to \$869 billion, almost five billion people have seen their wealth decrease. Despite only 20% of the world's population living in the Global North, nearly 70% of all private wealth, and 74% of the world's billionaire wealth, is concentrated there. According to Oxfam's Inequality Inc report, as many as seven in 10 of the world's biggest companies are run by a billionaire, or have a main shareholder who is a billionaire.

Source: Statista

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024

## Wealth concentration in the Global North versus rest of the world (share in %)



The five richest billionaires today, according to Bloomberg, are Tesla CEO Elon Musk, Amazon's Jeff Bezos, LVMH chief Bernard Arnault, and Microsoft's Bill Gates and Steve Ballmer



# 'Rate cuts not on table, mkts running ahead of central bks'

**Inflation Needs To Reach 4% On A Durable Basis, Says Das**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Ahead of the monetary policy committee meeting on February 6-8, RBI governor Shaktikanta Das appears to be sending a clear message to the markets that rates will remain higher for longer until the policy goal of 4% inflation is met.

"Unless we see clear evidence that inflation is going to sustain at that level, it will be premature to talk about rate cuts. The topic of rate cuts is not on the table, it is not even under discussion. Our focus is now to remain actively disinflationary. We have to reach 4% (inflation goal) and till we reach 4% on a sustainable or a durable basis, it will be too premature for a rate cut

**'Premature For Rate Cut'**  
The topic of rate cuts is not on the table, it is not even under discussion. Our focus is now to remain actively disinflationary. We have to reach 4% (inflation goal) and till we reach 4% on a sustainable or a durable basis, it will be too premature for a rate cut

**Shaktikanta Das | GOVERNOR, RBI**

the target, which is 4%. "We have to reach 4% and till we reach 4% on a sustainable or a durable basis, it will be too premature for a rate cut," he said, adding that there were several uncertainties. The comment came a day after he said in a speech in Davos that the economy was expected to grow 7% in FY25 while inflation would be 4.5%.

This is the second time the governor is reminding markets that despite easing inflation, there are no plans to cut rates. Immediately after the monetary policy statement in December 2023, Das said that

gap is moderate. "Accordingly, inflation needs to align with the target by the year's second quarter; as projected, and get anchored there. Balance sheets of financial institutions need to be strengthened and asset quality improved even further. The ongoing consolidation of fiscal and external balances needs to continue," the report said.

The third factor making RBI circumspect about easing policy is food price volatility, which was hitherto seen as a transient phenomenon. A report co-authored by RBI deputy governor Michael Patra has said that there are times when food inflation mimics core inflation. "With its large share in the consumption basket, food inflation has the potential to affect headline inflation, and it can also affect non-food inflation in the event of large and repeated food price shocks".

The report noted that the potential output is picking up, with actual output running above it, although the

target, which is 4%. "We have to reach 4% and till we reach 4% on a sustainable or a durable basis, it will be too premature for a rate cut," he said, adding that there were several uncertainties. The comment came a day after he said in a speech in Davos that the economy was expected to grow 7% in FY25 while inflation would be 4.5%.

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**Residential realty prices rise by 19% in Dec qtr: Study**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Residential property prices across 13 prime cities, including Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru, increased by 18.8% year-on-year during the Oct-Dec quarter, showed a recent report. Gurugram (32.1%), Greater Noida (31%), Noida (26.1%) and Hyderabad (15.8%) saw the sharpest year-on-year appreciation, according to the Magicbricks PropIndex Report for the quarter.

The findings are derived from the data of customers using the real estate platform. Searches (which implies demand) increased by 2% y-o-y during the period, while residential supply reduced by 16.9% y-o-y with exceptions in Mumbai and Hyderabad, which showed a reverse trend.

On a quarterly basis, however, demand fell 16.9% due to rising property prices, according to the report. The report revealed that people prefer more spacious homes and the highest demand is for homes sized between 750 and 1,250 sq ft. Among the 13 cities analysed in the report, two and three BHK units lead the overall demand.

The report concluded that the affordable housing market flourished in Ahmedabad and Kolkata while luxury properties were most searched in Mumbai Metropolitan Region, New Delhi and Gurugram.

**Samsung unveils Galaxy S24, to be made in Noida:** Samsung unveiled its flagship Galaxy S24 smartphone (Rs 79,999 to Rs 1,59,999), and said the devices will also be manufactured in India at its factory in Noida. TNN

## Sun Pharma to complete Taro buyout after 17 yrs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Mumbai-based Sun Pharma said it will buy the outstanding shares (21.5%) in its Israeli subsidiary, Taro Pharma at \$43 per share, for roughly \$348 million (Rs 2,892 crore), resulting in its full ownership.

Sun Pharma and Taro Pharma announced that they have entered into a definitive merger agreement in which the Mumbai firm, Taro's controlling shareholder, has agreed to acquire all of the outstanding ordinary shares of Taro other than the shares already held by Sun Pharma or its affiliates for \$43 per share in cash without interest". The merger is subject to various closing conditions.

The Indian drugmaker, which currently owns about 78.5% stake in Taro, had offered to buy its remaining stake for \$38 per share in May last year, resulting in full ownership of the US-listed

**ISRAEL UNIT** listed generic drug manufacturer. The deal has come after almost 17 years of negotiations and discussions. Sun Pharma scrip was nearly 3% up at Rs 1336 on BSE.

Upon completion of the merger, which is expected to close in the first half of 2024, Taro will become a privately held company and its shares will no longer be listed on the NYSE, the companies said.

The \$43 per share purchase price represents a 48% premium over the closing price of \$28.9 per share on May 25, 2023, the last trading day before Sun Pharma first submitted its non-binding proposal to Taro, and a premium of 58% to the volume-weighted average price of the shares during the 60 days prior to and including May 25, 2023. The purchase price also represents a 13% increase over the initial proposed purchase price of \$38 per share as proposed on May 26, 2023.

## Fixed several MCA21 tech glitches, says LTIMindtree

**Veena Mani & Shilpa Phadnis | TNN**

Bangalore: Even as the new version of MCA21 troubles chartered accountants and company secretaries, LTIMindtree, the IT brain behind switch to Version 3 or V3, on Thursday said that several of the technical glitches have been removed and the concerns that are now coming are mainly individual complaints.

Reeling out statistics, company executives told TOI that average tickets generated daily had dropped to around 1,000 from nearly 3,000 a year ago, with not all related to complaints about the system but also related

to fines and penalties levied by government.

"Out of every 10 tickets,

nine are resolved within a day and most of them do not point to a major glitch in the portal," said LTIMindtree's COO Nachiket Deshpande, adding there have been no performance-related outages.

Since V3 required validation as a key element, the team implementing the switchover had reached out to stakeholders to update their details before the transition. But, several companies and professionals ignored the advisory, including updating contact details, which now needs to be fixed.

Company executives sa-

died government agencies conducted a technology audit of the work done and there is no case where the form itself not working.

Deshpande said volumes on corporate affairs ministry's portal has been 15% to 20% more than what was mentioned in the RFP (request for proposal). Due to this, the firm had to involve Aan Chauhan the chief technology officer (CTO) and his team. The IT services firm said rollout of the new version is 80% complete. The initial plan was to roll out all forms in one go itself. Prior to the rollout, a group of 50 CAs and company secretaries tested the portal using various use cases.

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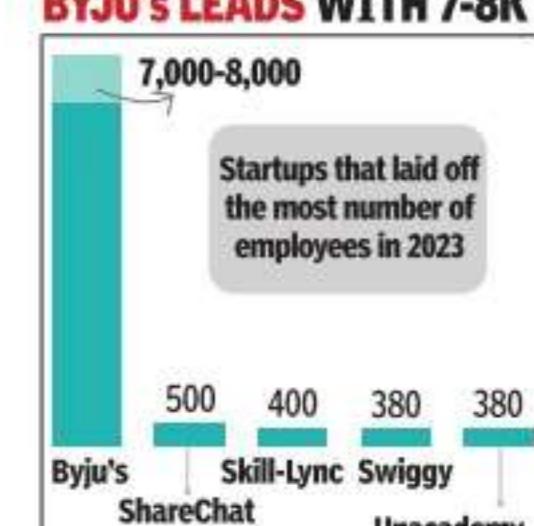
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## As Funding Tap Runs Dry, Startups Cut Costs, Seek Easing Of Esop Tax Norms

# 100 Indian startups axe 24k jobs in 2023: Report

Asmita.Dey@timesgroup.com

**BYJU'S LEADS WITH 7-8K**



trimming their workforce, a clutch of small to mid-sized startups also shut shops last year, adding to the share of laid-off employees. More than 10 startups shut operations in 2023, the data showed. Startups typically rely on external investments to fund their growth and a prolonged funding crunch made it difficult for

Artap from companies

smaller players to sustain operations. Besides, regulatory challenges and inability to build a viable business model also added to woes of startups like ZestMoney that halted operations and FrontRow, which shut down last year. ZestMoney recently got acquired by DMI Group in a fire sale deal. Few experts tracking the space also attributed the layoffs to deployment of automation in the business, correcting the over-hiring done earlier," said Aditya Narayan Mishra, managing director and CEO of CIEL HR Services. Companies have been increasingly leaning on technology to make operations more efficient and save on costs. Artificial intelligence has been gaining ground.

## Unicorns pitch 'club' to Goyal

Asmita.Dey@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: A clutch of unicorn startups in a meeting with commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday discussed the possibility of establishing a unicorn club or simply put, an association of startups which would regularly engage with the minister's office and suggest measures to boost the growth of the ecosystem.

Startups also urged the minister to look at the possibility of easing the esop (employee stock ownership plan) taxation framework, founders who attended the meeting said. Representatives of 40-50 unicorn startups including Zerodha, Zepto, Oyo, CarDekho, Paytm, and Flipkart were in attendance.

The meeting which comes against the background of a tepid funding environment also saw deliberations around the need to expand availability of domestic capital for supporting startups. The minister, it is learnt, suggested unicorn startups to consider possibilities of setting up a fund which could be used to financially back fledgling startups. "At present, a lot of startup founders invest in young startups in individual capacities. The idea is to look at ways by which they could instead contribute to the fund and help other smaller players," said Rikant Pitti, co-founder of EaseMyTrip. "Several small startups today struggle to get funding from banks," he said.

## SC orders Jet's new owners to deposit ₹150cr

### Sets Jan 31 Deadline For Dues To Keep Resolution Plan Afloat

Dhananjay.Mahapatra @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The sensex fell by another 314 points on Thursday as HDFC Bank again led the slide with a 3.3% loss. The index has lost nearly 1,950 points or 2.7% in two sessions while HDFC Bank has lost more than 11% of its value in the same period as investors lose confidence over the quality of its earnings. The sensex, after falling to an intraday low at 70,666 points, closed at 71,187, down 314 points or 0.4%.

In Thursday's session, a lower overnight closing on Wall Street also weighed on the sentiment of domestic investors, market players said. With US monthly consumer inflation numbers again showing an upward trend, fund managers and analysts are now less confident about an aggressive cut in interest rates by the US Federal Reserve than earlier. That is the main reason for the recent slide in the stock market there and the rise in gilt yields.

In two sessions, FPIs have net sold nearly Rs 20,500 crore worth of Indian stocks.

Under the agreed reworked payment schedule for the first tranche of Rs 350 crore, NCLAT had allowed Jalan-Kalrock consortium to deposit ₹100 crore by Aug 31 and ₹100 crore more by Sept 30 of 2023 and adjustment of performance bank guarantee of ₹150 crore with balance amount. Consortium proposed ₹4,783 crore financial package to revive Jet Air

lution applicant (SRA).

It directed Jalan-Kalrock to make good the payment of Rs 150 crore into the SBI escrow account and said bank guarantee of Rs 150 crore would be reviewed. It said since appeals against NCLT order of Jan 13 last year is pending adjudication before NCLAT, the latter would decide appeals expeditiously, preferably by end of March.

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, at the end of the two-day-long hearing, said adjustment of performance bank guarantee, which is a security against non-performance, could not have been permitted to be adjusted by NCLT along with appeals by the successful reso-

lition applicant (SRA).

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appeals against NCLT order of Jan 13 last year is pending adjudication before NCLAT, the latter would decide appeals expeditiously, preferably by end of March.

Importantly, what could be seen as a relief for the SRA, the bench refused to adjudicate the plea of Airjet Ground Services (AGSL) employees for saddling Jalan-Kalrock with their salary, PF and gratuity dues. It would now be decided by NCLAT along with appeals by lenders and others.

Contrary to charges that India is selling subsidised grains, officials said India's procurement programme actually helps keep global prices stable.

## India seeks WTO decision on public stockholding

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Government on Thursday rejected demands for negotiating farm issues at WTO as a "package" and said next month's meeting of ministers in UAE should honour the commitment given a decade ago on tackling the issue of public stockholding or allowing countries like India to go past the "flawed formula" capping spending on procurement.

Public stockholding is the longest pending issue. A promise was made by (WTO) members in Bali in 2013 and then later endorsed at subsequent conferences. Without that, we will not take part in any discussion on any other issue on agriculture, unless the mandated issue is settled. This is our first task," a senior official said.

Apart from a ceiling of 10% of the value of production being raised, developing countries are also seeking a review of the "irrelevant" reference price, which is based on what was prevailing in 1986-88.

In case of rice, India has breached the ceiling with last notification placing the support 15% of value of production, while for wheat it is estimated at around 3%. India, which claimed support of 87 countries including China, several developing nations and African and Caribbean nations, also wants an expansion of the schedule to cover products beyond pulses and coarse grains.

Contrary to charges that India is selling subsidised grains, officials said India's procurement programme actually helps keep global prices stable.

## Local air traffic set to double to 300mn by 2030'

Swati.Bharadwaj @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: IndusInd Bank reported a net profit of Rs 2,298 crore for the December quarter, an increase of 17% over Rs 1,959 crore in the year-ago



# TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024

NEVER PICK A FIGHT  
WITH PEOPLE WHO BUY  
INK BY THE BARREL  
— MARK TWAIN



RYAN GOSLING IS YET TO SHOW DAUGHTERS 'BARBIE': 'I DON'T KNOW WHAT AGE IS A GOOD AGE TO SEE YOUR FATHER AS KEN'

INSPIRED BY JAMES BOND VILLAIN 'JAWS', KANYE WEST GETS \$850K TITANIUM GRILLS FIXED TO HIS TEETH: REPORT

## In 4th hit in a week, US targets Houthis

Tomahawk Cruise Missiles Destroy 14 Militia Projectiles & Their Launchers In Yemen As Militants Prepared To Attack: Pentagon

For the fourth time in a week, the United States struck Houthi military sites in Yemen on Wednesday, the Pentagon's Central Command said, the latest in a series of back-and-forth exchanges with the Iran-backed militia, which has attacked merchant vessels and navy warships in the Red Sea and nearby waters.

The strikes destroyed 14 missiles and their launchers as the Houthis were preparing to fire them, Central Command said in a statement. Two US officials said the strikes were carried out by Tomahawk cruise missiles fired by navy vessels. Local news outlets in Yemen reported strikes in three locations in Houthi-controlled territory. "The actions by the Iranian-backed Houthi terrorists continue to endanger international mariners and disrupt the commercial shipping lanes in the southern Red Sea and adjacent waterways," Gen. Michael E. Kurilla, the head of Central Command, said late Wednes-



A man sells models of the Galaxy Leader cargo ship, seized by Houthi fighters in November, in Sanaa, Yemen, on Thursday

day. "We will continue to take actions to protect the lives of innocent mariners and we will always protect our people."

The pre-emptive strikes on Wednesday came a day after US military aircraft destroyed four missiles that the Central Command said had posed an imminent threat to merchant vessels and Navy ships traveling through the Red Sea and nearby waters. The US salvo came just hours after a drone fired from Ho-

uthi-controlled territory in Yemen struck the US-owned bulk carrier Genco Picardy in the Gulf of Aden, Central Command said Wednesday. There were no injuries and just minor damage to the ship, which continued its journey, the military said.

The Houthis have defied demands by the Biden administration and its allies to cease their attacks on shipping lanes critical for global trade — more than 35 so far since November

### Saudi says no ties with Israel before ceasefire in Gaza

Saudi Arabia is unable to pursue talks about a landmark deal to recognise Israel until there is a ceasefire in Gaza, the Kingdom's ambassador to the US said Thursday. "While there is violence on the ground and the killing persists, we cannot talk about the next day," Princess Reema bint Bandar al-Saud said at the WEF in Davos. Saudi Arabia has never recognised Israel and did not join the 2020 US-brokered Abraham Accords. REUTERS

— vowing to continue their assaults in what they say is a protest against Israel's military campaign in the Gaza Strip against Hamas. American and British attack planes and warships attacked more than 60 Houthi targets last week. US officials said the strikes were not intended to widen the conflict in West Asia just to damage or destroy the Houthis' capabilities. So far, however, the American salvos have done neither. NYT

## India silent on Pak's retaliatory strikes on Iran

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

### EXCHANGING FIRE

Both Iran and Pakistan have long fought militants in the Baloch region, but it is unusual for either side to attack militants on each other's soil, raising regional tensions and sparking a diplomatic spat between the two neighbours

#### WHAT HAPPENED?

Iran carries out strikes in Pakistan's Balochistan, killing two; Pakistan hits back with 'killer drones, rockets, loitering munitions and stand-off weapons' in Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan province on Thursday, killing 9

Duo share a 900-km, largely lawless border where smugglers and militants roam freely. Both suspect each other of supporting, or behaving leniently toward groups operating on the other side of the border



**NOT THE FIRST TIME** | In 2021, Iran retrieved 2 of its soldiers being held hostage by Jaish al-Adl inside Pakistani territory. In 2017, the Pakistani air force shot down an Iranian drone

**THE TARGETS** | Iran says strikes aimed only at Jaish al-Adl, an ethnic Baloch Sunni Muslim group that has carried out attacks inside the country

Pak hit separatist militants of Balochistan Liberation Army and Balochistan Liberation Front; the groups, it says, have attacked security forces, China infrastructure projects



#### WHY IS BALOCHISTAN SIGNIFICANT?

- It is Pakistan's largest province by size, but the smallest by population (roughly 15 million people). The territory holds untapped mineral wealth
- A key location in multi-billion China Pakistan Economic Corridor; China has mining projects here, and has built an international airport and a port in the province's southern coastal town of Gwadar
- Canadian miner Barrick Gold owns a 50% stake in the Reko Diq mine in the province's district of Chagai. Barrick considers it one of the world's largest undeveloped sites for copper and gold

### Clash shows Iran not well-liked in region, says Biden

US President Joe Biden said Thursday that the clashes between Iran and Pakistan show that Iran is not well-liked in the region. The White House later said that the US does not want to see an escalation. "We're in touch with our Pakistani counterparts," a spokesperson said. REUTERS

### Committed to good ties with Pak: Iran

Iran said it was committed to good neighbourly relations with Pakistan, but called on the neighbouring state to prevent the establishment of "terrorist bases" on its soil, Iran's foreign ministry said in a statement published on Thursday. REUTERS

which sees Iran as the main source of international terrorism. India has also traditionally attached great importance to Iran's role in promoting peace in Afghanistan. India will hope that Iran's actions will draw international attention also to continued activities of groups like JeM and LeT, which operate out of Pakistan and also remain active in Afghanistan. Pakistan's reluctance to act against these groups, and their UN-banned leaders, has been the reason why India has not had any bilateral engagement with Islamabad for the past 8 years.

## Sunak survives party rebellion on Rwanda policy

London: PM Rishi Sunak of Britain dodged a potentially dire threat to his leadership Wednesday, preserving for now his beleaguered government's immigration plan to put asylum-seekers on one-way flights to Rwanda. AFP



The display of disunity within Conservative Party, nevertheless, has damaged Sunak's authority

### PM appeals to Lords to pass asylum law

PM Rishi Sunak Thursday called on the upper house of parliament to "get on board" and pass his plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda. At a press conference when Sunak tried to convince the public his Conservatives were "united" around his plans, he appealed to the House of Lords to help him start flights before the election. REUTERS

British coast in small, inflatable boats would be sent to Rwanda to have their claims heard there. The programme has been condemned by human rights groups and refugee charities, and was ruled unlawful last year by Britain's Supreme Court. The latest legislation is designed to redress the concerns raised by the court, although critics worry that the Rwanda policy could still be in breach of international law. The opposition Labour Party, which is well ahead in opinion polls, says it would scrap the plan. NYT

### Singapore's 'clean image' hit, min charged with graft

It was an unprecedented set of events in Singapore: a government minister charged with corruption and then hauled to court. S. Iswaran, the transport minister, was formally accused on Monday of taking bribes including a ride on a private jet and tickets to the musical "Hamilton" and soccer games in Britain. By the time he appeared in court on Thursday and pleaded not guilty, he had resigned from his post. Singapore has long touted a squeaky clean image. Singapore has consistently been lauded for its lack of graft. It was the fifth-least-corrupt country in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index in 2022, the only Asian country in the top 10.



Allegations of impropriety involving Iswaran became public in July. PM Lee Hsien Loong ordered him to take a leave of absence while the authorities probed his dealings involving a billionaire who helped bring the Formula 1 auto race to Singapore.

Nearly all the charges stem from 2015 to 2021, when Iswaran is accused of obtaining from property tycoon Ong Beng Seng "valuable things" with a total value of about \$160,000. He is also accused of accepting tickets to the Formula 1 race in Singapore, as well as a flight to Doha on Ong's private jet and a night stay at the Four Seasons there. NYT

### Russia rejects US call to resume talks on N-arms control

Moscow: Russia's top diplomat dismissed the US proposal to resume a dialogue on nuclear arms control, saying Thursday that it's impossible while Washington offers military support to Ukraine. Speaking at an annual news conference, Sergey Lavrov accused the West of fuelling global security risks by encouraging Ukraine to ramp up strikes on the Russian territory and warned that Moscow will achieve its goals in the conflict regardless of Western support for Kyiv. Commenting on a US proposal to resume contacts in the sphere of nuclear arms control, he said Moscow has rejected the offer. He said that for such talks to be held, Washington first needs to revise its current policy toward Russia. The minister said Washington's push for restarting talks is rooted in a desire to "try to establish control over our nuclear arsenal and minimise nuclear risks for itself." AP

## 'Chinese experts mapped Covid virus 2 weeks before officially informing world'

New York: A team of Chinese researchers identified and mapped SARS-CoV-2, the virus that caused the Covid-19 pandemic, at least two weeks before the country officially informed the world about the virus, according to media reports. The reports, based on documents from the US department of health and human services (HHS) and shared with a US congressional committee, raise concerns about China transparency on the virus.

The congressional investigators said Chinese researcher Lili Ren uploaded an incomplete sequence of the virus to a US government-run database GenBank on Dec 29, 2019, Wall Street Journal reported. Three days later GenBank informed Ren her submission was incomplete and requested that she provide the complete information, Washington Post reported. As Ren did not submit the requested annotations, her submission was deleted from GenBank's processing queue on Jan 16, 2020.

A "nearly identical" genetic sequence of SARS-CoV-2 was submitted to GenBank by a separate team of Chinese researchers and was published on Jan 12, 2020, revealed a letter sent by a senior HHS official to the committee and that was made public Wednesday. Health experts who reviewed the documents said this was a missed opportunity to learn more about the virus at the beginning of the health emergency. IANS

### Sheryl Sandberg to exit Meta board after 12 years

Meta Platforms' former chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg plans to step down from her position on the company's board of directors after her term ends in May, she said on Facebook Wednesday. "Meta business is strong and well-positioned for the future, so this feels like the right time to step away," Sandberg said in the post, adding that she will serve as an adviser to the company.

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### AROUND THE WORLD



**WATER HAPPY:** A group of women who call themselves 'Endorphins' gather for a sunrise swim in the chilly waters of Lake Ontario in Canada

### 'Oppenheimer' beats 'Barbie' in Bafta nominations with 13 vs 5 nods

Historical drama "Oppenheimer" led nominations for the Bafta Film Awards on Thursday, securing 13 nods. Sex-charged gothic comedy "Poor Things" received 11 nods while Martin Scorsese's "Killers of the Flower Moon", about the murders of members of the Osage Nation in the 1920s, got nine nominations. The three movies will all compete for the ceremony's top prize — best film — alongside courtroom drama "Anatomy of a Fall" and "The Holdovers", a comedy set at a boys boarding school. Box office phenomenon "Barbie", starring Margot Robbie, was nominated in five categories.

The UK's top movie awards will take place in London on Feb 18.

**Arnold detained for failing to declare a luxury watch**

Hollywood star Arnold Schwarzenegger was briefly detained at Munich airport Wednesday for failing to declare a luxury watch. Criminal proceedings were initiated against the "Terminator" star for tax evasion.

Customs rules in Munich require travellers from outside the European Union to declare any goods from outside the EU that are valued at more than 430 euro (about \$467).

## Pak stocks plunge, raise eco woes ahead of polls

### After strikes, Iran summons Pakistan's charge d'affaires for an explanation

Continued from P1

Following the attack, Iran summoned Pakistan's chargé d'affaires in Tehran to "offer explanations" for the attack. The Pakistani missile response raises the danger of further escalation amidst upheaval in the already tense West Asia in the wake of Israel's war on Gaza and back-to-back Iranian missile attacks on targets in Iraq and Syria earlier this week. The strikes in each other's territory, both sides have claimed, were directed at militant groups operating from lawless border areas in both countries.

Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Pakistan army's media wing, said the strikes inside Iran targeted "hideouts used by terrorist organisations, namely Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF)." ISPR added that the army's resolve to "ensure that the sovereignty



and territorial integrity of Pakistan against any misadventure remains unwavering". Going forward, dialogue and cooperation are deemed prudent in resolving bilateral issues between the two neighbouring brotherly countries", it said.

Both BLA and BLF reacted to the Pakistan military's claim, saying the armed groups have "no hideouts in Iran" and none of "our sarmachar (fighters)" was martyred" in the attack. Pakistan's foreign ministry described the attack as "a series of highly coordinated and specifically targeted precision military strikes". "Pakistan has

consistently shared its serious concerns about safe havens and sanctuaries enjoyed by Pakistani-origin terrorists in ungoverned spaces inside Iran. Pakistan also shared multiple dossiers with concrete evidence," a spokesperson said, adding that a number of terrorists were killed in the operation.

Following the developments, Pakistan's caretaker PM Anwaar Haq Kakar cut short his visit to the World Economic Forum in Davos. Besides China, Russia, Turkey and the EU, the Afghan Taliban government has also called for Pakistan and Iran to exercise restraint.

Iran had described its Tuesday's attack inside Pakistan as an operation against bases for the militant group Jaish al-Adl in the border town of Panjgur, Balochistan. The attack had prompted condemnation from Islamabad and downgraded diplomatic ties between the neighbouring countries.

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LOOKING TO HAVE KIDS, COLLINS TO QUIT TENNIS THIS YEAR AFTER AUSTRALIAN OPEN EXIT

SANCHO IN OUTSTANDING SHAPE DESPITE LAYOFF, SAYS DORTMUND COACH TERZIC

Ishan, Jitesh, Sanju, Rahul Or Pant? Who Will Be Behind The Stumps In The T20 World Cup?

## PROMISES TO KEEP

Ashim.Sunam@timesgroup.com

**Bengaluru:** Since MS Dhoni's retirement in 2019, the Indian wicketkeeper's slot has been a game of musical chairs. Since Jan last year, India have primarily tried three men behind the stumps — Jitesh Sharma, Sanju Samson and Ishan Kishan — in T20Is. With the T20 World Cup scheduled in June, the race for the wicketkeeper's slot is gathering momentum.

In the last 12 months, Ishan Kishan has figured in the most T20Is — 11 matches — while both Samson (9) and Jitesh (9) have been given opportunities to showcase their skills with the bat and behind the stumps.

However, since Nov, the team management has shown more faith in Jitesh, who has also been India's first choice in the last two series against South Africa and Afghanistan. With the bat, Jitesh's best has been a 19-ball 35 against Australia in the 4th T20I last month.

Ishan has been mostly tried at the top of the order and the southpaw delivered with two half-centuries against Australia in Nov. But with the return of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli in the T20I fold, slotting Ishan in the top order looks tough. In comparison, Sanju and Jitesh have featured in the middle-order, with the latter being used



**IN THE FRAY:** Jitesh Sharma's (left) stocks have risen as a wicketkeeper who is also capable of belting a few in the lower middle order

**"We've got quite a few wicketkeeping options. All of them are in the mix. We've seen Sanju (Samson) and Jitesh (Sharma) in this series. We also have (Ishan) Kishan, KL Rahul and even Rishabh (Pant). We'll just have to see how things pan out over the course of the next few months and then make a decision."**

—Rahul Dravid | COACH

more as a finisher. India head coach Rahul Dravid is happy with the options in

hand and even included KL Rahul and Rishabh Pantas contenders. The latter is recovering at the NCA here after suffering a horrific accident in late 2022.

"We have a few wicketkeeping options. All of them are in the mix. We have seen Sanju and Jitesh (in the India-Afghanistan series). We also have Rahul, Kishan and Rishabh. We just need to see how it pans out in the next few months and take a call on what is the best way forward," said Dravid at the post-match conference after India's series win against Afghanistan.

Dravid's emphasis on "next

few months" makes it evident that the performance of these players in the IPL will be closely monitored by the team management before making their final call on the wicketkeeper.

If Pant plays in the IPL, the focus will also be on his fitness as he has not played competitive cricket since Dec 2022.

With India not playing any T20Is before heading to the US and Caribbean, the IPL will play a key role in determining the team composition for the World Cup. Also, it is not only about wicketkeepers. The likes of Shikhar Dhawan, Washington Sundar,

We have still not finalised the squad for the T20 World Cup, but obviously in the mind you know the 8-10 players who are going to play. In the West Indies, the conditions are quite slow, so we have to pick the squad accordingly. The one thing I have learnt from captaincy is that you can't keep everyone happy. You have to focus on the needs of the team."

—Rohit Sharma | CAPTAIN



**DESERT CLASSIC:** ILT20 league captains pose with the trophy before the start of the second edition of the T20 league

per Sunil Narine hopes to have a better show this time around.

"We need to find the right combination and then execute

our plans properly. We will look to make the home ground our fortress since we are playing a lot of games there.

Ruturaj Gaikwad and Tilak Varma too will be closely watched.

"It's nice to see that there are some options (ahead of the T20 World Cup) who have put their hand up, and certainly shown that they've got skills to address.

"(There are) some areas that we might need some addressing in, and we were thinking about it. But unfortunately, we really won't have much cricket as a team anymore. We will obviously have the IPL and everyone will be watching closely to see how some of those guys play and what are the slots we need to fill in the team," Dravid said.

Ruturaj Gaikwad and Tilak Varma too will be closely watched.

"It's a new season and I am sure it will be better this time around," said Narine, whose team will be playing last year's runner-up Desert Vipers in their opening game on Sunday.

Apart from his heroics with the ball, Narine has played many memorable knocks with the bat as well. Asked whether he will be taking up the opener's role this time, the West Indian said,

"Only time will tell. We need to make our plans and see whether that is working. If the team wants me to open I will definitely do so this time."

(The writer is in Dubai on invitation from ZEE Entertainment and DP World International League T20)

### AUS VS WINDIES, FIRST TEST, DAY 2

Justin Greaves dismissed off the last ball of the day's play.

Hazlewood removed the top four West Indies batsmen in a superb spell of seam bowling. He dismissed Tagnarine Chanderpaul for a first ball duck, then in his next over he had captain Kraigg Brathwaite caught by Head at a deepish short leg. The West Indies were 73-6, still 22 runs from making Australia bat again.

Joshua Da Silva was not out on 17, with

Greaves dismissed off the last ball of the day's play.

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Head smashed 119 from 134 balls to take Australia to 283 and a first-innings lead of 95, Hazlewood took four wickets for just two runs at the start of the West Indies second innings to deal a hammer blow to the visitors. At stumps on the second day, the West Indies were 73-6, still 22 runs from making Australia bat again.

Shamar Joseph, the visitors took regular wickets throughout.

Joseph, playing only his sixth first-class match, ended with 5-94 in a magnificent debut. "It's an amazing feeling," Joseph said. "It brings tears to my eyes knowing that I'm on this big stage and taking a five-wicket haul."

**Brief scores:** WI 188 & 73/6 (McKenzie 26, Hazlewood 4-18, Lyon 1-4) trail Aus 283 (Head 119, Khawaja 45, S Joseph 5-94) by 22 runs. AFP

Greaves and Da Silva batted sensibly and looked certain to take the Windies safely to stumps, only for off-spinner Lyon to trap Greaves lbw for 24.

On a pitch that troubled every other batsman, Head seemed to be playing on a different surface, bringing up his seventh Test century with a glorious cover drive to the boundary. He eventually fell after making a brisk century, caught brilliantly on the boundary by Alzarri Joseph.

The Australians were expected to dominate a below-strength Windies, who have three players on debut in this match. But led by exciting newcomer Shamar Joseph, the visitors took regular wickets throughout.

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On a pitch that troubled every other batsman, Head seemed to be playing on a different surface, bringing up his seventh Test century with a glorious cover drive to the boundary. He eventually fell after making a brisk century, caught brilliantly on the boundary by Alzarri Joseph.

The Australians were expected to dominate a below-strength Windies, who have three players on debut in this match. But led by exciting newcomer Shamar Joseph, the visitors took regular wickets throughout.

Joseph, playing only his sixth first-class match, ended with 5-94 in a magnificent debut. "It's an amazing feeling," Joseph said. "It brings tears to my eyes knowing that I'm on this big stage and taking a five-wicket haul."

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# LACKLUSTRE SHOW

**India Go Down 0-3 Against Uzbekistan In AFC Asian Cup**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**R**egardless of the optimism that surrounds Indian football after the national team won three trophies, all at home last year, Uzbekistan showed that Igor Stimac's side still has plenty of ground to cover with a clinical 3-0 win in an AFC Asian Cup group clash at the Ahmad bin Ali Stadium in Doha on Thursday.

Uzbekistan started on the front foot scoring two goals inside the first 18 minutes through the boots of Abbosbek Fayzullayev and Igor Sergeyev. Just when India seemed to be pushing forward and creating chances, Sherzod Nasrullahyev killed the match as a contest in the fourth minute of added time in the first half.

There was little to do in the second half. India did hit the post and forced Uzbekistan goalkeeper Utkir Yusupov into a couple of saves. But the result never seemed to be in doubt from start to finish.

With Australia scoring a solitary goal victory against Syria in an earlier group game, the Socceroos have now confirmed their place in the knockout stage with six points from their first two matches. Uzbekistan, with four points, are almost there, while even a win against Syria in the concluding group clash next week may not be enough for India.

After the 0-2 loss against Australia, Stimac had asked his players to show more attacking intent and made three attacking changes. Akash Mishra,

Anirudh Thapa and Mahesh Singh all found their way into the starting lineup. It seemed fine on paper, but Uzbekistan pounced on the gaps that appeared at the back.

Uzbekistan surged ahead in the fourth minute through Fayzullayev, who dons colours for CSKA Moscow. The midfielder orchestrated the move, intercepting possession deep in midfield before exchanging passes with Otabek Shukurov to open up a confused Indian defence where he rose highest to nod home past goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu.

A defensive lapse saw Uzbekistan make it 2-0 in the 18th minute. Defender Rahul Bheke lost the ball to Fayzullayev, who played it forward inside the box.

Akash Mishra tried to evade the



India's Suresh Singh and Uzbek Jaloliddin Masharipov vie for the ball in their match on Thursday

danger with his clearance. The ball, however, hit the woodwork, and with the rest of the players simply watching, Sergeyev tapped home from close range.

Down by two goals, India pushed more men forward and

enjoyed a few minutes of dominance. Just when India believed they could at least pull a goal back, Nasrullahyev made it 3-0 for Uzbekistan.

Compared to the opener against Australia, India in fact

had plenty of the ball against Uzbekistan, though the top three shots were all made by defenders. The team had nine shots, three of them on target.

India face Syria in the concluding group clash on Jan 23.

## IRVINE GOAL SEES AUSTRALIA ADVANCE TO KNOCKOUT STAGE

**Doha:** Jackson Irvine delivered again as Australia booked its place in the knockout stage of the Asian Cup on Thursday by beating Syria 1-0. The midfielder scored for the second straight game to maintain the Socceroos' 100% start in Group B. Australia, the 2015 champions, top the group on six points and cannot finish lower than second.

Irvine struck the winner with a flicked shot from inside the box in the 59th minute at Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium. He had scored the opening goal in his team's 2-0 win against India on Saturday.

The closest Syria came to scoring was when Pablo Sabbag hit the post early on. AP

## FAN PLUCKED FROM CROWD TO BE MATCH OFFICIAL IN FA CUP!

**Wolverhampton:** A fan of English soccer club Wolverhampton was unable to celebrate his team's late winner in an FA Cup replay – because he'd been plucked from the crowd to stand in as a match official.

Ross Bennett attended the Wolves-Brentford game on Tuesday with his 11-year-old son and volunteered to fill in as the fourth official in the technical area near the dugouts following an injury to one of the assistant referees in extra time. Bennett, a qualified referee at youth level, said he was given a "crash course" on how to work the substitutes' board and dealt with questions from members of the Brentford staff in a tense end to the match at Molineux. AP

## The contrast in the Indo-Chinese contest

**TIMES IN MELBOURNE**

Prajwal.Hegde@timesgroup.com

China's 18-year-old Juncheng Shang beat the India No.1 Sumit Nagal 2-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4 in the second round of the Australian Open, a near three-hour match that showcased the seasons—going from hot to windy to chilly. That's the scoreline and the setting, then there is the story. Always the story.

Shang is a gifted left-hander—whose power is piercing and who works the spins and angles like an artist standing before a blank canvas. He is one of the young faces to watch out for on the ATP Tour.

The teenager, managed by market leaders IMG, already has Nike and Babolat contracts. His coach is the former pro Argentine Martin Alund and his fitness trainer is Jason Hettler, both of whom were court-side. As were his parents—Shang Yi, a former footballer and Wu Na, a world championship-winning paddler (mixed-doubles). Shang, Bradenton-based, sports a diamond ear stud, and has the backing of the Chinese federation. His country has multiple ATP Tour level tournaments—including a Masters 1000, a 500 Series and three 250 Series events, all of which will line up to give him wildcards into the main draw.

Nagal, once a promising 21-year-old, who took a set off Roger Federer,

**Chinese Teen Shang, Backed By Game & System, Ends Nagal's Run**



Sumit Nagal plays a forehand return on Thursday

### BOPS-EBDEN PAIR SURVIVES OPENER

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**Melbourne:** Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Edben, the No. 2 seeds, started slowly, trailing by a double break. At 0-5, the first set looked done, but they came back strongly to move past wildcard entrants James Duckworth and Marc Polmans in the first round here.

The Indo-Aussie pairing scored a memorable 7-6 (5), 4-6, 7-6 (2) win in which they played two outstanding tie-breaks in their tournament opener that lasted two hours and nine minutes.

The all-Indian pairing of Anirudh Chandrasekar and 37-year Vijay Sundar Prashanth, wildcard entrants, went down 3-6, 4-6 to the Hungarian pair of Marton Fucsovics and Fabian Maroszan in their opener.

er in a night match on Arthur Ashe stadium, is now 26 and working his way back from a hip surgery.

The Indian went under the knife in Germany in the fall of 2021. In the nine months that followed—surgery and repair; he ran up bills of INR 80,000.00 (eighty lakhs).

It took Nagal another year to earn half of what he had earned before he stopped for surgery.

Unlike Shang on Thursday, Nagal only had his coach Sascha Nansel in his corner on Court 13. He wanted his trainer Milos Galecic to travel with him to Australia, but couldn't afford it. Unlike China, India doesn't have a single ATP Tour level event at home, so wildcards are distant dreams. Nagal, without support from corporates and the federation, is on his own.

"The conditions changed and things didn't go in my favour today. I would've liked it if it had been a little bit hot," Nagal said.

That's not to say that the 18-year-old is spared the weight of

expectations or the pressure for results, but at least the logistics are taken care of. He has a coach and trainer on call and the bills are taken care of.

On the day, the Chinese teenager, a wildcard entrant here, benefitted as the temperatures dropped dramatically at Melbourne Park.

Nagal, who reveled in the heat, was pushed on the backfoot and was scrambling for survival.

"I don't think I played a bad match today. I didn't feel like I let myself down," said Nagal, who had 22 unforced errors in the match to the Chinese's count of 52. In the total points tally, Shang won eight points more than the Indian. That was the difference between the two.

"The conditions changed and things didn't go in my favour today. I would've liked it if it had been a little bit hot," Nagal said.

The teenager, who plays the No. 2 seed Carlos Alcaraz in the third round on Saturday, applauded his opponent. "I watched Sumit play Federer; he played an unbelievable match in the US Open," he said, adding, "He was just breaking down my game today with some heavy top spins on the forehand in the first set. Tough match for Sumit, but I'm sure he'll be back."

Rybakina, the 2022 Wimbledon champion, began her 2024 season with a sparkling run to the title in Brisbane. She dropped only three games to world No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka in the title round. In contrast, Blinkova came to Melbourne looking for her first win of the season.

## BLINKOVA SINKS RYBAKINA IN TITANIC CLASH

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Anna Blinkova wins longest women's singles tie-break in Grand Slam history

on the Rod Laver Arena, and she told herself before entering the storied facility that she was only going to be positive no matter how the match went.

"I was telling myself that I only had to give my best until the very last moment and enjoy every single moment of it," she said. "On the match, it was difficult to always stay positive. I had a lot of great moments, but I also had many frustrating moments, for example, all the match points that I couldn't convert."

"I had negative thoughts coming to my head, especially when I could not convert my match points and I was match point down on the return. I had a lot of thoughts (doubts), what if she serves well, what if she hits a big first serve, it's going to be over. I tried to push these thoughts away," Blinkova said of her internal struggles.

Blinkova took the tactical route as the pressure piled on her and the spectators were on the edge of their seats.

In another shock result, 21-year-old Frenchman Arthur Cazaux sent out eighth-seeded Holger Rune 7-6 (4), 6-4, 6-3. Cazaux's remarkable ball-striking skills and athletic ability helped him deliver a shock result on the Margaret Court Arena.

### RESULTS (2ND ROUND)

**Men's singles:** Arthur Cazaux (FRA) bt Holger Rune (DEN) 7-6 (7/4), 6-4, 6-6; Hubert Hurkacz (POL) x9 bt Jakub Minsk (CZE) 6-7 (9/11), 6-1, 5-7, 6-1, 6-3; Grigor Dimitrov (BUL) x13 bt Thanasi Kokkinakis (AUS) 6-3, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4; Alexander Zverev (GER) x6 bt Lukas Klein (SVK) 7-5, 3-6, 4-6, 7-6 (7/5), 7-6 (10/7); Shang Juncheng (CHN) bt Sumit Nagal (IND) 2-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4; Carlos Alcaraz (ESP) x2 bt Lorenzo Sonego (ITA) 6-4, 6-7 (3/7), 6-3, 7-6 (7/3); **Women's singles:** Iga Swiatek (POL) x1 bt Danielle Collins (USA) 6-4, 3-6, 6-4; Jelena Ostapenko (LAT) x11 bt Ajla Tomljanovic (AUS) 6-0, 3-6, 6-4; Anna Blinkova (RUS) bt Elena Rybakina (KAZ) x3 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (22/20); Sloane Stephens (USA) bt Daria Kasatkina (RUS) x14 4-6, 6-3, 6-3; Clara Burel (FRA) bt Jessica Pegula (USA) x5 6-4, 6-2.

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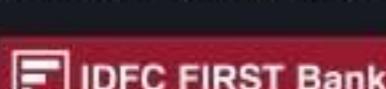
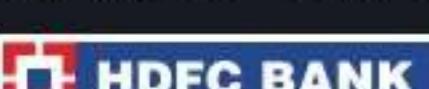
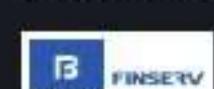


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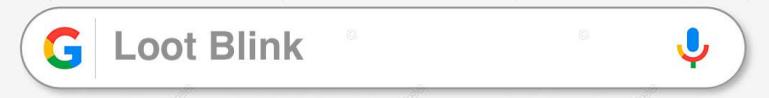
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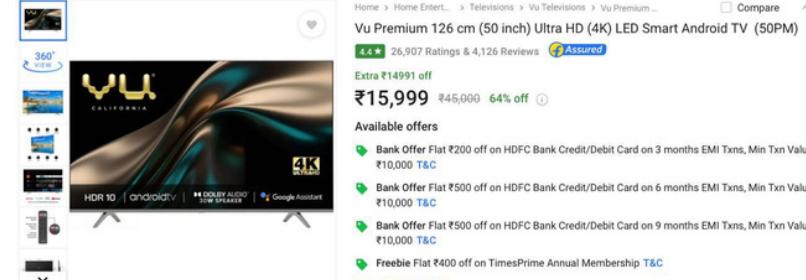
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