

# THE TIMES OF INDIA

HAPPY GANESH CHATURTHI

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

**Telegram CEO Pavel Durov defends messaging app in his first public comments since his arrest in Paris last month, says it was a 'misguided approach' to hold him responsible for spread of illicit content on the platform, INSIDE JACKET**

**17 children killed and 70 missing after fire rips through a primary school dormitory in central Kenya. The blaze in Nyeri county began around midnight. Police said the average age of the victims was around nine, INSIDE JACKET**

**China will no longer send children overseas for adoption, overturning a more than 3-decade rule when govt enforced a strict one-child policy that forced many families to abandon their babies, INSIDE JACKET**

**Neeraj Chopra qualifies for Diamond League finale in Brussels on Sept 13 & 14 after finishing 4th in overall standings. The 26-year-old is 2 points behind third-placed Jakob Vadlech; Anderson Peters and Julian Weber take first two spots, P 24**

## Bomb threat: Vistara flight lands in Turkiye

A Mumbai-Frankfurt Vistara flight with 247 people on board landed in Turkiye's Erzurum airport Friday after its crew found a message — "bomb on airplane" — written on a tissue paper in its lavatory. All passengers are safe. The plane was being thoroughly checked when reports last came in. If the threat turns out to be a hoax, the plane will leave for Frankfurt. **P 21**

## Drunk cop mows down 2 in B'shahr

Two women out for a walk were killed after a speeding car, driven by a drunk UP Police head constable, ran over them on Meerut-Bulandshahr road in Bulandshahr district Thursday night. The cop was driving recklessly on the wrong side, said eyewitnesses. **P 18**

## 3 from Bengal die in Odisha septic tank

Two sewage workers died while attempting to rescue a colleague who had fallen unconscious after entering an under-construction septic tank in Odisha's Cuttack district Friday. All three died of asphyxiation. They hailed from Bengal's Nadia district. **T 16**

## Mahayuti poster war over scheme

Days after Mahayuti ally NCP's ad promoting Maharashtra's scheme for girls as 'Ajitdada Ladki Bahin' scheme, posters with BJP symbol emerged in his Baramati bastion with photos of CM Shinde and deputy CM Fadnavis and no mention of Ajit Pawar. **P 21**

# Must release accused if arrest is not by book: SC

## Bail For Bhushan Promoter After 16 Months In Jail

AmitAnand.Choudhary @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Sending a clear message that irrespective of the seriousness of offence, an accused has to be released if statutory procedure is not followed by the investigating agency while arresting him, Supreme Court on Friday directed release of Bhushan Steel promoter Neeraj Singal in a money-laundering case for allegedly defrauding financial institutions of Rs 46,000 crore. Though agreeing that the charges against Singal were serious and should not be treated lightly as it affected the economy and "shook the market", a bench of Justices San-

### IN THE COURTS

- **Adult woman has right to be treated as an autonomous individual, free from coercion, says Pjb and Haryana HC, dismissing man's plea to direct daughter to stay with him**
- **Mentally ill gang-rape survivor to record statement in UP magistrate court with help of a facial expression analyst and psychologist**
- **Bhopal court sentences conman to 7 years' RI for stealing his friend's identity**
- **and bagging jobs with top companies over 15 years. Also accused of murdering his wife**
- **HC chief justice cannot individually decide on recommending names for judgeship on behalf of collegium, says SC**
- **After 7 yrs in jail, electrician acquitted of killing his bride in 2017. Court says no proof that he strangled her as he was unhappy with the marriage**

SEE INSIDE FLAP

jiv Khanna and Sanjay Kumar allowed his plea for release on the ground that by not sharing with him the ground of his arrest, as mandated by SC, Enforcement Directorate (ED) had violated statutory procedure. The court said the law had to be complied with and there had been a lapse on the part of

the agency in compliance. Observing that the agency would be wiser in future and would not repeat the mistake, the bench said courts have to be strict on non-compliance. "We have to proceed as per the law. There has been a lapse in compliance," it said.

► **Trial court to decide, P 20**

## Court seeks info on 2020 tender for 1,000 buses

Delhi court has issued a notice to the managing director of Delhi Transport Corporation seeking details of a tender for procuring 1,000 buses, floated by Delhi govt in 2020. The court of special judge Ashish Agarwal also asked for the list of bidders who participated in or applied for the tender. The court was hearing a complaint that senior IAS officer Garima Gupta, then DTC's MD, allegedly demanded a bribe of Rs 50 crore from the director of a company to award the tender, later negotiated to Rs 15 crore. **P 9**

## SC: Any constraint on CM signing files from prison?

New Delhi: Supreme Court sought to know Friday whether there was any constraint on Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal discharging his duties from jail, and signing files before they are sent to the lieutenant governor, reports Amit Anand Choudhary. The SC's poser was prompted by the delay in processing the remission plea of a convict in Delhi. While the court had asked the NCT govt on May 10 to decide the remission plea within two months, no decision has been taken till now. The bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih was told that un-

"We want to examine this because this will affect hundreds of cases. So many files would be there as various orders are passed by the court concerning the CM... The state will have to address us on the question whether there is any prohibition on the CM dealing with files of cases while he is in custody —SC Bench

der the rules, the file could not be forwarded to the LG unless it was signed by the CM, who is in jail in the liquor policy case.

► **'Address issue', P 6**

## 'No locus standi': SC junks RG Kar ex-head's plea on CBI probe

New Delhi: Supreme Court Friday dismissed a petition by Sandip Ghosh, arrested ex-principal of RG Kar medical college, seeking to intervene in proceedings before Calcutta HC, reports Dhananjay Mahapatra. The HC had ordered CBI to probe an alleged scam in biomedical waste disposal in the institute and whether this was linked to the rape-murder of a doctor on Aug 9.

## Guv slams bill, then sends it to Prez

Bengal governor C V Ananda Bose on Friday referred 'Aparajita Bill', which introduces stringent punishments like death penalty for convicted rapists, to President Droupadi Murmu after spending the first half of the day slamming the Bengal govt and deliberating on the lack of a technical report. **P 17**

## CBI lawyer keeps court waiting for 50 min, P 17

"You (Ghosh) were the principal when the alleged offence took place. The HC is not commenting on the merit of your involvement in corruption or the offence. Both are matters for investigation. As an accused, you have no locus standi to intervene in a PIL in which the HC has transferred the probe to CBI and is monitoring it," SC said. "Let's not stultify the investigation. As the highest court is looking into the matter, it will ensure that the investigation is fair." CJI DY Chandrachud said.

► **'Can't direct', P 20**

## Priest killed in rebel rocket attack on 1st Manipur CM's home

### 5 Injured, Apex Meitei Body Calls Public Emergency

Prabin.Kalita @timesofindia.com

Guwahati: After back-to-back drone strikes, Manipur was jolted Friday by suspected militants carrying out the first reported rocket attacks in the region, one of which killed a 70-year-old priest and wounded five people in a Bishnupur house belonging to the family of the state's first CM, Mairambam Koireng Singh.

The deceased, RK Rabei of Moirang Pheewangbam Leikai, was preparing for a religious ceremony in the house when he was fatally struck by splinters from the crude rocket that landed on



A forensic team in Bishnupur on Friday. In the past few days, Manipur has been hit by several drone and gun attacks

the roof, sources said.

Koireng Singh's kin live barely 100 metres from the erstwhile Indian National Army's headquarters, where Lt Col Shaikat Ali hoisted the Tricolour for the first time on Indian soil on April 14, 1944.

► **Trigger unrest, P 20**

## Cong: Buch got rent from entity under Sebi probe

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Congress Friday levelled fresh allegations of conflict of interest against Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch. Party spokesperson Pawan Khara alleged that between 2018 and 2024, when she was a member and subsequently chairman of Sebi, Buch received rental income of over Rs 2 crore from Carol Info Services, a company affiliated to Wockhardt, which was being probed for multiple violations, including insider trading.

► **PAC set to decide, P 20**

## Claims baseless, says Wockhardt

In a stock filing, Wockhardt denied the claims, saying: "It has come to our attention that there are certain allegations pertaining to payment of rent by Carol Info Services Ltd and its connection with certain orders passed by Sebi in relation to the company... we categorically deny these allegations and state that these are completely baseless and misleading. The company has acted and continues to act in compliance with all applicable laws." **T 16**

## 15 returning from UP funeral die in accident

Fifteen people were killed and 14 others injured when the pick-up vehicle they were in collided head-on with a UP roadways bus in Hathras on Agra-Aligarh National Highway on Friday. The victims, residents of Semera village in the Khandauli block of Agra, were returning from a funeral, reports Mohammad Dilshad. The injured are being treated in hospital. **P 20**

## Stephen's told by HC to admit 7 top-scorers

Delhi high court on Friday directed St Stephen's College to admit seven meritorious students, saying they had to face "undue hardship" for no fault of theirs due to the tussle between Delhi University and the college, reports Abhinav Garg. There's "light at the end of the tunnel", the court observed, upholding the allocation of seats made by DU. **P 6**

## 3 women held for Andhra cyanide killings

In a case chillingly reminiscent of Kerala's Jolly Joseph murders, three women from Tenali in Andhra Pradesh have been arrested for killing three people using cyanide in the past two years, reports Madhu Rasala. Munagappa Rajani (40), Mudiya Venkateswari (32), & Gontu Ramanamma (60) lured vulnerable women and poisoned their food and drink to loot valuables. **P 18**



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After light rain on Friday, Delhi likely to get more today | 6

# TIMES CITY

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2024

TEMP ON FRIDAY  
**32.6°** MAXIMUM  
**23.4°** MINIMUM

FORECAST: Generally cloudy sky with light rain on Saturday. Max & min temp would be around 32 and 24°C  
 MOONSET 8.44PM (SAT) MOONRISE 10.25AM (SUN)  
 SUNSET 6.35PM (SAT) SUNRISE 6.03AM (SUN)

NDMC reports 7 dengue cases this year against 131 in 2023 | 9

**94**  
 AQI IN DELHI ON FRIDAY (SATISFACTORY CATEGORY)

Ganesh Chaturthi festivities to kick off today | 4



## How AQI-like index may help put brakes on vehicle pollution

### WHY EXHAUST EMISSION INDEX

Proposed EEI, or Exhaust Emission Index, which is on the lines of Air Quality Index, will test a vehicle based on the quantity of carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and smoke it emits

Current emission norms are lenient, leading to very high non-compliance by cars	Study found emissions to be high and directly linked with maintenance status	Proposed a new system of PUC that keeps record of mileage and maintenance of cars. It also recommended using EEI
<p><b>1-10 Good</b> Compliant, no action needed</p> <p><b>11-20 Satisfactory</b> Near compliant/non-compliant, call for maintenance as it may help vehicle become compliant again/remains compliant</p>	<p><b>21-30 Poor</b> Non-compliant, go for overhauling</p> <p><b>30-40+ Phase Out</b> Non-compliant, identify for phasing-out</p>	

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New Delhi: Delhi Technological University (DTU) has conducted research on vehicle pollution by testing over 2,000 private diesel and petrol vehicles and recommended incorporating a car's mileage and maintenance with its overall emission health.

The study stated that during maintenance of cars, three major emissions — CO (carbon monoxide), HC (hydrocarbon) and SE (smoke emission) — should be mapped and controlled. This should be part of checking the maintenance of a car and its mileage as per the updated and latest emission standards.

It also recommended an exhaust emission index (EEI) to assess the health of a car based on the emissions through the tailpipe. The study was conducted by a team headed by Rajeev Kumar Mishra, assistant professor at the department of environmental engineering, DTU, with Abhinav Pandey, a former PhD student of DTU, and Govind Pandey of Madan Mohan Malaviya University of Technology, Gorakhpur.

Mishra emphasised the finding that in-use emission norms like BS-IV or BS-VI and

the maintenance status of cars have a direct relationship with tailpipe emission parameters. "The study said current emission norms must be more stringent. For this, PUC certifications have to be updated. There must be load emission testing, mileage consideration and maintenance of the vehicle tested. Many people don't know what to do if their vehicles are polluting, so there is an exhaust emission index (EEI), just like AQI, which would suggest the level of emissions and what must be done with it," Mishra said.

Co-researcher Pandey said that the lenient range of CO and HC concentration standards allow vehicles to get PUC certification and keep plying although it may be compliant just by a decimal fraction of percentage concentration for HC and CO emissions.

"The leniency in PUC (in-use) certification is drawing criticism and should be improved for stringency. Currently, tailpipe emission is in decimal fractions, but the PUC system has a wider spectrum of standards, so they allow cars to ply although they could still be harmful to the environment. Out of 2,040 cars we tested, 80% were compliant with BS standards. This (leniency) is dangerous," Pandey said.

# Cold Truths: Why Action Plan Must Strike At Root Of Pollution Sources

Experts Say Odd-Even, Artificial Rain And GRAP Can Serve Only As Emergency Measures

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New Delhi: Every winter, a thick haze engulfs the capital, forcing Delhiites to breathe in highly polluted air. As Delhi gov't prepares to release its winter action plan to deal with toxic air, experts emphasised reducing emissions at the source level and not relying on emergency measures to counter pollution.

In Sept 2023, a 15-point winter action plan was released to fight winter pollution. This year, environment minister Gopal Rai said a 21-point winter action plan will be released soon. But among the possible plan points, experts pointed out that some measures like setting up an e-waste eco park, whose construction is yet to start, and spraying of a bio-decomposer to prevent harvest stubble burning, were already found ineffective in controlling pollution last year.

Experts also said the odd-even road use scheme, artificial rain and implementation of the Graded Response Action Plan which gov't was considering for this year's action plan were emergency measures that would give temporary respite.

A Centre for Science and Environment study established that Delhi has seen a gradual and consistent decline in its annual PM2.5 levels from 2015-17 onwards, but this trend was interrupted in 2023 as average was higher than in 2022. Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director, research and advocacy, CSE, said, "The combat strategy for winter is essentially a set of temporary enforcement measures whose scope and effectiveness remain limited. Experience has shown that only sustained systemic and infrastructure changes can make a difference in controlling pollution. For example, waste burning can be controlled only by ensuring 100% collection, segregation, material recovery and remediation of garbage."

## 'TARGET-BASED & AREA-SPECIFIC PLANS NEEDED'

Delhi witnessed a gradual and consistent decline in its annual PM2.5 levels from 2015-17 onwards, but this trend was interrupted in 2023 as annual PM2.5 levels were more than 2022, stated a CSE study

Experts say no study has been done on effectiveness of anti-smog guns

Farmers did not find spraying of bio-decomposer feasible to deal with stubble burning

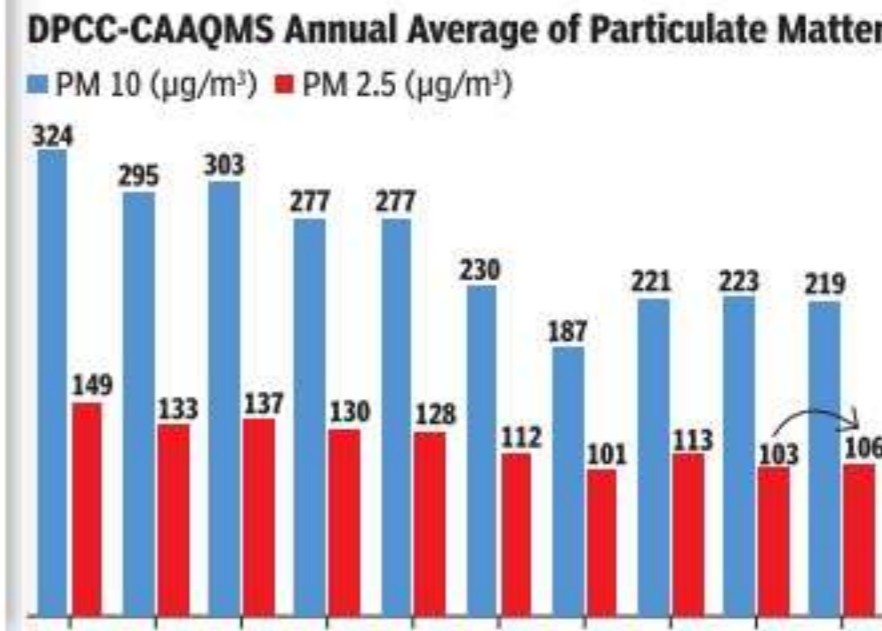
Construction of e-waste eco park yet to start

Implementation of GRAP, artificial rain and odd-even are emergency measures

### A 15-point Winter Action Plan was implemented in 2023

- For 13 hotspots, Separate Special Action Plans
- Stubble Burning PUSA bio-decomposer was distributed for free on more than 5,000 acres of agricultural land in Delhi
- Dust Pollution 82 mechanical road-sweeping machines deployed, 530 water sprinkling machines and 258 mobile anti-smog guns used
- Vehicle Pollution Focus on PUC and ban on 10-year-old diesel vehicles and 15-year-old petrol vehicles
- Open Waste Burning

- 611 teams were formed to check open burning
- Industrial Pollution All 1,727 industrial units in Delhi are now using PNG
- Green War Room
- Green Delhi App
- Real-Time Source Apportionment Study
- Ban on Firecrackers
- Increasing Green Cover
- Eco E-Waste Park To come up at Holambi Kalan
- Public Awareness
- Dialogue With Centre, neighbouring States
- Implementation Of GRAP



### Govt will work on these 21 focus points under Winter Action Plan 2024

- Monitoring of hot spots through drones
- Formation of a special task force to stop pollution
- Control of dust pollution
- Operation of mobile anti-smog gun
- Control of pollution caused by vehicles
- Stubble burning
- Green War Room and Green Delhi App
- Industrial pollution
- Increasing green cover/tree plantation
- Real-time Source Apportionment Study
- E-waste eco park
- Ban on firecrackers
- Public participation
- Dialogue with central government and neighbouring states
- Harit Ratna Award
- Implementation of GRAP
- Open garbage burning
- Work from home (for private organizations) and staggering office timings
- Voluntary vehicle restriction
- Preparation of odd-even
- Artificial rain

massive effort to scale up public transport services, road pricing and parking restraints to cut down on vehicular trips. Such measures need to be built throughout the year," she said.

"Winter action can at best help improve a limited number of enforceable measures and enable some hotspot action. The focus should be on cutting down emissions permanently at their source," added Roychowdhury.

Sunil Dahiya, South Asia analyst, Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, said an-

ti-smog guns were effective only at construction sites and areas with high dust resuspension. "The shifting of industries to PNG is a good step but reducing overall emissions me-

asures stricter monitoring of alternate fuel usage, output quantum and emission load. Besides, the real-time source apportionment study can be helpful when stricter actions are taken based on results of this study to

control emissions in the up-wind direction," said Dahiya. He also said the loophole with the odd-even scheme was that if implemented every year, people would keep two cars with different number plates. "For odd-even, a real-time assessment should be done on how much this measure reduces petrol and diesel consumption," said Dahiya.

"Simultaneously, public transportation should be strengthened for systematic change. Data on inspection and action taken daily should be in the public domain for accountability."

There was a need to review how much pollution load these actions plans reduced, said Dipankar Saha, former head of Central Pollution Control Board's air laboratory. "The effectiveness of anti-smog guns and the duration for effective spraying in an area have not been studied. Sprinkling of water is a wastage of resources and it damages the road too," noted Saha. He added that there is a need for comprehensive control of emissions at source.

Delhi gov't did not respond to queries on the subject.

## Helmetless, 17-year-old dies after bike skids on flyover near AIIMS

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New Delhi: A 17-year-old boy died after the bike he was riding skidded on a flyover near AIIMS in south Delhi early on Thursday. The boy, police said, was not wearing a helmet. A case has been registered and a detailed investigation is underway.

The minor was brought to Safdarjung Hospital by his two friends around 5.45 am. He was declared dead on arrival. Police received information about the incident from the hospital.

Police questioned the friends who were accompanying the boy. During questioning, they could not give any reasonable explanation for the crash. "They were on two bikes. Neither the deceased nor his friend, who was riding pillion, was wearing a helmet," said a senior police officer.

The victim was identified as a resident of Devli in south Delhi. The friends told the cops that they were coming from Indrapuri towards AIIMS Ring Road when the accident happened. "They said that the bike skidded and fell

### HELMET-RELATED VIOLATIONS IN DELHI



on the road around 5.20 am on the Rajnagar flyover when the boy dozed off for a few seconds," the senior cop added.

Police got the site of the accident examined and found a damaged bike parked on the flyover. An FIR was subsequently filed under sections 281 (rash driving or riding on a public way) and 106 (causing death by negligence) of BNS.

The body was handed over to the family who then took it to their ancestral village in UP.

The incident has yet again highlighted the importance of wearing helmets while riding a bike. Of late, multiple incidents of crashes involving helmetless drivers have surfaced. An incident had taken place last week in Lajpat Nagar in which two men on a

bike had died in a similar manner. Cops suspect they were also not wearing helmets.

A staggering 44% increase in challans against two-wheeler riders without helmets has been reported in Delhi between Jan 1 and May 15 this year, compared to the same period in 2023. This significant rise highlights the growing concern of helmet-related violations in the city.

According to Delhi Traffic Police data, 1,04,028 violators were booked between Jan 1 and May 15, 2024, compared to 72,313 during the same period in 2023. The intensified special drives and routine checks have led to a substantial increase in challans, emphasising the need for enhanced enforcement measures and public awareness campaigns.

The top five traffic circles with the most challans issued in 2024 have been identified in Delhi, with Rohini leading the list followed by Model Town, Aman Vihar, Ashok Vihar and Nand Nagri. These areas have recorded 5,288, 4,346, 4,296, 4,208 and 3,915 violations, respectively.

## Night is long: Why working this shift may raise the risk of cardiac diseases

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New Delhi: Working in night shifts can disrupt the body's ability to regulate heart rhythm and increase the risk of cardiovascular diseases, a study published in the Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care (JFMP) has found.

The study was carried out on 38 nurses working at a govt hospital in Greater Noida who worked in day (9 am to 2 pm) and night shifts (9 pm to 9 am) for at least one year. The nurses underwent sleep quality tests and electrocardiogram (ECG) to measure heart-rate variability. It revealed that the sleep latency - time it takes to fall asleep after turning off the lights and entering the first stage of sleep - was longer in the night shift workers compared to the morning shift workers.

Also, the night shift worker group exhibited longer total sleep time and greater use of sleeping medication as compared to the day shift workers. Inadequate sleep, the research led by Dr Aprajita Panwar from Govt Institute of Medical Sciences, Greater Noida states, can dis-

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rupt the body's ability to regulate heart rhythm and increase the risk of cardiovascular diseases and mortality.

The JFMP study calls for providing adequate breaks, offering support services like counselling and wellness programs, and implementing flexible scheduling options where possible by healthcare institutions to mitigate the negative impacts of shift work on nurses. "By

implementing such strategies, healthcare institutions can enhance job satisfaction and improve patient care by ensuring that nurses are psychologically prepared to deliver high-quality care to patients," the study says.

Dr Pujan Parikh, consultant pulmonary medicine and sleep medicine expert at H N Reliance Foundation hospital, Mumbai said continuous night shift affects the circadian rhythm i.e. our biological clock. "It leads to a change in our eating habits as well as psychological stress. All these things additionally increase the risk of cardiac diseases in the night shift workers," he said.

"Nurses who are on night shift barely get to take a break because their job involves constant monitoring of the patients and attending to their emergency needs. It is a very taxing job. Once they go back home in the daytime, even then it is difficult to get sound sleep as there are household responsibilities to attend to. It, of course, affects the health," Anita Panwar, president of the All-India Govt Nurses Federation said.

# APPEAL

चलो वोट करें हम

Dear citizens of Delhi,

Election Commission of India has ordered updation of electoral roll of NCT of Delhi with reference to 01.01.2025 as the qualifying date by conducting Special Summary Revision (SSR) of the Electoral Rolls. The schedule of the SSR is as under:

Publication of Integrated Draft Roll	29.10.2024
Period of receiving Claims and Objections	29.10.2024 to 28.11.2024
Disposal of received claims and Objections	By 24.12.2024
Final Publication of Electoral Roll	06.01.2025

As part of the preparatory activities for SSR, a crucial House-to-House verification exercise is being conducted across NCT of Delhi wherein Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will be visiting your home to verify the elector details and assist you in filling up relevant forms.

**What you can do during this House to House verification :**

- Verify your existing electoral details during the BLOs visit to your house and if any modification like address updation, correction, issuance of replacement EPIC, PWD marking, linking of Mobile Number is required, please fill Form-8.
- Inform about :-
  - Un-enrolled eligible voter (completed 18 years of age by 01.10.2024) and fill Form-6 immediately.
  - Un-enrolled eligible voter (completing 18 years till 01.01.2025) and fill Form-6 during SSR
  - Prospective electors (completing 18 years between 02.01.2025 to 01.10.2025) and fill Form-6 during SSR. These advance applications will be processed in the respective quarter.
  - Expired/Permanently Shifted/Multiple entries and apply in Form-7 for deletion of names.

During the BLOs visit, your cooperation is highly solicited by allowing access to him/her specially in gated Societies and High Rise Buildings. It is also requested to provide accurate information to ensure your records are updated correctly.

To fill the forms online, download the Voter Helpline App (VHA) or visit [www.voters.eci.gov.in](http://www.voters.eci.gov.in). For other assistance or information, you may call Voter Helpline Number 1950.

I strongly appeal to all the people of Delhi to take full advantage of the House to House voter verification campaign being conducted by ECI and help in improving the health of Electoral Roll by giving correct information to BLOs.

**Chief Electoral Officer Delhi**

**Mere holding of EPIC is not enough.  
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# Gautam Quits AAP To Join Congress

## Claims Hindrances To Achieving Social Justice

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Rajendra Pal Gautam, former Delhi social welfare minister and sitting MLA from the reserved constituency of Seemapuri, resigned from Aam Aadmi Party on Friday and joined Congress. He was inducted into Congress at the AICC headquarters in the presence of general secretary KC Venugopal, the party's Delhi chief Devender Yadav and media publicity department head Pawan Khara.

Gautam's resignation has come at a time when assembly polls in the capital are less than six months away. Gautam was considered a prominent Dalit face in the party.

After joining Congress, Gautam posted his photos with AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Rahul Gandhi. "I joined the @INCIndia party influenced by the ideology of Shri @kharge Saheb and Shri @RahulGandhi ji, who raised the voice for caste census, for equality, freedom, fraternity and justice," Gautam posted on X.

In a letter to Delhi CM and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal, Gautam said the party was appearing to be "weak and helpless" before BJP in raising issues like caste census, increasing the reservation limit above 50%, ensuring population-based participation of "Bahujan Samaj", and defending secularism. "It's impossible to imagine works of social justice and social equality within AAP," Gautam claimed in his three-page resignation letter.

The former Delhi minister further claimed that as a true soldier of Babasaheb Ambedkar, social justice was his first and last motto of life, but he would not be able to achieve it by remaining in AAP. He alleged that AAP was not giving any special representation to SC, ST, OBC and minorities. "The party supports upper-caste MLAs or ministers when they face any allegations, but immediately abandons Muslim or Dalit even if the allegations are false. It, in a way, internally blacklists the Muslim and Dalit and changes its behaviour, which

is painful," Gautam, who also belongs to the Dalit community.

Gautam, however, added that he had nothing against any functionary of AAP and appreciated Kejriwal gov't for its efforts to improve schools and the education system in the capital. In his letter, addressed to Kejriwal and his "companions" in AAP, Gautam also listed various measures he took to improve the lives of the people belonging to backward and minority communities.

Gautam had joined AAP in Nov 2014 and went on to become a minister in Kejriwal gov't. He had resigned from the council of ministers in Oct 2022 after his presence at a conversion ceremony to Buddhism snowballed into a controversy ahead of the municipal elections in the capital. He had been lying low since then.

Gautam is the second Dalit MLA and minister to resign from AAP. Gautam's successor in the Delhi council of ministers, Raaj Kumar Anand, also resigned from gov't and the party in April this year. Anand had alleged that the party, which was born out of a movement against corruption, had got stuck in the quagmire of corruption. Anand first joined BSP and contested the parliamentary election on its ticket and lost, and later joined BJP.

While inducting Gautam into Congress, Venugopal said it was a proud moment for the party. "The Bharat Jodo Yatra and Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra have given a new narrative to the country, and now the country is also accepting it with full might. Attracted by the Congress programmes under the leadership of Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, he has decided to join the party," he added.



In a letter to Delhi CM, Rajendra Pal Gautam (centre) claimed AAP appeared 'weak and helpless' before BJP in raising issues

## Party-hopping before polls nothing new, says AAP; BJP, Cong spar

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** AAP on Friday called its former minister Rajendra Pal Gautam's decision to join Congress a "routine" affair. Claiming that party-hopping before an election is nothing new, Delhi AAP's vice-president, Kuldeep Kumar, said, "When tickets are in doubt, some jump ship."

He added, "People change sides, come and go. AAP gave all due respect to Rajendra Pal Gautam. The party entrusted him with significant responsibilities by appointing him a minister overseeing multiple departments."

When candidates sense that the ground realities are not in their favour and their chances of securing a ticket are uncertain, they often change sides, Kumar claimed. "This is a recurring phenomenon in politics. I wish him all the best, and may he enjoy good health and happiness," he added.

Delhi BJP president Vinendra Sachdeva said, "Only Congress and Rahul Gandhi could have included Rajendra Pal Gautam, who is infamous for his anti 'sanatan' activism and is a close associate of Arvind Kejriwal. We have nothing to

say if they are happy doing so." Calling Gautam "a very ordinary MLA who was able to retain his MLA seat in 2020 only due to Kejriwal gov't's free electricity and water schemes", Sachdeva claimed, "Over time, due to his outspoken opposition to sanatan dharma, he became a political liability for AAP, leaving Congress as his only political option."

Despite becoming a liability, AAP wanted to safeguard his political future, said Sachdeva. "At Kejriwal's behest, Congress has given Gautam, an opponent of sanatan dharma, the honour of being included from the national Congress platform rather than just the Delhi party platform," he added. "By doing so, Congress has affirmed that it is a sanctuary for those who oppose sanatan dharma," he claimed.

Senior Congress functionary Abhishek Dutt said, "BJP is a party that has inducted all kinds of people whom they earlier called corrupt like Ajit Pawar, Himanta Biswa Sarma. They intimidate through ED and CBI and then induct them into their party... Hence, BJP should not speak such things, Congress does not do such acts by misusing agencies."

## Edu revolution a scam, says BJP; AAP hits back

**New Delhi:** Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta on Friday alleged that the much-hyped education revolution in Delhi under AAP gov't was a scam and demanded a probe into it. In a press conference, he alleged that initiatives like Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University, Delhi Teachers' University and Delhi Sports University had failed.

Gupta further alleged that Kejriwal gov't gained full control over recruitment by bypassing UPSC and DSSSB regulations in the case of the skill university. "AAP filled the university with political appointees who earned salaries as high as Rs 3.5 lakh. These appointments included teaching and non-teaching staff, guest lecturers and outsourced employees," he claimed.

Gupta also alleged that DSEU failed to obtain AICTE approval and that there were few takers for its programmes.

In response, AAP claimed that the condition of schools in BJP-led Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana was appalling.

"While Delhi gov't dedicates 24% of its annual budget to education—the highest in the country—BJP-led states like UP, MP, Gujarat and Haryana show a low commitment, spending a mere 14-15%," the party said in a statement. **TNN**

# Puja, pandals and more: Maha celebrations in store as Lord Ganesh comes to the town

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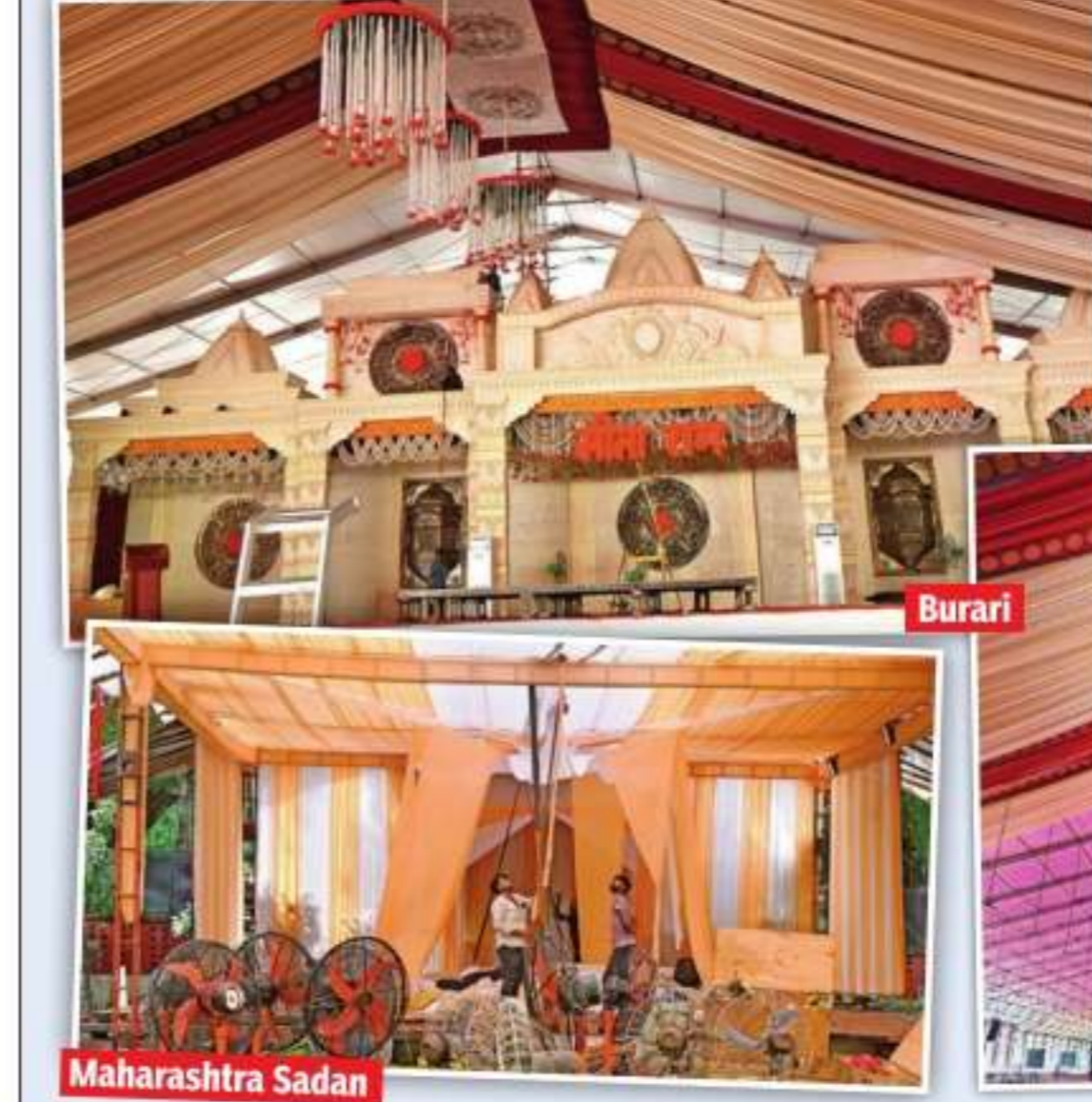
**New Delhi:** A melting pot of cultures, Delhi is about to experience a slice of Maharashtra as Ganesh Chaturthi festivities kick off on Saturday. Preparations for elaborate pandals and pujas are under way throughout the city and from millet laddoos to eco-friendly immersions, there is a lot to look forward to.

At Laxmi Nagar's Bank Enclave, this year's Ganesh Mahotsav pandal is set to showcase the theme of 'Developed India 2047'. The highlight of this year's festival will be a striking model of the Vande Bharat train, symbolising the country's progress. The event at the DDA mini cricket stadium from Sept 7 to 11 will also address issues like development, education, health and the Fit India movement.

Mahendra Ladda, founder-president of Shri Ganesh Seva Mandal, organiser of the Laxmi Nagar celebrations now in its 23rd year, said, "We strive to convey a significant message every year. Last year, our theme focused on Chandrayaan and the G20 Summit. This year's theme is a representation of progress."

The festivities will kick off with a grand procession and the installation of the main idol on the first day. The conclusion will have offerings of 56 food items, a grand aarti and the immersion of the idol. "Each evening, we will have devotional singing and cultural programmes," said Ladda. "To promote healthy eating, we will offer Lord Ganesh modak made of millets. The pandal's entrance will depict Maharashtra's Ashtavinayak." In addition, to encourage a healthy lifestyle, free health check-ups, blood donation drives and mammography tests have been organised.

The city will host Lalbaugcha Raja, or Lal Bagh Ka Raja, at a new venue this year. Devotees will have the chance to see a replica of the famous Mumbai idol at Sant Nirankari Samagran Ground in Burari. "It is a massive creation, crafted in Mumbai by the same



sculptors and to the same scale as the original. We expect up to two lakh visitors daily from Sept 7-16," said Anil Wadhwa, general secretary of Lal Bagh Ka Raja Trust.

Residents of S-Block, Greater Kailash II, are also championing eco-friendly celebrations. "We immerse the idol in a large tub. Once it dissolves, we use the water for our plants," said Sadanand Kavishwar, vice-president, Marathi Mitra Mandal. During its two-day celebration, a team from Nagpur will perform Marathi and Hindi songs. "Since September 8 is the birthday of singer Asha Bhosle, we plan to feature her Marathi songs. Be-

sides traditional Maharashtra cuisine, we will also serve Khirapat, a popular Maharashtra sweet made with coconut and cardamom, as prasad," said Kavishwar.

In its 27th year of Ganesh Chaturthi in Ramesh Nagar, a temple-shaped chariot pulled by devotees will transport the idol to the venue. Around 100 dhol players from Nagpur will join the festivities. "The procession will feature music and dance and end its way around Ramesh Nagar. The event will continue for 11 days," said Deepak Bharadwaj, treasurer, Shri Gayatri Navayuvak Mandal. Maharashtra Sadan will also be illuminated during the

festival period. "The idol is coming from Mumbai. We will have cultural performances by children, including a Lavani dance. We will immerse the idol in an artificial tank on the premises," said Bhagwati Meshram, president, Sarvajnik Ganeshotsav Samiti Maharashtra Sadan.

Preparations are in full swing in other locations. Attractive setups include a special pandal at the Mayur Vihar temple, one at Hanuman Mandir in Connaught Place, a display at Shri Jagannath Marg in Thyagaraj Nagar reflecting Odia culture and a unique celebration at Jogiwada in Chandni Chowk.

## State election body starts preps with assembly polls just six months away

Atul.Mathur@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** With the Delhi Assembly polls less than six months away, the office of the chief electoral officer (CEO) of Delhi has started its preparations.

Officials said they had already sought the details of staff from various gov't offices who could be deployed for election duty while regular meetings had begun at the CEO office to oversee the preparations.

The elections to the 70-member legislature is due in Feb 2025. Though there is speculation that Election Commission of India may prepone the elections and hold it along with the polls to the assemblies of Maharashtra and Jharkhand, which are likely to be held in Nov, officials said there was no such indication from the poll panel.

"Deciding dates of the elections is the domain of Election Commission of India. We have no role to play in that. We have started our preparations, taking the last elections of 2020 as a reference point," said a senior official at the Delhi CEO office.

While the 2020 assembly elections was announced on Jan 6, the voting took place on Feb 8 and the counting of votes



**The election to the 70-member legislature is due in Feb 2025. Though there is speculation that ECI may prepone the elections and hold it along with the polls to the assemblies of Maharashtra and Jharkhand, which are likely to be held in Nov, officials said there was no such indication from the poll panel**

took place three days later on Feb 11. Nearly 1.5 crore voters were eligible to cast their votes five years ago.

Officials said the efforts to finalise the voters' list for the upcoming polls will start on Oct 29 with the publication of the draft electoral roll and the initiation of the

summary revision exercise. Officials said people would get the opportunity to check their names during the summary revision exercise and file objections in case of any discrepancy. Eligible voters who don't have their names in the list and young voters turning 18 on Jan 1, 2025 would also be able to apply for the addition of their names.

Though the final roll will be published on Jan 6, 2025, the submission of applications on Form 6 for additions would be allowed up to 10 days before the last date of filing of the nomination by the candidates.

With the Lok Sabha elections held only three months ago, officials said they already have the required number of EVMs and VVPAT machines available for the assembly polls. Officials said their testing would take place as per the pre-decided schedule. The election office, meanwhile, has started the training of district electoral officers, returning officers and other senior staff involved directly with the conduct of the polls. The preparation of the district-wise voters' education and electoral participation programme and the process to map people with disabilities to facilitate their voting have also started, said an official.

## Process for NDMC board's reconstitution to start soon

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**New Delhi:** The tenure of the current New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) board is set to expire on Sept 18 and the process for reconstitution of the 13-member council may start soon.

The members include officials and elected and nominated (non-official) members. The ministry of home affairs nominates officials and non-official members who are later administered the oath by the LG.

The term of a council is for five years once formed.

An NDMC official said the council consists of a chairperson from among the officials of central gov't, two MLAs and one MP representing constituencies which comprise wholly or partly the New Delhi area, five members from among the officials of the central gov't, and four non-official members to be nominated by central gov't according to the NDMC Act.

Of the 13 members, there shall be at least three who are women and two from Scheduled Castes, of which one member shall be from the four members nominated by the Centre.

"The council, unless sooner dissolved under section 398 or any other law for the time being in force, shall continue for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting and no longer," the act says. If it is dissolved before the expiry of its duration, it shall be reconstituted within a period of six months of dissolution; and where it is dissolved after the expiry of its duration, shall be reconstituted before such expiry, the NDMC Act says.

The last time the NDMC was reconstituted in Sept 2019 after the notification of the home ministry. "However, due to the pandemic, non-official members (four) were appointed after two years," a non-official member said.

At present, the four non-official members include BJP senior leader and NDMC vice-chairman Satish Upadhyay, BJP leader Kuljeet Chahal, Vishakha Sallani and Girish Sachdeva.

The position for NDMC chairman is vacant. Naresh Kumar, former chief secretary, was given charge of chairman for two months. After he left, MCD commissioner Ashwani Kumar is the link officer.

## Mental health counselling in all govt schools

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Delhi gov't is going to conduct counselling for the mental well-being of students in all its schools.

Education minister Atishi has already directed Directorate of Education (DoE) to draft a blueprint for the plan. Over 20,000 children received counselling in the pilot phase conducted last year. Educational and vocational guidance counsellors and school psychologists provided support to help students. Additionally, group sessions helped them to manage stress and stay emotionally healthy.

"Under this initiative, we aim to provide better health services to school students. For the holistic development of children, it is very important to be physically as well as mentally healthy. I am happy that through this project, we are fulfilling these needs and building a happy society," said Atishi.

During their discussion with the education minister, school psychologists told her how timely counselling could help connect students back to their studies.

## ₹7.5L compensation proposed for unnatural custodial death

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Delhi gov't has proposed a compensation of Rs 7.5 lakh for families of prisoners who die of unnatural causes while in custody in the city's jails.

The proposal, aimed at addressing grievances and upholding human rights within the prison system, has been submitted to the lieutenant governor for approval, Delhi gov't said in a statement.

"Unnatural custodial deaths, as defined by the policy, may occur due to incidents such as quarrels between inmates, mistreatment or torture by prison staff, or negligence by medical officers," the statement said. However, the compensation will not apply in cases of death by suicide, escape attempts, natural causes or disasters.

Home minister Kailash Gahlot said: "This initiative underscores our commitment to ensuring justice and accountability within the prison system. Providing compensation to the families of prisoners who suffer unnatural deaths in custody is a step towards addressing their grievances and upholding human rights."

Gahlot said that the policy aims to foster accountability and serve as a preventive measure against misconduct. Additionally, the proposal also includes provisions for recovering the compensation amount from the salaries of prison staff found responsible for custodial deaths, according to the statement. A committee, led by the director-general of prisons, will investigate such in-

### GOVT STATEMENT SAYS

**Unnatural custodial deaths, as defined by the policy, may occur due to incidents such as quarrels between inmates, mistreatment or torture by prison staff, or negligence by medical officers**

idents and determine whether to recover compensation from the officials at fault.

To ensure transparency, a detailed report, including the magisterial inquiry report, post-mortem findings and the deceased's medical history will be submitted by the jail superintendent to the director-general of prisons and forwarded to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the statement added.

Delhi has three prison complexes—Tihar, Rohini and Mandoli—all of them are central jails. Most of them are overcrowded with the capacity of the three complexes being 10,000 persons but almost double the number of convicted and undertrial prisoners are housed in these, said the official.

Tihar, which is considered to be one of the largest prison complexes in the country, has a capacity to house 5,200 inmates, but over 12,000 prisoners were lodged in its different jails.

Mandoli, which has six jails, has a capacity of 1,050 but almost double the prisoners. Rohini, which has only one central jail, has a capacity of 3,776 and has over 4,300 inmates, as per 2022 data.

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3.	Orthopedics	01 (UR)
4.	Physiology	01 (UR)
5.	Pediatrics	01 (UR)
6.	TB & Chest	01 (UR)
7.	General Medicine	02 (UR) 01 (OBC) 01 (SC)
8.	OB & G	01 (OBC)
9.	Radio-Diagnosis	01 (UR)
10.	PMR	01 (UR)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>

**Note:** The number of posts may vary depending upon the actual availability of posts at the time of interview. Please check the official website for any change/update in the schedule etc. as no other type of communication will be sent.

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## Two men held for ₹40L theft in Malviya Ngr

New Delhi: Two men were arrested for theft of Rs 40 lakh from their owner's house in Malviya Nagar. One of the accused had been working as the complainant's driver for the last 2.5 years.

The accused have been identified as Mani Bhushan (26), the complainant's driver and his brother Shashi Bhushan (29). During the investigation, the complainant said that he had instructed his cashier to hand over the parcel containing cash to the accused in a parking area in Malviya Nagar. However, the accused received the parcel and then fled the scene.

"The CCTV footage was analysed and with the help of technical surveillance, the location of the mobile number of the alleged person was zeroed down in a train. Details of the train was collected, and it was found that they were travelling to Sitamarhi, Bihar," DCP south district, Ankit Chauhan said. "Stolen cash amounting to Rs 32,60,000 and a sports bike were recovered," he further added. **TNN**

## Interstate cartel of phone thieves busted, 8 held

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: An interstate cartel of thieves that used to steal mobile phones and sell them in Nepal and China at lucrative prices has been busted by Crime Branch. Eight accused persons have been arrested from Jharkhand, Delhi, and Punjab. The accused thieves have been identified as Karu, Mahendra, Suraj, and Alopi, all residents of Jharkhand, and their Delhi-based accomplice, Nadeem, Pappu, Kamil, and Harjeet were the receivers of the stolen mobile phones.

The police had a tip-off that a gang involved in mobile stealing was operative in Delhi, stealing mobile phones from weekly markets and crowded places. Accordingly, a raid was conducted at New Usmanpur, Delhi, and four thieves with their receiver were arrested, and 46 mobile phones were recovered from them. The probe revealed that the persons involved in stealing mobile phones were operating in an organised manner.

# Sex Ratio: Notices To 3 Diagnostic Centres

## Health Dept Cracks Down On Illegal Sex Determination

Anuja Jaiswal  
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New Delhi: Delhi health department conducted inspections at 60 diagnostic centres registered under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 across 11 districts of Delhi, and issued notices to three of them in order to crack down on illegal sex determination.

The notices were issued under the act. Delhi health department's action comes on the heels of reports of a declining sex ratio in the city, which dropped from 929 females per 1,000 males in 2022 to 922 in 2023.

Inspections were carried out in 60 centres across various districts in Delhi, with Shahdara and East Delhi having the highest number of inspections at 8 each, followed by West Delhi, South East and New Delhi with 7 inspections each.

South West and South districts had 6 inspections each, while North West had 4,

**Inspections were conducted at 60 diagnostic centres registered under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994**

North East had 3, and Central and North districts had 2 inspections each.

The three centres were issued showcause notices for irregularities or non-compliance with regulations. Two are in Shahdara and one in the South West district.

"Suitable action will be taken as per provisions of the PCPNDT Act," a senior official said, emphasising the govt's commitment to enforcing the law and maintaining standards across all diagnostic centres.

A senior official said the department's proactive approach was aimed at addressing the concerning trend in

the city's sex ratio and ensuring compliance with the legal framework designed to prevent the misuse of pre-natal diagnostic techniques. By conducting thorough inspections and issuing notices to non-compliant centres, the department seeks to enforce the regulations and maintain a balanced sex ratio in Delhi.

On Aug 30, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of the special secretary (health and family welfare) and chairperson, state appropriate authority, PC & PNDT, directorate of family welfare, with all the district nodal officers under the act to review the implementation of the act.

During the meeting, it was emphasised that the number of inspections should increase in every district, and decoy operations should be planned on priority. It was noted that no independent decoy operation had been conducted in Delhi in the past two years, although at least 50 interstate decoy operations were conducted along with Haryana and Rajasthan in the last five years.

## HC denies bail to rape accused Khakha's wife

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi High Court on Friday refused to grant bail to the wife of suspended Delhi govt official Premoday Khakha, who allegedly raped a minor several times and impregnated her.

Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma dismissed Seema Rani Khakha's bail plea, saying the case "strikes at the root of trust between two families" and possibility of influencing witnesses cannot be ruled out.

Premoday Khakha is accused of raping the daughter of a

JUSTICE SHARMA SAYS

The case 'strikes at the root of trust between two families' and possibility of influencing witnesses cannot be ruled out

out that while "bail is the rule and jail an exception", the courts must strike a balance, especially in cases of sexual assault on minors. "The victim, after the death of her father, went to stay with the family of the accused. The victim used to call Premoday Khakha 'mama'," the court said. The "facts are very serious in nature."

Seema Rani's counsel argued that she was 50 years old and had been in custody for a year and that the allegations levelled by the survivor, including that of pregnancy, were false. Her lawyer said there

was a medical report showing that the main accused had undergone a vasectomy and was "incapable of reproducing".

The court said the issue of pregnancy was not relevant at this stage. The accused woman should have "protected the girl," it said. "A child comes to your home and you do this? How will society run? Kaun jayega kisi ke ghar?" it asked.

The counsel for Delhi Police opposed the bail plea and argued that the accused were in a "position of trust" and Seema Rani was not a "passive spectator".

## Agent that provided fake visas held

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Sandeep's dreams of a better life were shattered when he was caught with a fake Swedish visa at IGI Airport. His hopes of earning a decent living and supporting his family, which is staying in Kurukshetra, Haryana were crushed by an agent's false promises. The 27-year-old had paid Rs 10 lakh to the agent who assured him of a smooth journey to Rome, Italy. But, the agent's greed and deceit led to Sandeep's arrest. The agent, identified as Ashif Ali (27), a resident of Jind, was also arrested later.

"On the intervening night of Sept 1 and Sept 2, Sandeep had come to the immigration counter of IGI Airport, Delhi for clearance to depart to Rome, Italy. During scrutiny of his documents, a fake Swedish visa was found affixed to

his passport," DCP (airport) Usha Rangnani said.

During interrogation, Sandeep divulged that several individuals from his village had ventured abroad to procure easy money, and under that influence, he had resolved to go overseas for a better livelihood. He encountered the accused agent through a mutual acquaintance.

The agent had agreed to send him to any European nation in exchange for Rs 10 lakh. Sandeep further revealed that he had deposited Rs 7 lakh in two bank accounts furnished by the agent and paid the remaining amount in cash. The accused, along with the assistance of his accomplices, arranged tickets and a Swedish visa for Sandeep's journey to Rome, but he was apprehended at IGI Airport.

Ali also used to promise overseas job opportunities to people.

## Police bust 'Titli Kabutar' gambling rackets, nab 18

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Several "Titli Kabutar" gambling rackets, which have become a cause for concern for law enforcement agencies and the general public in the recent past, have been busted in Delhi. Eighteen people have been apprehended, and substantial evidence, including roulette wheels, has been confiscated.

"This satta game is akin to roulette. There is a chart on the counter of the establishment, featuring illustrations of titli, bhanwara, diya, sun, and pigeon. The participants place their wagers on the image of their preference. The game proprietor draws a chit, and if the player's chosen picture is revealed, they are

awarded 10 times the amount of money wagered," elucidated an officer.

The central district police arrested 13 gamblers recently. "Acting on a tip, a team, spearheaded by inspector Rohit Kumar, conducted a raid near Padam Singh Road and apprehended the accused. The perpetrators, ranging in age from 22 to 52, hail from Delhi, UP, Bihar, Uttarakhand and MP," an officer said.

Police seized over Rs 1.2 lakh in cash, 10 mobile phones, 10 bundles of betting slips, two calculators, a multi-colour banner depicting butterflies and pigeons, and a roulette wheel from the location. The apprehended individuals were Depender, Tarun, Yogender, Suhel,

Avinash, Manoj, Miraz Alam, Suraj, Vishal, Ashutosh Dubey, Jagdish, Pooran Chand and Sunil.

The south district police apprehended three gamblers, identified as Vinod Kumar, Ram Babu Pal and Raja Ram Shah. They were caught in the act with stake money amounting to Rs 19,500, along with 15 decks of playing cards and other paraphernalia.

In another case, the north district police arrested the kingpin of one of the 'Titli Kabutar' gangs, identified as Sadiq. He was apprehended with stake money worth Rs 1,750, a diary, nine satta slips and other items. Meanwhile, the Shahdara police have arrested the kingpin of another such gang, Kamlesh.

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# Speaker with disability flummoxed by inaccessibility at accessibility event

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**New Delhi:** The irony was hard to miss on Friday when the Central Health Education Bureau invited experts for its session on 'Assistive Technology Module' to improve the lives of people with disabilities. The session, intended to spotlight innovative ways to enhance accessibility, was marred by a glaring lack of it at the venue. Prominent disability rights activist Dr Satendra Singh was unable to reach the second-floor venue due to the absence of an elevator or other assistive provisions, spurring him to express deep frustration at the gap between rhetoric and reality.

The Central Health Education Bureau (CHEB), which hasn't responded to Dr Singh's experience, is under the Union health and fa-

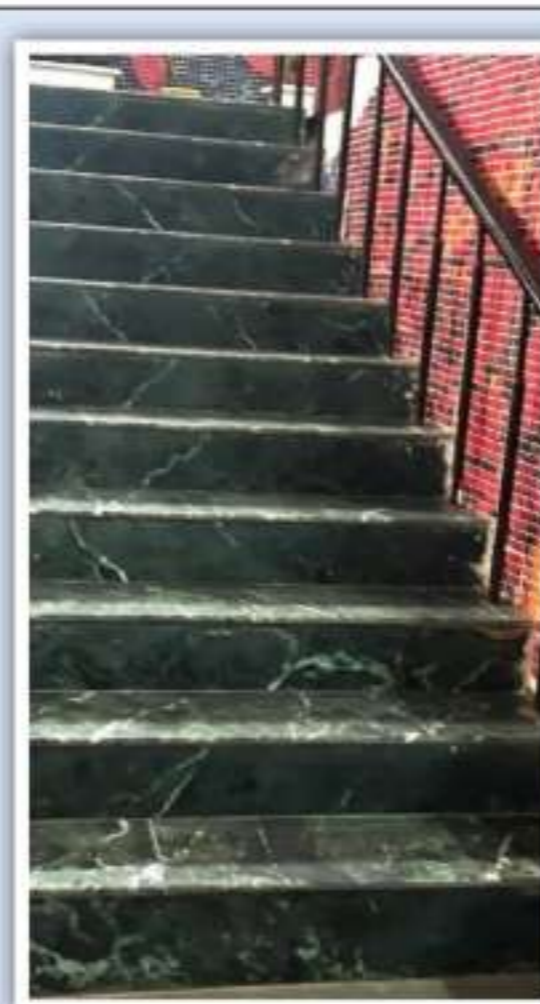
mily welfare ministry's Directorate General of Health Services. Its key areas are health education, health promotion, capacity building, developing information, education and communication materials and behavioural research.

On Friday, the body invited experts to "vet" its latest module on assistive technology devices listed in the National List of Essential Assistive Products aimed at providing a "supportive environment for persons with disability". Among them was Dr Singh, who has a leg impairment. He said that when he reached the venue and saw a ramp, he was happy. "Only when I tried to access the ramp did I realise that the entrance to which the ramp is connected was locked. When I questioned this, the guard said he didn't have a key and the entrance

## NOT SO WELCOME



The building has a ramp, but the gate to its entrance remains locked



Absence of a lift means it's a long climb



The irony of it all... the banner at the event calls for "supportive environment for persons with disability"

had been locked for a long time," Singh said on X. "After I called the organisers and told them this was unacceptable and made them open the gate, I found that the door had been closed by keeping planters there."

A bigger shock awaited him. Soon after Singh entered the building, he realised that the meeting was on the second floor and the building was not fitted with a lift. "It was not possible for me to climb the two floors," he said. "The health education body also has a staff member with a hip replacement who claimed that he was also forced to climb the stairs due to the absence of a lift. I asked them if they could shift the session to the ground floor, but that was not done."

He fumed, "A building that has posters all around on accessibility lacked the very basic for people with disabilities. Many buildings in the ci-

ty have installed stair lifts, but here there was nothing." He said he had left with his head held high and refused to compromise on his dignity but was deeply disappointed at the experience.

"How are we supposed to contribute to policy when the most basic physical barriers stop us from even entering the building? This exclusion is happening right under the ministry's nose!" he wrote on X. "How many more years must we waste demanding accessibility from the health and family welfare ministry when it's already a legal mandate under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act? This is not a favour — it's the LAW. Yet, we're still fighting for basic rights. Enough is enough."

TOI reached out to the CHEB director to seek his comment on the matter, but received no response.

## 'Address issue as hundreds of cases will be affected'

Continued from P1

Is there any restraint on the chief minister performing his duties from jail? We want to examine this because this will affect hundreds of cases. So many files would be there as various orders are passed by the court concerning the chief minister. Is there any restraint on the chief minister signing such important files?" the bench asked.

It asked additional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhati to take instruction and brief the court on the matter on the next date of hearing. The court noted in its order that as per Section 45(4) clauses (i) and (vii) of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, the proposal shall be submitted to the lieutenant governor for his opinion through the chief minister and the chief secretary before issuing any orders.

"It is contended that in view of the express provisions of clauses (i) and (vii), the proposal for consideration of the case of the petitioner cannot be forwarded to the lieutenant governor unless the file is placed before the chief minister who is detained as an under-trial prisoner. The state will have to address us on the question whether there is any prohibition on the chief minister dealing with files of cases while he is in custody. ASG to take instructions and address the court," the bench said and posted the matter for Sept 23.

Kejriwal is in judicial custody in a corruption case relating to changes in Delhi's excise policy and the order on his bail plea has been reserved by an SC bench. He was granted interim bail in a money laundering case related to the same case. He was arrested by ED on March 21 and CBI arrested him on June 26. While granting him interim bail in the ED case, SC had barred him from visiting the CM's office and the Delhi secretariat so that the probe in the case did not get influenced. The court also said he shall not sign official files unless it is required and necessary for obtaining clearance and approval of the lieutenant governor.

# Light At End Of Tunnel: HC Gives Relief To 7 DU Admission Seekers

## Directs Stephen's To Admit Them, Says 'Administrative Lapse' Led To Situation

Abhinav.Garg@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** Observing that there is "light at the end of the tunnel," Delhi High Court on Friday ruled in favour of seven meritorious students and directed St Stephen's College to admit them. The court said that "the petitioners were not at fault at any point during the process of admission, but had to face undue hardship" due to the tussle between Delhi University and the college.

It concluded that the college offered 13 BA programmes and not one course with 13 different subject combinations while upholding the allocation of seats made by DU based on the seat matrix. "This case has travelled and reached the end of the tunnel of litigation before this court, where the petitioners were sure of their future and admission in the college of their choice for which they have worked so hard. Fortunately, they have light at the end of

this tunnel," Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma noted in her 54-page verdict.

The high court also ordered that in future, all colleges who have any grievances on the seat matrix with DU should flag the issue at least three months before the start of the admission process for a new academic session. It said such representations would be decided by DU within two months from the date of receipt by holding meetings, etc.

It noted the coincidence that this case was heard and arguments were concluded on Sept 5, which is also celebrated as Teacher's Day, and empathised with the cliff-hanging situation of the candidates who were being denied a chance to study in their dream college. It lamented that the petitioner students had to await the outcome of the judgment "in the corridors of this court while the college and the university are contesting each other's claim vehemently."

While St Stephen's had quibbled



The court said 'the petitioners were not at fault at any point during the process of admission, but had to face undue hardship'

over the exact fraction and decimal point of marks in refusing admission to the students, the high court opined that "marksheets and human beings are fundamentally different and must be treated as such. The treatment of fractions in the context of human seat allocations cannot be equated to their treatment in mathematical calculations for marks on a marksheet."

## Justice delivered without delay, say relieved students & parents

Meghna.Dhulia@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** It was a significant moment of relief for both students and their parents, who had been entangled in a legal battle with St Stephen's College, after Delhi High Court directed the college to admit the seven students who had been denied entry earlier.

The verdict was delivered in response to two separate petitions filed by the students. "This experience has taught us the value of the judiciary. At

the same time, my heart goes out to others who could not approach the court due to a variety of reasons. I really urge the stakeholders to come together and do something for them as well," said Gursanjana Singh Natt, one of the petitioners.

Another petitioner, Aleena Imran, said she was looking forward to becoming a Stephaniean finally. "My happiness knows no bounds. We are eternally grateful to the judiciary and our parents who stood by us," she said. The

same sentiments were echoed by petitioner Alok Ranjan Singh. "I am really grateful," he said.

Aleena's father, Adil Imran, said the "landmark judgment" had brought back the smiles on the children's faces. "They are now very excited to step into a new phase of life—the college life."

For Hargun Singh Ahluwalia, the relief stems from the fact that the legal battle did not drag on indefinitely. "In our case, justice was delivered

promptly and without delay, which has restored my faith in the rule of law," she said.

Nishika Sahoo, another petitioner, said, "Throughout the entire process, it felt like I was constantly holding my breath and now that we have finally found light at the end of the tunnel, the feeling can't be put into words." Her father, Pravakar Sahoo, was happy that the children's trauma had come to an end. "Now, they can start a new chapter," he said.

Addressing the college's argument on how to deal with fractions like 1.2 or 1.3 or 1.4 in the context of seat allocations, the court said the figure must be rounded up to 2 "as humans cannot be divided into fractions." It also faulted the college for its failure to either approve or reject their applications within the prescribed time frame, terming it an "administrative lapse" that deprived the petitioners of their right to admission, despite their full adherence to the process.

"Furthermore, the petitioner's applications were kept 'under process' by the college, without any definitive approval or rejection during the allotted verification period and therefore their future and admission remained under suspense," it underlined.

The court asserted that the college had set separate cut-off marks for each of the 13 BA programmes, thereby reinforcing the notion that these programmes were being treated as separate.

## Bail to 9 accused in case of cyber fraud against US citizens

Vineet.Upadhyay@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** A Delhi court has granted bail to nine accused persons in a case related to an alleged cyber fraud committed against US citizens worth \$15 million. In July, CBI arrested 43 accused people, including four women, from a Gurgaon call centre in connection with the case.

The court of Special Judge Amitabh Rawat, while granting the bail, stated that the applicants are without any criminal antecedents and nothing concrete has been shown to prove that they are a flight risk or can tamper with evidence. The case is essentially based on documentary evidence, and the digital devices have already been seized, it said.

According to the prosecution, during the period from Nov 2022 to April 2024, unknown accused persons, in criminal conspiracy with each other, operated illegal call centres from New Delhi and adjoining areas with an intent to defraud US nationals. The accused operated under pseudonymous identities and targeted US citizens by using virtual TextNow contact numbers.

The counsels for the accused claimed that their arrest was illegal as specific grounds of arrest in writing had not been provided to the accused.

CBI stated that the accused persons were seeking bail not so much on merits but on a technical point of grounds of arrest not being provided in writing. "The investigation is still ongoing. The witnesses are being ascertained and examined. Applicants may influence the witnesses and tamper with the evidence. The main accused persons are absconding. At the time when all 43 accused persons were apprehended, 13 of them provided wrong residential addresses," submitted the agency before the court. After hearing both the sides, the court said that mentioning only sections in the column of grounds of arrest in the arrest memo on the face of it was grossly insufficient to meet the requirement of law.

## Moderate rain likely today, intensity to come down tomorrow

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Several parts of the city recorded light to very light rain. The weather department expects light to moderate rain towards Saturday.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the base station at Safdarjung, which recorded 36.8mm of rainfall till 8.30am, remained dry till late Friday evening. However, some other areas, including Palam, Lodhi Road and Ayanagar, saw some drizzling.

The weather department has issued a yellow alert for Saturday. However, no colour-coded warning has been issued from Sunday onwards. Weather experts expect the rain intensity to drop from Sunday onwards.

On Friday, the maximum temperature at the city's base station, Safdarjung, was 32.6 degrees Celsius, a notch below normal and against 33.6 a day earlier. The minimum temperature was 23.4 degrees Celsius, two notches below normal and against 23.4 degrees Celsius a day earlier. The humidity oscillated between 79% and 100%.

According to India Meteorological Department (IMD), on Friday, areas including Palam and Ridge saw traces of rain, while Lodhi Road recorded 0.2mm and Ayanagar 1.2mm. The city has recorded 71.9mm rainfall in Sept against the normal 45.7mm, thus making the monthly rainfall 57% surplus. The entire season has seen 909.2mm of rainfall.

According to weather analysts, the rain intensity is likely to drop. "The moisture entering the region will slightly drop from Sunday onwards. However, the city may still get isolated rain," an official in IMD said.

On Saturday, the maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to hover around 32 and 24 degrees Celsius, respectively.

The air quality continued to be under the satisfactory category with an AQI of 94.

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**Maj General Rajendra Mehra (Retd)**  
11.10.1939 to 07.09.2023

It's been a year that you left us and not a single moment has passed when you are not missed. Your blessings will Continue to guide us, your teachings will always inspire us, your love will never fade away and in our prayers and hearts, you will live every day. Remembered by **Shubhra & Dr. Suneel Kumar, Alpna & Gaurav Mehra, Priyadarshini & Amit Arora.**

**In Loving Memory of**  
**Mrs Kailash Wati Dani**

You left this world 11 years back. Since that time, we remember you and miss you. We recall the time spent with you, your perception about the world and human approach towards life. Deeply remembered by **Kshama Chadha and Raghuvir Sharan Dani, 1097 Vikas Kunj, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018, M: 9818088412, 9811010055**

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(16.10.54 - 07.09.21)

We remember you every single day.  
**D. K. Tyagi**  
**Parul - Saurabh**  
**Rahul - Nishita**  
**Viraj, Nevaan**  
Sarita Vihar, New Delhi

**1st Death Anniversary**  
**BELOVED SH.K.K.SACHDEVA**  
(1935-2023)

A year has gone by, it has not sunk in that you are not with us, maybe because you live in us, we work like you, we live like you, and we look towards life like you. You are in our heart and souls that is why you are with us forever. No quantum of time can decrease our remembrance and love for you. Remembering you always **Dr. Sheela Sachdeva (Wife) Dr. Pooja Sachdeva Pawah and Dr. Salil Pawah (Daughter and Son in Law) Ms Saawini Pawah (Grand Daughter)**

**Padmashri Yogeshwar Dayal**  
**Shrimati Chandra Dayal**

Pitaaji, we miss your old Dilliwalie manners, your lessons of life. Maa, we remember your beautiful way of maintaining your self & things around you.  
**Usha, Tarun, Guneet & Rhea. Malvika, Satish & Shirin.**

**6th Death Anniversary**  
**GIRISH CHANDRA JOSHI**  
10.7.1934 - 07.09.2018

BABBA, It has been six years since you left us and we have missed you every single moment. You continue to live in our heart and soul.  
**Joshi Family, Mo: 9810968422, 9873990463**

**Padmashri**  
**Yogeshwar Dayal**

Tere nakshey kadam ko Aaj duniya yaad karti hai Kahan hai jaane wale aa Yeh mehfil yaad karti hai

We pay respectful homage to you we miss you in Phool Waalo Ki Sair. Your memory is sacred to us.  
**Anjuman Sair-E-Gul Faroshan**  
General Secretary : **Usha Kumar.**

**11th Death Anniversary**  
**Sh. Surinder Kumar Gandhi**  
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**Prמוד, Vinod, Varun, Vimla, Asha, Bharti, Nishtha, Rinayra & Darsh Pandey.**

# Chirag Dilli Woes Overflow: Pipe-Burst Wastes Water, Damages Two Stretches

## Leak Unplugged For Several Days, No Remedial Measures Taken By Either PWD Or DJB

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New Delhi: In a stark example of civic apathy, a Delhi Jal Board water pipeline has been spouting water at several points in Chirag Dilli without the water utility taking any steps to plug the leaks. Water has not only been wasted for several days, but it has also damaged two roads.

On Ring Road near the Chirag Dilli traffic intersection, water has accumulated on the left side in front of the Chirag Dilli metro station. It is not rainwater that has collected there. Any rainfall only aggravates the situation and renders the stretch fully waterlogged. The local residents have been complaining for a month about how the underground pipeline behind the public toilet on the station complex has been spurting out continuously.

"At least for four hours, water spouts out from this point and floods the road. The problem is further down the pipeline but we feel the effect here," said one of the toilet caretakers.



Locals have been complaining for a month about how the underground pipeline behind a public toilet has been spurting out continuously

On Friday afternoon, TOI found collected water on the roadside. However, the origin of the problem is, as pointed out, further down on Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg. Between two pedestrian bridges, the road — the location of the pi-

lot project on streetscaping — is in a threatened condition because the underground pipeline that runs alongside is leaking at two spots.

"Water has been flooding this road for a month now. I use this stretch and the pe-



Photos: Rajesh Mehta

destrian bridge almost daily to cross over to the Chirag Dilli side," said Kamal, a senior citizen. "I do not know what the reason is, but there is always water here." Near the Chirag Dilli foot bridge, the tiles on the footpath were broken

and were lying in a pool of water. There was water overflowing onto the main road, causing discomfort to the public.

A kilometre-long section of it had been revamped by the Public Works Department under the streetsca-

ping project that promised "European standard" city roads and had been inaugurated by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal in 2021. This model road was the inspiration for other road revamp and beautification work in the capital.

A spot on the green zone beside a white marble peacock statue, installed as part of the street beautification, has turned into a pool due to a continuous stream of water. A hole has been made in the wall behind it to channel the accumulated water away from the road to open spaces. According to security guards working there, this measure was taken to prevent water from flowing to the main road.

The problem now seems to have gained magnitude because neither DJB nor PWD has taken any remedial steps. PWD spends around Rs 8 lakh annually on cleaning and maintenance of this road stretch. "We will investigate this matter and check what the problem is," was a PWD official's routine reply to a query on the matter. DJB did not respond to TOI's questions.

## 'Call centre on wheels' busted

Avishek Kumar  
@timesofindia.com

Ghaziabad: It appeared like any other mini-bus carrying tourists or office staff in the city. But for months, behind its tinted windows, cyber cons were calling targets and cheating them of lakhs of rupees on the pretext of offering credit card rewards.

Three persons were on Friday arrested from this call centre on wheels that had been set up inside the bus. There were laptops, mobile phones, headphones and a list of credit card users.

Police received a tip-off about the bus, a Force Traveller that they found parked near a green belt in Indirapuram. As the cops opened the door, they found three men on a call.

The three who were arrested are Sushant Kumar (30) of Trivandrum in Kerala, Sunny Kash-

yap (20) of Tila Mod, and Aman Goswami (24) from Loni Border. Swatantra Singh, ACP (Indirapuram), said they found the bus parked near Gaur Green City. "Those engaged in making calls to victims would board the bus between Delhi and Ghaziabad. Each of them was handed a list of credit card users along with their phone numbers. They would call the victims and offer credit card reward points," he added.

So, how did the cons target people? "They would call up credit card users and offer them rewards through a link sent to them as a text message. They would then trick their victims into entering the card numbers and other details by clicking on the link. In the end, they would persuade the victims to share the OTP. Those who didn't would be hurled abuses," the ACP said.

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## Model Town's wait for road repair unending

## PWD to clear squatters

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Residents of Model Town Northex Society in north Delhi are plagued by bad roads since the Public Works Department hasn't carried out repairs on Princess Road. The road links Mall Road and Road Number 51. It is a busy road with a high vehicular load and schools and hospitals located along its 3km length.

"The recent rains have worsened the road's condition, creating large potholes that pose a serious risk of accidents," said Avinash Pandey, a resident of the society. "Delhi Jal Board has been laying pipelines for two years. The work seems to have been completed now, but the road has been ruined and no one is listening to our complaints."

A PWD official claimed, "We have awarded the road restoration work, but due to the monsoons, we have not been able to carry



The road links Mall Road and Road number 51. It is a busy road with a high vehicular load and schools and hospitals located along its 3km length

out the work. We are trying to make the road motorable as quickly as possible, but the blacktopping can be done only after the rains are over by the end of Sept."

Originally constructed by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi,

the road was handed over to the PWD in 2012. The Northex residents' welfare association claims to have written many times to PWD and MCD to find a solution to the problem. "Numerous accidents have occurred due to the

one-way movement of traffic on the waterlogged and damaged road. The road condition is particularly hazardous for two-wheelers and pedestrians," said Rajeev Goyal, general secretary, RWA, Model Town Northex Society. "There are five senior secondary schools on this road and the current road conditions are extremely risky for the students too."

In the rainy season, the road-owning agencies generally avoid road repair work because it is a challenge to make the bitumen adhere to the road surface. But it is also the season when the roads degrade and the surfaces are eroded by the rain. Under the rules, road restoration must be undertaken by PWD once work affecting the road by other agencies, such as excavations by DJB, is completed. However, due to a lack of coordination between the agencies involved, it usually takes time to restore roads, leaving the public to suffer.

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: PWD has plans to undertake an encroachment removal drive in Barapullah drain area on its land. Notices have been pasted on jhuggis, giving five days time.

"The space along the drain belongs to PWD. This is part of the cleanliness project of the Barapullah drain and nearby areas," said a PWD official. "Being the land-owning agency of govt of Delhi, it is hereby informed to vacate the said govt land within five days from the date of issue of this notice, failing which the same will be forcefully evicted and the land will be made free of encroachment," reads the notice issued by south east road division of PWD.

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# AAP MLA's Custody Extended By 3 Days

## Amanatullah Was Arrested By ED In Waqf Case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Friday extended the ED custody of AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan for three days in connection with a money laundering case related to the alleged financial irregularities pertaining to the Delhi Waqf Board (DWB).

The agency sought 10 days of custody to interrogate him. He was produced before the court after four days of ED custody granted on Sept 2.

The court of special judge Vishal Gogne, granting three days of custody, said the court finds the prayer for the extension of ED custody to be "justified" by the outcome of the investigation thus far.

"Moreover, the investigating agency may require extended time to unravel the multi-layered and masked financial transactions which may have been designed to launder a substantial amount of money (Rs 36 crore) into properties fronted by agents

**The court of special judge Vishal Gogne, granting three days of custody, said the court finds the prayer for the extension of ED custody to be 'justified' by the outcome of the investigation thus far**

of accused Amanatullah Khan. However, the prayer for the grant of further custody for ten days is excessive. Three days of further custodial investigation is found sufficient by the court," the court said.

The allegation against Khan is that he accumulated proceeds of crime arising out of illegal gratification in lieu of providing favours to various bidders by leasing out Waqf properties to them illegally, providing jobs to several persons in the DWB, and allegedly misappropriation of DWB funds.

The ED outlined the neces-

sity for investigation of Khan for ten days to uncover the plethora of cash and other transactions relating to the proceeds of crime which were sunk into the two plots at Tikona Park, Jamia Nagar, Delhi.

The court rejected the contentions of the AAP MLA through his counsel that he did join the investigation on April 18 prior to his arrest and ought no longer to be confronted with statements or material by the ED. The court observed that the investigation cannot be frozen to the "discretion" of the accused who may have joined the investigation on one occasion. "More pertinently, the examination of the case diaries by the court today suggests the possibility that the statements or material collected from about 48 witnesses or other persons connected with the investigation, and who are not part of the first prosecution complaint either, may be required to confront the accused with," the court noted.

# AAP holds protest near BJP HQ against Amanatullah's arrest

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: AAP protested near the BJP headquarters on Friday against the arrest of party MLA Amanatullah Khan and other workers in a money laundering case related to Delhi Waqf Board.

AAP functionaries, MLAs and workers marched from their old office on DDU Marg, raising slogans like "stop the misuse of ED-CBI, stop the illegal arrest of AAP functionaries" and "ED-CBI ki manmani nahi chalegi".

MLAs Dilip Pandey, Rajesh Gupta, Rituraj Jha, Kuldeep Kumar, Ajesh Yadav, Haji Yunus, Mukesh Ahlawat and Ajay Dutt and chief spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar took part in the protest. Pandey claimed, "After six years of investigation, CBI filed a chargesheet and clearly said there was no financial corruption. When the anti-corruption bureau arrested him, it was also written in the bail order of the high court that



OUT ON THE STREETS: AAP stages a dharna on Friday

there was no financial corruption." BJP's "blatant hooliganism and authoritarian politics" are not hidden from anyone, he alleged.

Kakkar said, "When BJP is unable to win elections against us, they conspire to have our functionaries arrested to defame us."

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor cal-

led the protest an eyewitness. "No senior functionary participated in it and hardly 90-odd workers and Khan's family members took part," he claimed. "The people of Delhi want to know if Khan is not involved in any misappropriation, why he doesn't tell how many waqf properties have seen a change of use or occupants," he said.

# Kamala Market facade to get uniform look

Vibha.Sharma  
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is expected to resume the renovation of the front facade of Kamala Market, situated opposite New Delhi Railway Station in central Delhi, in the near future.

MCD had stopped the work after completing the repair and repainting of the 73-year-old clock tower due to the Lok Sabha elections and other reasons.

According to officials, a proposal for its beautification, which includes repairing and whitewashing the front facade and the entry gate of the market in the City-Sadar Paharganj zone, has been submitted to the compe-

tent authority for approving the rates and the agency. "Once the approvals are granted, the work order will be issued," said an official.

"In March, though we prepared a detailed project for restoring and revamping the entire market to its original glory, a decision was taken to just repair and paint the facade area and cover the periphery first due to a shortage of funds," said the official. While some basic work to paint the entrance and the tower and install red stone at the boundary wall have been implemented, the remaining work to cover the facade will be taken up now to give it a uniform look like Connaught Place, he added.

The outer plaster of the market is badly damaged and a



MCD had stopped the work after the repair and repainting of the clock tower due to the Lok Sabha elections and other reasons

new layer will be added after waterproofing the terrace. The decades-old place is in a state of disrepair, with even pillars and floor damaged in many

places. Haphazard loading and unloading and parking of vehicles only add to the chaos.

"Later in the year, when we get the funds, detailed work

for installing signage, repairing footpaths and overall layout using marble will be taken up. The project also includes developing a parking area with sufficient space for loading and unloading to avoid congestion," said an official.

Kamala Market, established in 1951, is situated next to Ajmeri Gate. The shops were allotted to the refugees who came from Pakistan during Partition. The place became a hub for air coolers and later turned into a base for goods transporters till little maintenance and encroachments damaged the business.

Once redeveloped, MCD will ensure that no encroachment happens in the corridor, said the official. Efforts will also be made to install the signage of uniform size at all shops.

# NDMC reports seven dengue cases this yr against 131 in 2023

Vibha.Sharma  
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has recorded a significant decrease — 95% — in dengue cases this year compared to last year. According to a council report, only seven dengue cases were reported till Aug 29 in its areas against 131 cases during the same period last year.

The council has also reported a single case of malaria and no instance of chikungunya. In 2023, too, only one malaria case was reported while there was one chikungunya case. In 2022, NDMC reported five dengue, three chikungunya and one malaria cases during the same period.

NDMC attributed the drop in the mosquito-borne disease counts to the effective implementation of a revised action plan. "The measures include the deployment of additional workforce, with staff members being sourced from the civil department during the monsoon. It also focused on raising awareness among the public and engaged more machines to help in controlling the spread of the vector-borne diseases," said NDMC member Kuljeet Chahal.

The council claims to have checked 15,735 institutions or govt buildings, gardens and parks, and made 5,10,452 visits through field workers. It has issued 1,679 notices for

mosquito-genic conditions found at various places and 104 challans against repeated defaulters. Chahal said that compared to last year, NDMC has added more fogging machines, deployed additional staff, and held regular meetings with the residents and market welfare associations to fight the menace.

"NDMC is divided into 14 circles, and to make sure each and every area is checked properly with minimum chances for mosquito breeding, we have engaged 15 anti-malaria mates, 15 surveillance workers, 83 anti-malaria gaggmen, 29 seasonal anti-malaria workers, and 30 additional workforce pooled from the civil department in this monsoon. They are using knapsack, battery sprayer and vehicle-mounted fogging machines," said Chahal.

The public health department has detected 33 hotspots like construction sites, horticulture inquiry stations and police stations' malkhanas. "There are 15 police stations in the NDMC area, and at least 10 have been asked to look for measures to stop mosquito breeding. We also have construction sites where huge projects are underway. All these sites have been asked in advance to take precautionary steps," said Chahal.

MCD has recorded 578 dengue, 237 malaria and 30 chikungunya cases till Aug 29.

# Court seeks details of tender for procuring 1,000 buses

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A Delhi court has issued a notice to the managing director of Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) with directions to disclose details regarding a tender for procuring 1,000 buses, which was floated by Delhi govt in 2020.

The court of Special Judge Ashish Agarwal also asked for the list of bidders who participated or applied for the tender.

The court was hearing a complaint against a senior IAS officer. The complaint alleged that Garima Gupta, the then MD of DTC, allegedly demanded a bribe of Rs 50 crore from the director of a company to award the tender for procuring 1,000 buses.

The complainant claimed before the court that after the company in question, M/s Jai Bharat Maruti Limited, was found to be the lowest bidder (L1), Gupta began to hold meetings with the said company and made the demand in exchange for not cancelling the tender process and for its "smooth execution".

Later, the bribe was negotiated to Rs 15 crore, the comp-

laint alleged and claimed that her husband was also involved with her.

The court found the submissions of the investigating officer (IO) "strange" that while meeting a prospective tenderer may constitute misconduct under the 'Conduct Rules', no evidence had surfaced about the exchange of money from the prospective applicant to Gupta. The IO told the court that he has already recorded the statements of the company director and another person related to the case, which reveal that there had been meetings between Gupta and the director of the company at the relevant time.

"It is strange that even while the investigating officer has already come to the conclusion that there were private meetings between the public servant and the tenderer for the tender, he has already come to the conclusion that no money had been exchanged. The basis of the conclusion is the denial of the person who allegedly may have made the payment. No independent effort has been made by the investigating officer

to ascertain whether any money exchanged hands," the court observed.

The court said that without making any effort in that direction, the investigating officer has pre-empted any inquiry by deciding not to even investigate the matter and chosen not to seek approval under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act. The said section provides that no inquiry or investigation shall be conducted by a police officer into any offence alleged to have been committed by a public servant under the PC Act without prior approval from the appropriate authority.

When the court inquired with the IO as to whether the tender was awarded in favour of the said company, the IO stated that the tender was not awarded to the said company and it was scrapped by DTC. However, this was contested by the counsel for the complainant, who claimed that the tender had been scrapped much after it was awarded, and this was only pursuant to the complaint of the applicant that it was cancelled.

# Took concrete steps for students: ABVP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In the lead-up to the elections, ABVP's elected representatives from Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) on Friday highlighted their proactive efforts in addressing students' needs.

DUSU president Tushar Dedha emphasised that they not only communicated students' concerns to the administration, but also took concrete steps to address them. "We initiated the construction of a student centre. Additionally, we facilitated various internships aimed

at skill development. We successfully resolved issues for 3,248 students and ran the 'DUSU in campus' campaign across several colleges, engaging with thousands of students and addressing their concerns."

DUSU secretary Aparajita said that the ABVP-led DUSU had successfully met all the commitments made during its women fests. "We implemented several key initiatives to empower and ensure the safety of female students. This included launching a 24-hour 'Vamika' service on the DU campus dedicated to women's safety," she said.

# 11-year-old molested by instructor in school

New Delhi: An 11-year-old girl was allegedly molested by a contractual instructor in her school in northwest Delhi's Sulejpur. Police have apprehended the accused, identified as Satish, aged 45.

He allegedly engaged in inappropriate physical contact with the pupil while conducting self-defence classes on a pro bono basis through an NGO. Delhi govt said it had ordered an immediate inquiry into the matter. **TNN**

**Delhi Transport Corporation**  
(Govt. of NCT of Delhi)  
I.P. Estate: New Delhi - 110002

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As approved in DTC Board Resolution No. 35/2022, in order to ascertain the actual number of Non-Opted Employees/Retired Employees/Their dependents (in case of deceased employees) who are willing for DTC Pension Scheme, their consent is being solicited on the prescribed format on the conditions given in the format. The prescribed format along with conditions for consent may be obtained from Pension Cell, DTC (HQ) or DTC Website. The proposed pension scheme will be applicable only for the employees/ex-employees of the DTC, who were on roll of the Corporation on or before 31.12.2003. The Non-Opted Employees/Ex-Employees/Their Dependents may submit their Consent Form to Manager (Pension), Room No. 101, Pension Cell, DTC (HQ), I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110002 by hand or through speed post/registered post within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice.

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- The Board of Directors of the Company at its meeting held on September 5, 2024 have approved forfeiture of partly paid-up equity shares on which call money (First Call or Second & Final Call or both) remains unpaid.
- The holders of the partly paid-up equity shares of the Company may note that forfeiture of the said partly paid-up equity shares will be effected in case the payment of call money along with interest thereon is not made on or before September 20, 2024.
- The Company has sent the Notice of Forfeiture dated September 6, 2024 to the holders of partly paid-up equity shares on which call money remains unpaid.
- The Notice of Forfeiture along with the Instructions and Payment Slip can be downloaded from <https://www.ril.com/investors/notice-of-forfeiture>.
- The payment of the call money can be made by any one of the following modes, namely: (a) **R-WAP portal** (<https://rights.kfintech.com/callmoney>); (b) **demand draft to be sent to KFin Technologies Limited**, Selenium Tower B, Plot no. 31 & 32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad - 500032, Telangana, India, along with duly filled up Payment Slip and Notice of Forfeiture. **Ensure that the demand draft is sent by courier or registered post to KFin Technologies Limited so as to reach on or before 5:00 P.M. (IST), Friday, September 20, 2024.**
- The holders of the partly paid-up equity shares of the Company may seek clarifications on any query related to the payment of call money on the toll-free number 1800 309 4001 or landline numbers - 040 67161651 or 040 67161733 or 022 79672121 (operational from Monday to Saturday between 10:00 A.M. (IST) and 7:00 P.M. (IST)).
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**CINEMA OF THE WEEK**

**Strange Darling (Adventure, Mystery, Thriller) ★★★★★**

Cast: Willa Fitzgerald, Kyle Gallner, Ed Begley Jr., Steven Michael Quezada  
Direction: JT Mollner  
Duration: 1 hour 39 minutes  
Language: English (A)



Spread across six non-linear chapters, the plot follows a one-night stand between a man and a woman that takes a dark turn when one of them embarks on a murderous rampage.

Strange Darling is a unique thriller that takes its time to build suspense, but once it shifts towards the climax, the pace accelerates rapidly with twists as unpredictable as a nail-biting T20 final over. Stellar performances and gripping surprises make it an exhilarating watch. Centered around a serial killer, the film redefines the typical formula, using a non-linear, six-chapter structure. While it may seem like a standard cat-and-mouse thriller on the surface, brilliant direction and a clever screenplay elevates it into something truly exceptional.

The plot centers on the Lady (Willa Fitzgerald) and the Demon (Kyle Gallner), who

In addition to a brilliant screenplay, it's the outstanding performances by Willa Fitzgerald and Kyle Gallner that truly elevates this film. Willa's remarkable transformation throughout the story is captivating, as she tackles a complex and demanding role with exceptional skill. Kyle Gallner, playing the Demon, delivers an equally compelling performance, with his character's gradual unravelling adding depth and intrigue. Together, their chemistry and layered portrayals make the film an immersive and thrilling experience, keeping the audience hooked from start to finish.

Shot entirely on 35mm, this film is a nostalgic nod to the erotic thrillers of the '90s, where twists and turns intensify as the story hurtles toward its climax. The non-linear structure adds to the film's impact, heightening tension at key moments. Giovanni Ribisi's cinematography is outstanding, with each frame capturing the film's varying moods through distinctive tones. Though the film starts slow and maintains a steady pace for much of its 90-minute runtime, those who stick with it until the end are rewarded with a gripping and satisfying conclusion.

— Abhishek Srivastava

To review any movie and check show timings, visit [etimes.in](http://etimes.in)

**Beetlejuice Beetlejuice (Comedy, Fantasy, Horror) ★★★★★**

Cast: Michael Keaton, Winona Ryder, Catherine O'Hara, Jenna Ortega, Willem Dafoe, Monica Bellucci  
Direction: Tim Burton  
Duration: 1 hour 44 minutes  
Language: English (UA)



The Deetz family returns home to Winter River after Charles' death. When Lydia's daughter, Astrid, discovers the mysterious model of the town in the attic and accidentally opens the afterlife portal with her boyfriend's help, it's showtime for Beetlejuice.

Beetlejuice Beetlejuice is delightfully chaotic and outrageous in many ways, making it a fitting sequel to the 1988 cult classic. While the original film was pure fun, this one works hard to match its energy and largely succeeds with a fresh plot and standout performances. It manages to preserve the quirky spirit of the original and, at around 100 minutes, offers plenty of entertainment, proving the 36-year wait was worth it. This time, the focus shifts to Lydia and her daughter Astrid.

After the death of Lydia's father, Charles, the Deetz family make their way back to Winter River. Now a widow, Lydia (Winona Ryder) has become a minor celebrity as the host of a paranormal TV show. Life has

discovers the model of the town in the attic and accidentally opens the afterlife portal with her boyfriend's help.

Michael Keaton nails it once again, effortlessly reprising his iconic role with remarkable flair. Like in the first film, he makes a late appearance, but his goofiness and swagger are absolutely captivating. It's evident that he's fully in command of the character. Winona Ryder and Jenna Ortega deliver strong performances as the mother-daughter duo, but it's Catherine O'Hara as Delia who truly steals the show. Her self-obsession remains, but she has evolved with age. Willem Dafoe as Wolf Jackson and Monica Bellucci as Dolores are perfectly cast in their roles.

Tim Burton's film is skillfully designed to pull both diehard fans of the original and a new millennial audience. It stands strong enough to be enjoyed as a standalone movie. Michael Keaton and Winona Ryder pick up their roles with the same energy as before, adding depth with new characters like Lydia's husband, Richard, and Beetlejuice's ex-wife, Dolores. The film features all the classic elements—black-and-white striped suits, stop-motion sandworms, and creepy goths. Echoing the iconic Harry Belafonte's *Doo-Oo* dinner scene from the original, there's a similarly entertaining moment set in a church. This film not only delivers laughs but also proves that even after all these years, Burton's magic is still enchanting.

— Abhishek Srivastava

**RATING SCALE**

TRASH ★ | BELOW AVERAGE ★★ | AVERAGE ★★★ | ABOVE AVERAGE ★★★★ | GOOD ★★★★★

VERY GOOD ★★★★★ | OUTSTANDING ★★★★★ | MASTERPIECE ★★★★★

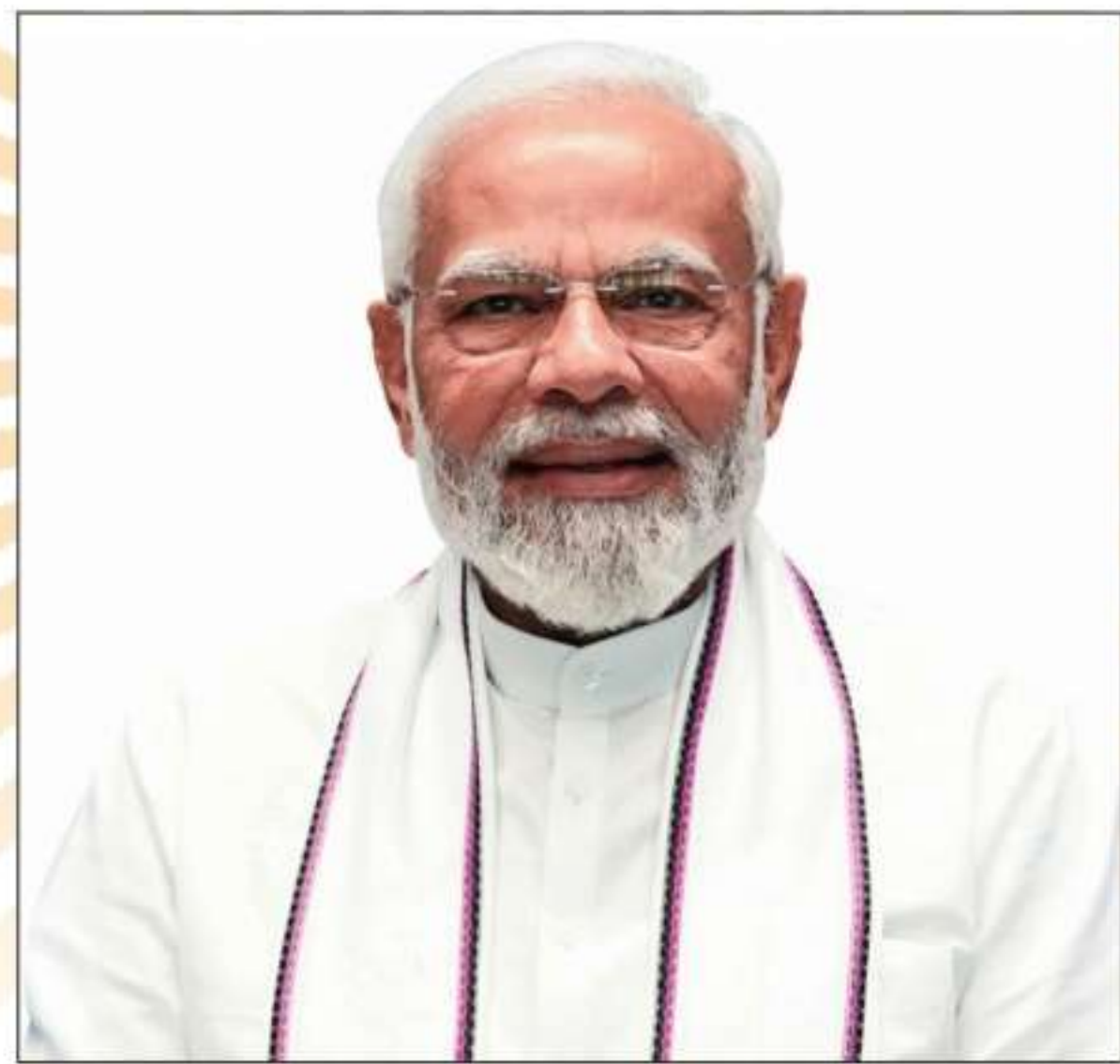


# Maharashtra Tourism

INVESTMENT SPECIAL



CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE



Narendra Modi  
Prime Minister of India

## NEW TOURISM POLICY TO DRIVE GROWTH FOR KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Driven by its goal to achieve a USD 1 trillion economy by 2028, the Maharashtra government unveiled a New Tourism Policy that aims to generate 1.8 million jobs over the next 10 years, attract investors and industry players, and boost the prospects of the sector and economy

Recently, the Maharashtra government presented a tourism policy to attract investments worth Rs 1,00,000 crore

and generate 1.8 million jobs over the next 10 years. A budget of 12 crores has been assigned to broaden the reach and impact of

the policy and promote its schemes and incentives. Through this effort, the Maharashtra government hopes to become a USD 1 trillion

economy by 2028 and drive GDP growth from 9 to 14 per cent. The policy will focus on infrastructure development and collaborations with

various stakeholders, including tour operators and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conference, Exhibition) organisers, and focus on niche

areas like agritourism, caravan tourism and adventure tourism, among others to drive growth.



Eknath Shinde  
Chief Minister

### KEY INITIATIVES TO BOOST TOURISM SECTOR

To revive the travel industry, the government has introduced certain initiatives that will attract partnerships and investments in the realm

#### Cruise your way to success

The government has implemented certain initiatives to propel tourism potential along the coast of Maharashtra

- Tourism jetty at Veldur in Ratnagiri district
- Tourism jetty at Padmadurg in Raigad district
- Tourism jetty at Kashid in Raigad district
- Tourism jetty at Savarnadurg in Ratnagiri district
- Construction of jetty at Arnala Fort, Taluka Vasai, Thane district
- Tourism jetty at Uderi in Raigad district
- Passenger jetty at Janjira Fort, Raigad district
- Tourism jetty at Durgadi, Kalyan in Thane district

#### To boost river tourism, the state will undertake the following initiatives

- Inclusion of the Sarda Sarovar portion of Maharashtra from Nandurbar (Ternarnal base) to Statue of Unity in the ongoing Luxury River Cruise Tourism project between Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh Tourism
- Inclusion of Vashishti River in Konkan for budget river and local ferry cruises
- River cruise tourism on perennial rivers like Godavari and Narmada with budget river or local ferry cruises
- Inland water bodies i.e., major and medium dams of Konkan, Nashik, Pune and Nagpur divisions to be developed as major tourist attractions by incorporating small/medium-sized budget river cruises, and floating houseboats, coupled with nearby tourist attractions

### Bureau to boost events

As part of its efforts, a bureau will be set up to encourage more events to be conducted in the state

The Government of Maharashtra will set up a Tourism MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) Bureau to uplift the events industry in the state and promote marquee events

### Facilitating opportunities

An investor facilitation cell will be set up to liaise with investors and increase funding in the sector in the state

The Directorate of Tourism will set up an investor facilitation cell which will be integrated with the Maharashtra Industry, Trade and Investment Facilitation Cell (MATRI) of the Department of Industries, Government of Maharashtra. The major functions of this cell will include tourism investment promotion and investor facilitation in the state.

#### Some of its major features include:

- Conducting project monitoring and reviewing the existing projects within the state
- Attracting fresh investments in the tourism sector and developing Maharashtra's brand equity as a top global tourist destination
- Acting as a one-stop connect for providing relevant information to investors regarding information on the business approvals required for starting a business in the state

### Window of opportunity

To speed up key processes, a single-window clearance mechanism will be implemented for tourism units in the state

The Directorate of Tourism, Government of Maharashtra, is establishing a single-window clearance mechanism for various approvals/clearances required by tourism units in the state. This single window clearance system will be integrated within the National Single Window System.

#### Core objectives of this framework

- To enable an online one-stop shop for providing hassle-free licensing approval
- To reduce delays and improve efficiency in processing various applications
- To remove duplication of information and redundancies in processes
- To provide automated workflow as per the charter of the respective department

### The friend every tourist needs

Tourism Mitra, a task force, to be deployed to ensure safe and responsible tourism in Maharashtra

The government will initiate a drive within the state with stringent provisions in the law for a dedicated task force equipped with the necessary technology to yield tangible results.

#### Activities that will be undertaken by the tourism task force include:

- Identify top tourist destinations which attract a higher influx of tourists and deploy Tourism Mitra at these destinations
- Ensure the safety of women and other tourists at destinations
- Prohibit the use of non-biodegradable/plastic waste, etc. to maintain the cleanliness and homeostasis of the destination
- Installation of rainwater harvesting measures
- Restoring water bodies by de-silting defunct water bodies within the premises
- Installation of mechanised ecosystem-based systems for sewage collection and zero liquid discharge solutions
- Installation of renewable energy generation units which includes solar PV panels, solar wind hybrid, mini wind turbine, and solar water pump, lights, heaters, and cooking system, among others
- Use of passenger and utility electric vehicles for the transport of goods and personnel within the facility premises and EV buses for the transport of
- personnel from and to the facility
- Installation of wastewater treatment and recycling systems using technologies such as activated sludge process (ASP), membrane bioreactors (MBR), reverse osmosis (RO), ecosystem-based treatment, etc. to increase supply and the use of treated water
- Installation of smart solutions/IT for water and wastewater to reduce the dependency on manpower, enhance business continuity and remote operations using smart metres/pumps/sensors, data analytics, and cloud solutions
- Installation of on-site organic waste converter
- Installation of pollution control devices and (PCD)

### TAKING THE SUSTAINABILITY ROUTE

The government will offer sustainability initiative incentives to units inculcating eco-friendly practices

### MONETARY INCENTIVES

The state will be introducing a bevy of financial incentives that can be availed by eligible tourism units. Here's a look at some of them

All eligible tourism units as defined in this policy will be eligible for capital investment incentives as per the table below:

CATEGORY	TYPE OF UNIT	INCENTIVES
Accommodations (A)	Hotels/motels/youth hostels/youth clubs/resorts/log huts/cottages	20 per cent of the eligible capital investment or Rs 20 crore, whichever is less
Accommodations (B)	Serviced apartments/tourist villas/time-sharing resorts/Agro, rural or eco-tourism units/homestays/bed and breakfast/vacation rental homes/tented accommodations/tourist apartments/bamboo huts/tree houses/mud cottages/cruise boats/yachts/houseboats	15 per cent of the eligible capital investment or Rs 15 crore, whichever is less
Food and beverages	Wayside amenities/restaurants, food kiosks or food courts at tourist destinations/beach shacks/tents/glass pods, etc. with scientific waste management facilities	15 per cent of the eligible capital investment or Rs 15 crore, whichever is less
Travel and tourism	MICE or convention centres/exhibition spaces/wellness centres or hospitality training centres/hotel management institutes/tourist facilitation centres, etc.	15 per cent of the eligible capital investment or Rs 15 crore, whichever is less
Entertainment and recreation	Ropeways/cable cars/amusement parks/theme parks/adventure tourism units or parks/golf courses/caravan and caravan park/heli tourism projects/unity malls/AR-VR zones/7D and above experiences/global tourism village/art and cultural centres, etc./amphitheatres/theatres/art galleries/viewing galleries/retail zones such as shopping malls/multiscreens/video game zones (only if it's part of any other eligible tourism unit)	15 per cent of the eligible capital investment or Rs 15 crore, whichever is less
Other tourism units	Handloom/handicraft shops Development of adventure tourism landing sites E-vehicles for tourists Restoration/conservation of historical/heritage structures/accommodations/buildings used as tourist attractions	15 per cent of the eligible capital investment or Rs 10 lakh, whichever is less
Ultra mega project unit		10 per cent of the eligible capital investment or Rs 25 crore, whichever is less

#### Incentives for large, mega and ultra mega tourism projects

ELIGIBILITY PERIOD (IN YEARS)	A	B	C	STZ/STD	ULTRA MEGA PROJECT UNIT
5	7	10	10	15	
SGST reimbursement	50 per cent of SGST on net paid	75 per cent of SGST on net paid	100 per cent of SGST on net paid	100 per cent of SGST on net paid	100 per cent of SGST on gross payable
Electricity duty exemption	50 per cent	75 per cent	100 per cent	100 per cent	100 per cent
Electricity tariff refund (difference between commercial tariff and industrial tariff)	50 per cent	75 per cent	100 per cent	100 per cent	100 per cent
Interest subventions	Up to 5 per cent interest subventions on loans of up to Rs 5 crore. Ceiling on total interest subventions shall be Rs 20 lakhs within the given eligible period	Up to 5 per cent interest subventions on loans of up to Rs 10 crore. Ceiling on total interest subventions shall be Rs 25 lakh of total interest paid within the eligible period	Up to 5 per cent interest subventions on loans of up to Rs 15 crore. Ceiling on total interest subventions shall be Rs 30 lakh of total interest paid within the eligible period	Up to 5 per cent interest subventions on loans of up to Rs 20 crore. Ceiling on total interest subventions shall be Rs 50 lakh within the given eligible period	Up to 5 per cent interest subventions on loans of up to Rs 25 crore. Ceiling on total interest subventions shall be Rs 75 lakh within the given eligible period
Quality certification, travel for life registration and certification etc.	Reimbursement offered up to 100 per cent or Rs 2 lakh for National Certification and Rs 10 lakh for International Certification a. Applicants shall be eligible for costs associated with quality certification as below: • Cost of certification (registration, application fees and other payments to certifying authority) • Cost of association consulting, limited to 50 per cent of cost of certification b. Only quality certifications recognised by the MoT Department shall be eligible c. Reimbursement shall be disbursed upon submission of proof of obtaining certification and its cross-verification				
Sustainability initiatives incentive	Maximum percentage of investment in capital cost of implementing the sustainability initiatives		Up to 25 per cent		
Stamp duty and registration charges exemption	Ceiling on reimbursement per project		Up to Rs 25 lakh or actual GST paid cost whichever is less		
	50 per cent	75 per cent	100 per cent	100 per cent	100 per cent
	Sale/lease deeds executed in respect of purchase/lease of land/built-up area for a tourism project, provided that the sale or lease deed is entered into during the period of the policy. Mortgage and hypothecation for undertaking a tourism project during the period of the policy				

#### The other tourism units eligible for financial incentives are:

- Adventure tourism units (air-, land- and water-based units)
- Home stay/bed and breakfast/vacation rental home/tented accommodation/tourist apartment
- Agro tourism/rural tourism/eco-tourism
- Beach shacks
- Caravan and caravan parks
- Other units as mentioned in the para indicating eligible units in this chapter

### INCENTIVES FOR TOURISM UNITS

ELIGIBILITY PERIOD (IN YEARS)	A	B	C	STZ/STD	
03	03	05	05		
SGST reimbursement	50 per cent of SGST off on net paid	75 per cent of SGST off on net paid	100 per cent of SGST off on net paid	100 per cent of SGST off on net paid	
Electricity duty exemption	50 per cent	75 per cent	100 per cent	100 per cent	
Electricity tariff (difference between commercial tariff and industrial tariff)	50 per cent	75 per cent	100 per cent	100 per cent	
Interest subventions	Up to 5 per cent interest subventions on loans of up to Rs 2 crore. Ceiling on total interest subventions shall be Rs 5 lakh	Up to 5 per cent interest subventions on loans of up to Rs 2 crore. Ceiling on total interest subventions shall be Rs 5 lakh	Up to 5 per cent interest subventions on loans of up to Rs 2 crore. Ceiling on total interest subventions shall be Rs 10 lakh	Up to 5 per cent interest subventions on loans of up to Rs 2 crore. Ceiling on total interest subventions shall be Rs 10 lakh	
Stamp duty and registration charges exemption	50 per cent	75 per cent	100 per cent	100 per cent	
	Sale or lease deeds executed in respect of purchase/lease of land/built-up area for a tourism project, provided that the sale or lease deed is entered into during the period of the policy. Mortgage and hypothecation for undertaking a tourism project during the period of the policy.				
	The above incentives shall not exceed the eligible fixed capital investment of the project, within the given eligible period, whichever is earlier				
	Eligible units should register with the Directorate of Tourism and Ministry of Tourism. Also, use of the booking platform of DoT is mandatory, if available				
	To avail of incentives, registered units must apply to the Directorate of Tourism for an eligibility certificate				

#### Incentives for MSME units

ELIGIBILITY PERIOD (IN YEARS)	A	B	C	STZ/STD
06	06	07	07	
SGST reimbursement	50 per cent of SGST off on net paid	75 per cent of SGST off on net paid	100 per cent of SGST off on net paid	100 per cent of SGST off on net paid
Electricity duty exemption	50 per cent	75 per cent	100 per cent	100 per cent
Electricity tariff refund (difference between commercial tariff and industrial tariff)	50 per cent	75 per cent	100 per cent	100 per cent
Interest subventions	Up to 5 per cent interest subventions on loans of up to Rs 5 crore. Ceiling on total interest subventions shall be Rs 20 lakh within the given eligible period	Up to 5 per cent interest subventions on loans of up to Rs 10 crore. Ceiling on total interest subventions shall be Rs 25 lakh within the given eligible period	Up to 5 per cent interest subventions on loans of up to Rs 15 crore. Ceiling on total interest subventions shall be Rs 50 lakh within the given eligible period	Up to 5 per cent interest subventions on loans of up to Rs 20 crore. Ceiling on total interest subventions shall be Rs 50 lakh within the given eligible period
Quality certification incentives, travel for LIFE registration and certification, etc.	Reimbursement offered up to 100 per cent or maximum Rs 2 lakh for National Certification and Rs 10 lakh for International Certification a. Applicants shall be eligible for costs associated with quality certification as below: • Cost of certification (registration, application fees and other payments to certifying authority)			
Sustainability initiatives incentive	Maximum percentage of investment in capital cost of implementing the sustainability initiatives		Up to 25 per cent	
Stamp duty and registration charges exemption	Ceiling on reimbursement per project		Up to Rs 25 lakh or actual GST paid cost whichever is less	
	50 per cent	75 per cent	100 per cent	100 per cent
	Sale/lease deeds executed in respect of purchase/lease of land/built-up area for a tourism project provided that the sale or lease deed is entered into during the period of the policy			
	Mortgage and hypothecation for undertaking a tourism project during the period of the policy			

#### Mega-project classifications and threshold limits

Type of Units	Area	Zone classification	Fixed capital investment in INR crores	Direct employment generation
Mega project unit	Mumbai, Thane, and Navi Mumbai Municipal Area	A	300	400
	Nasik, Pune, Aurangabad, and Nagpur Municipal Corporation	B	150	200
	Rest of Maharashtra	C	100	50
Ultra mega project unit	Entire state	STZ/STD	50	50

### YOUTH TO DRIVE TOURISM GROWTH

Youth clubs to receive incentives via YUVA Tourism for conducting tourism-related activities

A one-time grant of Rs 25,000 for one year will be provided to youth clubs constituted within government intermediate schools

(GIC/GGI)/government degree colleges/Navodaya Vidyalayas/Kendriya Vidyalayas/Shramik schools (Atal)/educational institutions such as Kasturba Gandhi Vidyalaya, Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), all aided and unaided educational institutions, etc. for tourism-related activities.

### INCENTIVES FOR HOSPITALITY-RELATED TRAINING

Sr. no.	Item	Incentive
1.	Hospitality units that send their employees, tour guides, etc. for training through reputed accredited institutes/colleges, etc.	Reimbursement of 75 per cent of the cost of fees paid for short- or medium-term courses/training or Rs 12,000, whichever is less
2.	Hospitality units that establish affiliation with homestays or their cluster, tourist villa, agrorooms units for quality improvement, skilling of owners of such affiliated units, training, etc.	The two parties will sign an MoU and will receive SGST reimbursement for the turnover achieved through the MoU



For more information, scan the QR code

For more information: Head office: 022-69107600, Konkan - 022-2087416/27560002, Nagpur - 0712-2533327, Pune - 020-29900289, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar - 0240-2990457, Amravati - 0271-2661611, Nashik - 0253-2995464

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Directorate of Tourism, Tourism Department, Govt. of Maharashtra

### WOMEN TO DRIVE TOURISM GROWTH

Women entrepreneurs/SC/ST/differently-abled individuals to receive additional incentives from the government

New tourism units owned and managed by women entrepreneurs/SC/ST/differently-abled individuals (with minimum equity participation of 51 per cent in the entity) will be entitled to an additional 5 per cent capital incentive.

Incentives to tour operators, agents, and destination management company (DMC) for inbound tourists

Types	Minimum pax (annual per operator)	Minimum annual turnover (per operator)	Tour packages with 100 per cent foreign national tourist	Tour packages on destinations other than metro	In metro and municipal corporation areas
Travel operators/agents	500	Rs 20,00,000			
MICE	1,500	Rs 10,00,00,000	15 per cent	12 per cent	12 per cent
Destination weddings	1,000	Rs 75,00,000			
Medical tourism operators (for international patients only)	500	Rs 20,00,000	15 per cent	Not applicable	Not applicable

Incentives for participating in tourism exhibitions, travel shows/marts in India and abroad

Sr. no.	Participation in	Quantum of financial assistance
1.	Tourism event within Maharashtra	50 per cent of the cost of the rental of a stall/space at the event or Rs 2 lakh, whichever is lower
2.	Tourism event outside Maharashtra	50 per cent of the cost of the rental of a stall/space at the event or Rs 3 lakh, whichever is lower
3.	International tourism event outside India	50 per cent of the cost of the rental of a stall/space at the event or Rs 5 lakh, whichever is lower

### IT AND DIGITAL INCENTIVES

Entities involved in organising and supporting events through digital platforms and IT to receive financial incentives

- An incentive of up to Rs 10 lakh per annum will be given for organising and supporting national and international tour and travel marts, seminars, exhibitions and other events in the state, which employ digital platforms and new IT.
- Tour and travel operators registered with the Directorate of Tourism will be eligible to receive a one-time financial incentive of 25 per cent of the production cost up to Rs 10 lakh for production of audio/video guide, digital publicity material (digital platform/mobile application/website/metaverse), artificial intelligence, robotics, and virtual reality.

#### OTHER INCENTIVES

- One-time incentive of up to Rs 5 lakh will be granted to individuals/groups involved in the conservation, promotion and revival of scarce or endangered indigenous art, music, craft, folk dance, and cuisine of Maharashtra within a range of 50 kms from famous tourist destinations.
- An incentive of Rs 50,000 will be awarded by the Directorate of Tourism to 10 innovative tourism projects that have been successfully implemented in the state in a new and innovative manner.
- A tourism project, in which more than five workers belong to the disabled category, to receive an incentive of Rs 1,500 per month for each of the disabled workers.
- The first 10 projects which meet the sustainable tourism criteria of the Union Ministry of Tourism, will be admissible to the extent of Rs 10 lakh for reimbursement of expenses.

### NON-FISCAL INCENTIVES

The government will offer the following benefits to farmers involved in agrorooms:

- Agritourism businesses such as goat rearing, dairying, sericulture, beekeeping, etc. will henceforth be recognised as agri-businesses
- Agritourism licenses will be issued to farmers for 10 years after verification by concerned competent authorities
- Farmers can sell agricultural produce or local products, handicrafts, etc. to tourists/visitors

Caravan tourism operators to receive tourist vehicle status

a. Permission will be given to operate caravans/camper trucks/vans for tourism purposes in the state. The State Transport Commissioner will enforce registration of vehicles in this regard

b. The vehicles will be given the status of tourist vehicles by the concerned authority of the state where such vehicles will be used as tourist vehicles

Many projects and units to receive exemptions from non-agricultural tax and development charges

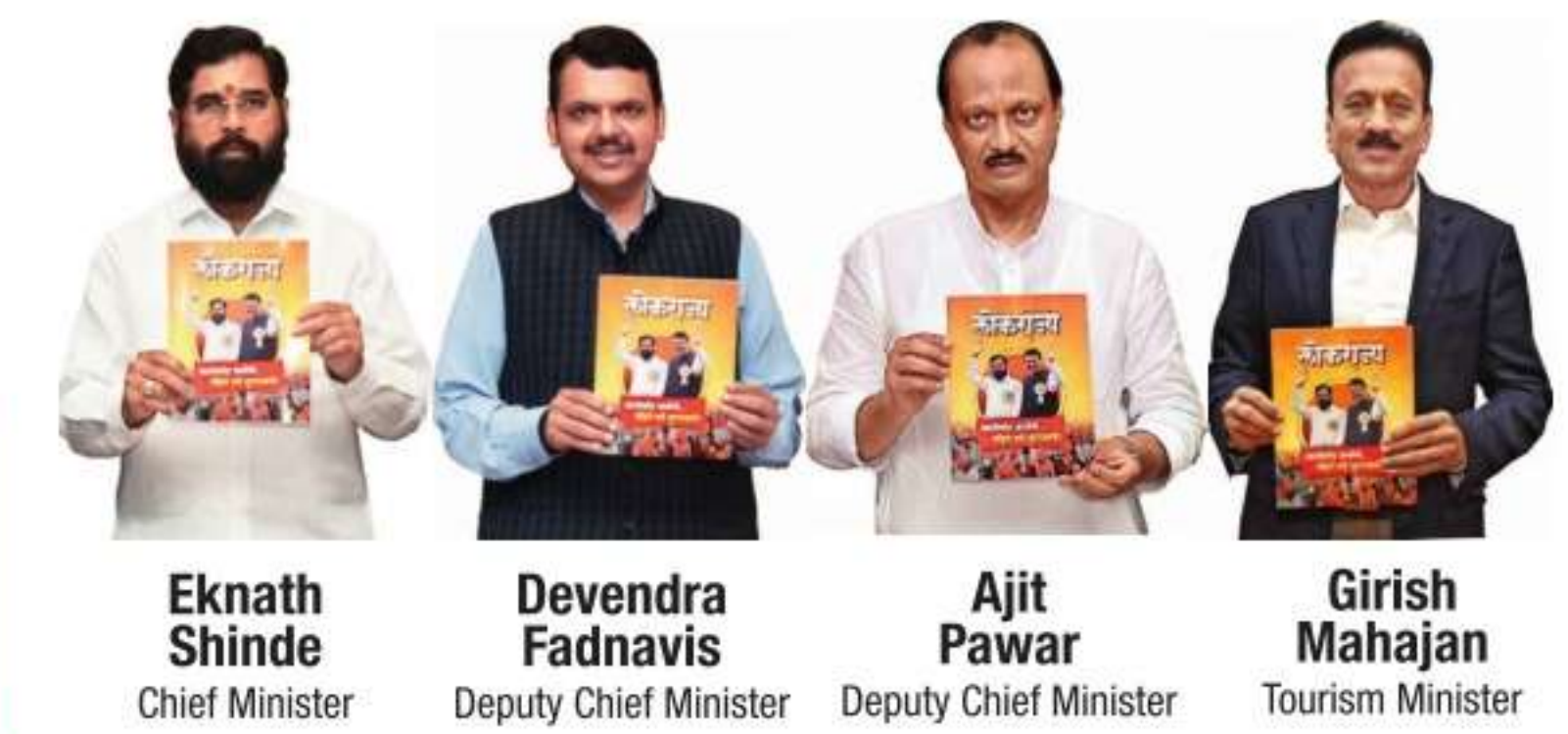
a. Full exemption from non-agricultural tax and non-agricultural permit shall be admissible to all tourism projects

b. Agritourism industry, caravan park, heli tourism project, EV charging stations and adventure sports will not require non-agricultural permission

c. Development charges will be exempted while sanctioning tourism/hospitality component

#### Other incentives

- As per the new policy, instead of the present annual renewal for licenses/permits, it will be undertaken every five years by the concerned authority
- Wellness tourism units would be eligible for incentives if the project owner enters into a long lease agreement with the farmer for at least 10 years
- All tourism projects covered under this policy will be considered as 'industry' for the purposes of other benefits accruing to projects defined as industry
- The state shall provide infrastructure support like road, water supply connection, electric connectivity like substation, transformer, service cable, transmission line, etc. on top priority
- The state shall allow all tourism units covered under this policy to get power through open access
- The state will facilitate environment and fire clearance within one month for all tourism units covered under this policy, wherever applicable as per Environment Protection Act, 1986 and notifications issued under the same



Eknath Shinde  
Chief Minister

Devendra Fadnis  
Deputy Chief Minister

Ajit Pawar  
Deputy Chief Minister

Girish Mahajan  
Tourism Minister



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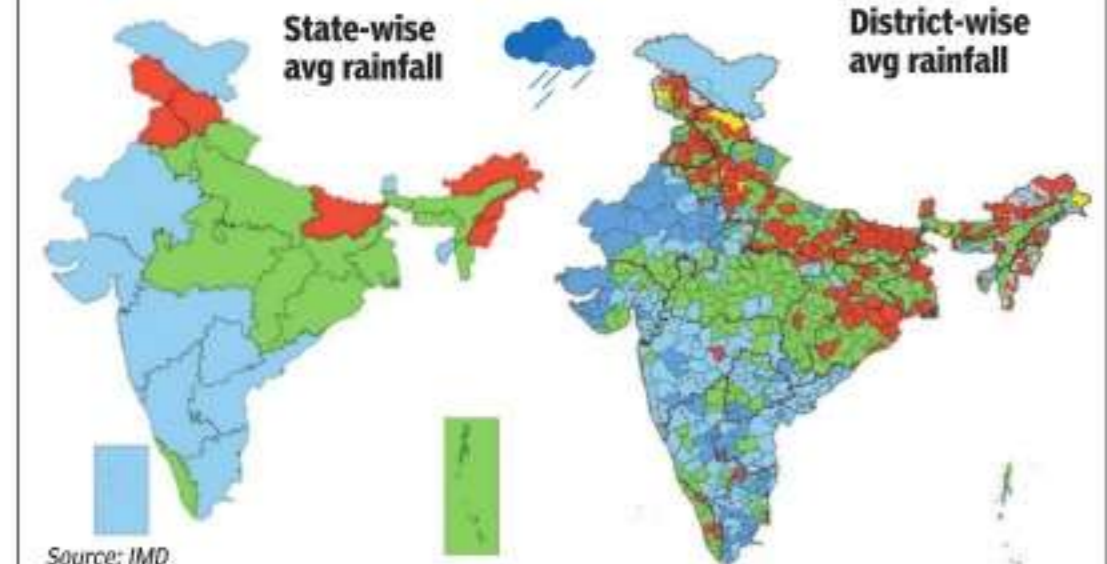


TOI History Meets AI SEPT 7 AI VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS Neerja Bhanot, who died saving passengers during the 1986 Pan Am Flight 73 hijacking, was born on this day in 1963

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers By Atul Thakur

200 districts saw deficient rains in mostly normal 2024 monsoon

State-wise average rainfall data can give a misleading picture. For instance, it shows that J&K, Punjab, Himachal, Bihar, Arunachal, Nagaland and Manipur were the only states to receive deficient rainfall. However, closer analysis shows there are 186 districts across the country that saw deficient rains with 36 of those in Uttar Pradesh alone.



Source: IMD

Army intensifies training of Jammu civilians to fight terror

Hands Out Automatic Rifles Amid Spurt In Attacks Ahead Of Polls

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Indian Army, in collaboration with Jammu & Kashmir Police, has stepped up training of village defence guards (VDGs) to enhance security of local communities in the Jammu region, hit by a surge in terrorism over the last several months, ahead of the state assembly elections from Sept 18 to Oct 1. Around 600 villagers are currently undergoing intensive training in firing 7.62mm self-loading automatic rifles, squad post drills and minor tactics. This comes after around 500 villagers were earlier trained in the Rajouri area and another 85-90 in the Doda and Kishtwar regions, Army sources said on Friday. The Army initiative, undertaken at the request of J&K police, aims to equip civilians with skills necessary to protect their villages from terrorist threats, which will boost the region's overall security framework.



Automatic weapons being distributed to civilians at Akhnour

"This training is being conducted at the unit level, in proximity to their respective villages, ensuring that the VDGs can quickly apply their skills in real-world scenarios. It is meticulously structured, with each VDG unit receiving a minimum of three-day training," a source said. The programme is led by the Army's formations deployed in the region, with ad-

ditional support from instructors and training aids from the Corps Battle School in Sarol. "This collaboration ensures the VDGs receive instruction from highly-skilled personnel," the source said. Apart from the training, 7.62 automatic rifles are also being issued to VDGs through a coordinated effort between the Army's ordnance depots and the J&K Police. "Earlier, VDGs had the very old .303 bolt-action rifles," the source said. Parallely, Army and other security forces are strengthening the counter-infiltration and counter-terror grids as well as the ground intelligence network in the Jammu region. The spike in terrorist activities in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch has spread inwards to other places like Reasi, Doda, Baderwah, Kathua and Udhampur. At least 55-60 terrorists, mainly from the Jaish-e-Muhammed, are active in the Jammu region after successfully infiltrating across the international boundary and line of control, as per estimates. The Centre recently sent additional forces to the Jammu region, which includes over 3,000 Army soldiers and around 500 Para-Special Forces commandos, apart from additional battalions of central armed police forces, as reported by TOI earlier.

Gangster serving life term for murder 'initiated into Juna Akhara as a monk'

Yogesh Nagarkoti | TNN

Almora: Gangster Prakash Pandey, arrested in Vietnam in 2010 and serving a life term for murder, was 'initiated into monkhood' inside Almora jail and will now be known as 'Prakash Nand Giri'. The initiation was conducted by at least three senior seers purportedly from Juna Akhara on Thursday. Almora jail superintendent-

ent Jayant Pangti said on Friday. "A few religious people visited the prison and sought permission to meet Pandey. It seems they spent some time with him and whatever they discussed about religion is their personal matter. There was no involvement of prison administration and we're not concerned with their claims." DIG (prisons) Dadhira Maurya said he came to know about the incident from social media. "Jail superintendent didn't send us a report. We've initiated an internal probe." Rajendra Giri, who claimed to be from Juna Akhara, said, "Prakash Nand Giri expressed his desire to renounce his criminal past and turn towards religion. He showed his willingness to embrace the spiritual path and we respected his wish."

Lightning strikes kill 3 CRPF men, 2 others in C'garh

Raipur: Three CRPF personnel among five people killed in lightning strikes in Chhattisgarh in the past two days. On Friday, CRPF men were going through their paces at an anti-insurgency training centre in Dantewada's Barsoor region, 330km from Raipur, when a bolt of lightning struck around 3pm. In Jashpur, two people lost their lives in lightning strikes on Friday. TNN

Panama departs 130 Indians who took 'donkey route' Expulsion Based On Pact With US

Veracruz: Panama on Friday deported 130 Indian irregular migrants who had entered the country via the inhospitable Darien jungle, under a deal on repatriations signed with the US in July. This was the first such expulsion outside of the Americas under the deal, and the fourth in total. US pledged \$6 billion for migrant repatriations from the Central American nation in the hopes of reducing irregular crossings at its own southern border. Panama's director of migration, Roger Mojica, told reporters the Indians departed on a charter flight to New Delhi. At the same press meet, US security attaché for Central America Marlen Pineiro said Washington was "very grateful to the government of Panama for all this support", adding that: "Irregular migration cannot continue." The Darien Gap between Colombia and Panama has become a key corridor for migrants traveling overland from South America through Central America and Mexico to the US. Despite the dangers, including attacks by criminal gangs, more than half a million undocumented migrants - mostly Venezuelans - crossed the Darien last year. Transit countries such as Panama and Mexico have come under increased pressure from Washington to tackle the highly contentious migration issue in a US election year. The July deal makes provision for a first phase of deporting migrants with a criminal record, but could see the repatriation of any person entering Panama through the notoriously dangerous and rugged Darien Gap region. It was signed the same day that Panamanian President Jose Raul Mulino took office, after a campaign in which he pledged to crack down on Darien Gap crossings. With Friday's deportation, Panama has expelled 219 migrants in a period of two weeks. AFP



The Indians had entered Panama via the inhospitable Darien jungle, which is fraught with danger, including attacks by criminal gangs

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SALWAN PUBLIC SCHOOL RAJENDRA NAGAR, NEW DELHI-60 SALE OF MINI BUS MINI SWARAJ MAZDA (CNG) AC School Bus, Color Yellow, Model 02 Jul 2010, 4 Cylinders, Seating Capacity 22. Mileage covered 48700 Km. Fitness valid upto - Oct 2024. Permit valid upto - Jul 2025. CNG Cylinder Test valid upto - Apr 2025. Insurance - valid upto Jun 2025. Please submit quotation latest by 16th Sept 2024, 3 PM in sealed envelopes by hand at School Gate No 1. For any query contact school office between 09:30 am to 03:00 pm on all working days. Tel. No. 49254500, 49254501. Director CHANGE OF NAME I, Raj Kumar S/o Phool Chand Lodh R/o H. No. 174, Bhangar Mohalla, Tughlakabad Village, Jaipur, South Delhi, Delhi-110044 have changed my daughter name from Geetanjali to Geetanjali Rajput for all future purposes. I, Jyotirmoyi Rashmi Kujur D/o Robin Walter Kujur, R/o House No-E4/5, Block E, Phase-1, QUTUB VIHAR, DIST: South West Delhi, Delhi - 110071 have changed my name from Rashmi Kujur to Jyotirmoyi Rashmi Kujur for all future purposes. I, A R K Tirkey S/o, Late. Alois Tirkey R/o H.No. 246, Sec. 19, Pocket 2, Green View Apartment Dwarika New Delhi 110075 have changed my name to Apollinaris Ravinder Kishore Tirkey for all purposes. I, DEEPA D/o ANNA SAHIB GHOBAD, R/o C-113, 1ST FLOOR, GALI NO-2, GANESH NAGAR, PANDAV NAGAR COMPLEX, SHAKARPUR, EAST DELHI-110092 have changed my name from DEEPA TO DEEPA GHOBAD for all future purposes. I, Ashwini Kumar Talabhaktula, by religion Hindu, resident of Ramdutt Enclave, PO Utam Nagar, PS Bindapur, Delhi 110059 and working in Oil India Limited do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that Ashwini Kumar Talabhaktula and T. Ashwini Kumar is the one and same person i.e. myself.

real estate FOR SALE DELHI COMMERCIAL Showroom 3800 Sq ft For Rent in Sector 7 Dwarka, New Delhi Area - 3800sqft. Rent - 4.0 Lac Mr GUPTA -9810321555 NOIDA SALE Noida Sector 11 - 228 Sq. Meter, Corner Plot, Wide Road, Park Facing. Mobile / Whatsapp, 9560833833 BANGALORE PROPERTIES YESHWANTHPUR INDUSTRIAL BDA land available for sale at Yeshwanthpur Bangalore Total area 21786 sq ft Contact 9844159696 or 9896305612 TO LET FARIDABAD SPACE AVAILABLE TO OPERATE HEALTH RELATED SERVICES • Wellness Centre • ENT • EYE • Skin Care | Hair | Laser | Dermatology • Orthopaedics • IVF • Pathology • Child Care / Pediatrics • Radiology • Ayurvedic • Oncology • Gastroenterology • Day Care Procedure Centre • OPD Centre / Doctors Chambers • 3 Floors (1st, 2nd & 3rd) 2400 Sqft. on Each Other • Kone Lift (10 Persons) • DG Back up • Sec 15, Opp Huda Mkt, Faridabad Satinder Duggal & Asso. Law Firm 9643268316 SOUTH DELHI 4BHK independent house 1st floor with lift at Geetanjali Enclave with a dedicated lobby and drawing room. best suited for Guest house, residential etc. 1.5L + maintenance. 9819616688

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Ganesh Chaturthi SPECIAL Advertise on this special occasion please contact numbers: 9312633518, 9811790649 9999499496, 9999995460 Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquires and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. The Times of India Group doesn't vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers of products and services. The Printer, Publisher, Editor, and Owners of The Times of India Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the Advertisers.

services WELLNESS LEARN New approach to Health Wealth & happiness that integrates mind body & soul. Contact for free demo session. 8369971596. tender & notices TENDERS E-AUCTION NOTICE FIRE AFFECTED MACHINERIES PARTS APPROX. 31.84 TONS E-Auction forms are invited from interested buyers for disposal, strictly on 'As is Where is' basis, for on Per Kg Basis damaged salvage of (i) Approx. 193 Kgs Fire Damaged Machineries Part Of Aluminium (ii) Approx. 31,739 Kgs Of Ms Scrap Of Machineries Parts And (iii) Approx. 19,909 Kgs Of Mixed Scrap Of Machineries Parts belonging to M/s Lokpal Industries (survey handled by: ARS IS&LA Pvt. Ltd.). Salvage of the above materials can be inspected at A-6, Sector-3 Noida, Uttar Pradesh between 09/09/24 to 16/09/24, after taking prior appointment from Mr. Navneet Sawhney-98110 33306. E-Auction forms, Contact Mr. Khushi Singh at No b :- 9990857386 or of Salvor Settlers Private Limited (Auctioneers) Address:-203, 2nd Floor, Usha Kiran Building, Azadpur Commercial Complex, Delhi-110033 or download from website: www.salvorsettlers.com. Last date for submission of E-auction form is 17/09/24 before 12.30 PM.

FOR SALE FLAT ( DELHI) 3 BHK Flat No 503, Fifth Floor, Narmada Block N-4, Sector-D, Pocket -6, DDA Flat, Vasant Kunj Delhi Contact: 9752016496 96 44010130, 99777 00542 YIELD4 TRUSTED BY MORE THAN 5000 CLIENTS A COMPLETE TRADE FINANCE SOLUTIONS COMPANY OFFERING FOLLOWING PRODUCTS: • Letter of Credit • Standby Letter of Credit • Bank Guarantees • RWA/POF/BCL • Factoring/Import Landing From International Banks & Financial Institutions across the world. Contact us through Mobile, E-mail, Whatsapp. Mobile: E-mail/Whatsapp: 91-9712-29788, +91 81688-41925 83 vipul@yield4finance.com www.yield4finance.co.uk SCO 78, Sector-12, Panchkula, Haryana

TIMES interact TO ADVERTISE IN CLASSIFIEDS PLEASE CALL: TENDER / PUBLIC NOTICE: 9312633518 CHANGE OF NAME / LOST & FOUND: 8130604727 PROPERTY: 9999499496 RECRUITMENT & EDUCATION: 9811790649 MATRIMONIAL: 9811790649 SHOPPING: 9312633518 BUSINESS: 9312633518 SERVICES / VEHICLES & TRAVEL: 9999499496

**केंद्रीय विद्यालय, सेक्टर-24, नोएडा**  
 केंद्रीय विद्यालय सेक्टर-24 नोएडा में शैक्षिक सत्र 2024-25 के लिए अनुबंध के आधार पर निम्नलिखित पदों पर संविदात्मक शिक्षकों की नियुक्ति हेतु दिनांक 11.09.2024 (बुधवार) को प्रातः 11:00 बजे से 12:00 बजे तक लिखित परीक्षा / साक्षात्कार के जरिये नाम सूची (फैनल) तैयार किया जाना है।

<b>स्नातकोत्तर शिक्षक - (PGT)</b>	अंग्रेजी (English), इतिहास (History), अर्थशास्त्र (Economics), गणित (Maths), हिंदी (Hindi), वाणिज्य (Commerce)
<b>प्रशिक्षित स्नातक शिक्षक - (TGT)</b>	गणित (Maths), अंग्रेजी (English), सामाजिक विज्ञान (Social Science), संस्कृत (Sanskrit), हिंदी (Hindi)
<b>अन्य (Others)</b>	डॉक्टर (Doctor), नर्स (Nurse), कला शिक्षक (Art Education Teacher), परिधान और कढ़ाई शिक्षक (Apparel and Embroidery Teacher), कंप्यूटर प्रशिक्षक (Computer Instructor), प्राथमिक शिक्षक - संगीत (PRT - Music)

पूर्ण तथा अन्य जानकारी हेतु विद्यालय की वेबसाइट <https://noida.kvs.ac.in/> देखें।

**अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, मदुरै**  
**All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Madurai (Tamil Nadu)**  
 An Institute of National Importance Under PMSSY Division, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

No. AIIMS/Madurai/Estt./1-15/Recruitment-SR/JR/2024 Date: 07.09.2024

**ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE**  
 AIIMS Madurai invites applications from Indian Citizens as per Govt. of India Residency Scheme, for filling up the following tenure posts by walk-in interview.

Name of the Post	No. of vacancies
Senior Resident (Non Academic)	7 (Anatomy - 1 EWS; General Medicine - 1 UR; Microbiology - 1 SC; Obstetrics & Gynaecology - 1 OBC; Paediatrics - 1 OBC; Pharmacology - 1 ST; Physiology - 1 OBC)
Junior Resident (Non Academic)	3 (1-UR, 1-OBC and 1-ST)

\* If vacancy under EWS category is not filled, then the post may be filled on merit basis from candidates belonging to General (UR)/ Other category.

For further details including opening / closing date of online entry, Date of Interview, etc., please refer detailed advertisement available at website: <https://ipmer.edu.in/aiims-madurai>

**Executive Director, AIIMS, Madurai**

**ARMY INSTITUTE OF NURSING, GUWAHATI**  
 Army Institute of Nursing, Guwahati invites application for the Post of Professor cum Principal on contractual basis.

For eligibility and other details please visit Institute website [www.ainguwahati.org](http://www.ainguwahati.org)

Eligible interested candidates preferably female may apply by Registered Post to the Chairman, Army Institute of Nursing, Guwahati, C/o HQ 51 Sub Area, PIN-908651, C/o 99 APO. Last date for submission of application is 08 October 2024. Contact @ 6901299910 (AIN Guwahati). Email ID: [ain@awesindia.edu.in](mailto:ain@awesindia.edu.in)

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering)**

Name of work with its location: Comprehensive Annual maintenance Contract (AMC) of IPS of HBL Make of Delhi Division for Three (03) years.

App. Cost of the work (₹): ₹ 1,08,01,503.36/- only

Bid Security (₹): ₹ 2,04,000/- only

Address of Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055.

Date & Time for upload of tender / closing: Tender uploading 06.09.2024/closing date & time: 30.09.2024 up to 15.00 hrs.

Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc. See the Northern Railway website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.

Tender No. 558-Sig/16/M/Tender/AMC/086/2024-25 Dated: 06.09.2024

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 (A 100% owner company of National Highways Authority of India)

**RECRUITMENT NOTICE**

National Highways Logistics Management Limited, invites applications for appointment for **Advisor - Ropeways**, for the implementation of Ropeways projects in various parts of India. The position is based at New Delhi, on Contract basis (year-on-year), which may be extended based on performance and mutual consent. For details and application process, please visit the Vacancies section on [NHLML](https://nhlml.org/current-openings) official website (<https://nhlml.org/current-openings>).

**Easing Business Through Logistics**

**उत्तर पूर्वी प्रौद्योगिकी अनुसंधान एवं प्रसार केंद्र (नेक्टर)**  
**North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR)**

विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग का स्वायत्ततावादी संस्थान, भारत सरकार  
 An Autonomous Institute of the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India.

सर्वे ऑफ इंडिया कैंपस, बोनी ब्रे एस्टेट, बारिक पॉइंट, शिल्लोंग-793001 (मिज़ोरम)  
 Survey Of India Campus, Bonnie Brae Estate, Barik Point, Shillong-793001 (HQ)

दिल्ली तक लिखित/कॉम्प्यूटर, झरहीद जीट सिंह मार्ग, नई दिल्ली-110016 (दिल्ली कार्यालय)  
 2nd Floor Vishwakarma Bhawan, Sahred Jeet Singh Marg, New Delhi-110016 (Delhi Office)

ई-मेल / Email: [nectar@nectar.org.in](mailto:nectar@nectar.org.in)

E. No. A-37018/2/2024

**रिक्ति घोषणा / VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

प्रतिनिधिक (अल्पकालिक अनुबंध सहित) पर विभिन्न नियमित पदों को भरने के लिए योग्य भारतीय नागरिकों से आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं, प्रतिनिधिक असाइन करने पर 7वें केंद्रीय वेतन आयोग के अनुसार विभिन्न वेतन स्तरों पर सीधी भर्ती की जाएगी। भर्ती, सीक्यूरिटी नियमों (आरआर) और नेक्टर के उपनिर्णयों के प्रावधानों के अनुसार की जाएगी। पदों के नाम, संबंधित वेतन स्तर, पदों की संख्या और विस्तृत योग्यता आवश्यकताएं नीचे दी गई हैं :-

Applications are invited from eligible Indian nationals for filling up various regular posts on Deputation (Including Short Term Contract) failing which by Direct Recruitment in different Pay Levels as per 7th Central Pay Commission. The recruitment shall be done as per the provisions in the approved Recruitment Rules (RRs) and By-Laws of NECTAR. The name of the posts, respective Pay Levels, no. of Posts and detailed Qualification Requirements (QRs) are given as below:-

क्र.सं. S.No.	पद का नाम Name of the Post	7वें सीपीसी वेतन स्तर 7 <sup>th</sup> CPC Pay Level	पदों की संख्या No. of Posts
<b>वैज्ञानिक पद / Scientific Posts</b>			
1	वरिष्ठ सलाहकार तकनीकी Sr. Advisor Technical	Rs. 1,44,200 - 2,18,200 (Level 14)	01
<b>प्रशासनिक पद / Administrative Posts</b>			
2	लेखा अधिकारी Accounts Officer	Rs. 44,900 - 1,42,400 (Level 7)	01
3	निजी सचिव Private Secretary	Rs. 44,900 - 1,42,400 (Level 7)	01
4	निजी सहायक Personal Assistant	Rs. 35,400 - 1,12,400 (Level 6)	01

नोट: उपरोक्त पदों को भरने में प्राथमिकता प्रतिनिधिक (अल्पकालिक अनुबंध सहित) के आधार पर दी जाएगी, अन्यथा आवेदन पर सीधी भर्ती की जाएगी। प्रतिनिधिक (अल्पकालिक अनुबंध सहित) के लिए आवेदन करने वाले उम्मीदवारों को सीधी भर्ती के आधार पर चयन के लिए नहीं माना जाएगा और इसके विपरीत। नेक्टर भर्ती नियमों और उपनिर्णयों के प्रावधानों के अनुसार विभागों में उम्मीदवारों को भेजें जाएंगे।

प्रतिनिधिक (अल्पकालिक अनुबंध सहित) और सीधी भर्ती के आधार पर आवेदन करने वाले प्रत्येक पद के लिए योग्यता, आयु, अनुभव आदि से संबंधित विवरण और अन्य संबंधित शर्तें नेक्टर की वेबसाइट [www.nectar.org.in](http://www.nectar.org.in) और विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग [www.dst.gov.in](http://www.dst.gov.in) पर दी गई हैं।

Note: The priority on filling up the above posts will be on Deputation basis (Including Short Term Contract) failing which applications will then be taken up on Direct Recruitment. The candidates applying for deputation (Including Short Term Contract) will not be considered for selection on Direct Recruitment basis and vice versa. Relaxation is applicable to Departmental Candidates as per the provisions of the Recruitment Rules and By-laws of NECTAR.

The details related to qualification, age, experience etc. and other terms of reference for each posts applying for Deputation (Including Short Term Contract) and Direct Recruitment basis are given on the website of NECTAR i.e. [www.nectar.org.in](http://www.nectar.org.in) and Department of Science and Technology i.e. [www.dst.gov.in](http://www.dst.gov.in)

आवेदन पत्र, वरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक अधिकारी, नेक्टर, सर्वे ऑफ इंडिया कैंपस, बोनी ब्रे एस्टेट, बारिक पॉइंट, शिल्लोंग-793001, मेघालय को निर्धारित प्रारूप में आउ, योग्यता और अनुभव प्रमाण पत्रों की स्व-सत्यापित प्रतियों के साथ डाक द्वारा भेजे जाएं ताकि वे 07.10.2024 तक उपयुक्त पते पर पहुंचें जाएं। असम, मेघालय, अरुणाचल प्रदेश, मिजोरम, मणिपुर, नागालैंड, त्रिपुरा, सिक्किम, लद्दाख (UT), लाहलु और स्पिटी डिस्ट्रिक्ट और पंग्सी सुब डिविजन ऑफ चम्बा डिस्ट्रिक्ट ऑफ हिमालय प्रदेश, आन्ध्र प्रदेश और निकोबार द्वीपसमूह और लक्षद्वीप में उम्मीदवारों से आवेदन प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि 22.10.2024 होगी।

Applications should be sent by post to Sr. Administrative Officer, NECTAR, Survey of India Campus, Bonnie Brae Estate, Barik Point, Shillong 793001, Meghalaya in the prescribed format along with self-attested photocopies of certificates in support of Age, Qualifications and experience so as to reach the above-mentioned address latest by 07.10.2024. The last date for receipt of applications from candidates in Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, Ladakh(UT), Lahaul and Spiti District and Pangi Sub Division of Chamba District of Himachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep will be 22.10.2024.

**CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF HIMALAYAN CULTURE STUDIES**  
 DAHUNG - WEST KAMENG DISTRICT  
 ARUNACHAL PRADESH-790116

**An Autonomous Body of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India**  
**Advt. No. 3-222/2018/CIHCS-01**

Applications are invited in duplicate from eligible candidates for filling up one post of Director, Central Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies (CIHCS), Dahung, West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh.

The eligibility criteria and other details along with the application form may be downloaded from the website of Ministry of Culture: [www.indiaculture.nic.in](http://www.indiaculture.nic.in) and Institute website: [www.cihcs.edu.in](http://www.cihcs.edu.in)

**Administrative cum Accounts Officer CIHCS, Dahung**

**Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts**  
 Cultural Archives & Conservation Division  
 Presents

**15 Day Workshop**  
 on  
**Indigenous Metal-Image Making of 'NANDI'**  
 (On the occasion of Vishwakarma Day)

**Venue**  
 IGNCA, Janpath Building, Janpath, Delhi-110001.

**Duration**  
 Sep 17<sup>th</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> Oct, 2024.

**Email & Phone**  
[ignca.culturalarchives@gmail.com](mailto:ignca.culturalarchives@gmail.com)  
 011-23446553, +91 8368684676

**For further details**  
<https://ignca.gov.in>

**Director (Administration)**

**शोधना तथा वास्तुकला विद्यालय, विजयवाड़ा**  
 School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada  
 An Institute of National Importance, MoE, Govt. of India

**SPECIAL ADMISSION DRIVE 2024**  
**FOR RESERVED CATEGORIES (Walk-in)**  
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PG PROGRAMS OFFERED:

A. DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE  
 (a) Master of Architecture (Sustainable Architecture)  
 (b) Master of Architecture (Landscape Architecture)  
 (c) Master of Architecture (Architectural Conservation)  
 (d) Master of Building Engineering and Management  
 (e) Master of Urban Design  
 (f) Master of Design

B. DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING  
 (a) Master of Planning (Environmental Planning and Management)  
 (b) Master of Planning (Urban and Regional Planning)  
 (c) Master of Planning (Transport Planning)

**Come Join Us**  
 Do your Masters Degree at SPA Vijayawada!

**IMPORTANT DATES**  
 SPECIAL ADMISSION DRIVE  
 Last Date for Registration: 11-09-2024  
 Document Verification: 12-09-2024  
 Interviews & Assessments: 13-09-2024  
 Result: 14-09-2024  
 Physical Joining for Classes: 17-09-2024  
**Admissions for 2024 are Open!!**

For Details of Admissions Process, and to Apply, Visit: [www.spa.ac.in](http://www.spa.ac.in)

**A.P. CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
 Lenin Centre, Government, Vijayawada - 520 002 (A.P.)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

As part of the Construction of Capital City, Amaravati, two tender documents have been submitted to the Judicial Preview Committee for the works

1) "Construction of Amaravati 'HAPPY NEST' Residential Housing Project Consisting of Total 1200 Apartment units in 12 towers of G + 18 Floors Pattern with Sub Structure, RC wall Super Structure using shear wall technique with aluminum formwork, podium, Architectural Finishes, Internal & External Electrical, Plumbing & Sanitary, Landscape, Fire Fighting, Lifts, DG Sets, HVAC, Security Systems, External development and LPG on Item Wise basis (Design Built) including Three (3) Years Defect Liability Period near, Nelapadu, Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh" Estimate Cost: Rs. 930.00 Crores

2) Providing Architectural works, Internal Finishing works, MEPF works, ICT works and External Development works for APCRDA office Building located near seed access road at E3-N11 Junction, Amaravati. Estimate Cost: Rs. 160.00 Crores

All Stakeholders including aspirant bidders and the General Public are requested to provide their advice, comments, remarks and objections, if any to the Judicial Preview Committee through the following online website or email on or before 13.09.2024 upto 03:00 PM. The public can view the tender document <http://judicialpreview.ap.gov.in> & <http://crda.ap.gov.in>. Email ID: [apjudicialpreview@gmail.com](mailto:apjudicialpreview@gmail.com)

Sd/- Commissioner, APCRDA, Vijayawada

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT**  
 (Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India)

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

The National Institute of Disaster Management require the services of suitable officers for filling up the following Group 'A' posts for its Delhi Campus and Southern Campus, Andhra Pradesh on deputation (ISTC) basis:

Name of the post	No. of posts	Pay Level
Assistant Professor	4	10

The details for the above positions and prescribed format for application are available at <https://nidm.gov.in>. The last date to apply is 45 days from publication of the advertisement in the Employment News.

**Executive Director, NIDM**  
 CBC 19107/11/0012/2425

**No. E-29012/1/2023-ESTT-HQ**  
**Brahmaputra Board**  
 Ministry of Jal Shakti, Deptt. of Water Resources, RD & GR Basistha, Guwahati - 29

Dated : 05-09-2024

**PRESS NOTIFICATION**

Last date of receipt of application for various posts invited vide No. E-29012/1/2023-Estt-HQ dated 18-06-2024 for filling up of various posts on deputation basis in Brahmaputra Board, Guwahati-29 is further extended upto 03-10-2024.

The details of eligibility criteria, pay, number of posts, application form etc are available in the Board's website <http://brahmaputraboard.gov.in/>. Interested candidates are requested to visit the website.

Sd/-  
**Under Secretary (E)**  
**Brahmaputra Board**

**BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS**  
 (Department of Consumer Affairs  
 Ministry of Consumer Affairs,  
 Food & Public Distribution,  
 Govt of India)

**Manak Bhawan, 9 Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002**  
**INDICATIVE ADVERTISEMENT NO. 01/2024/ESTT**

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the statutory body under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs), Govt. of India and responsible for activities in the field of Standardization, Product and System Certification, Hallmarking of Gold/Silver Jewellery, Laboratory Testing, etc. in the country, INVITES on-line applications from the ELIGIBLE individuals for filling up of vacancies by DIRECT RECRUITMENT in the following posts at BIS Headquarters, New Delhi and BIS Offices located in the country, as per the details given below:

**1. DETAILS OF VACANCIES**

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Pay Level of the post	Maximum age limit	Total vacancies	UR	EWS	SC	ST	OBC	Horizontal vacancies										
											PwD	ES M								
<b>ADMINISTRATION &amp; FINANCE POSTS</b>																				
<b>GROUP A POSTS (TO BE FILLED UP BY DIRECT RECRUITMENT):</b>																				
1	Assistant Director (Administration & Finance)-For (Finance)	Level-10 (56100-177500)	35 Years	01	-	01	-	-	-	-	-	-								
2	Assistant Director (Marketing & Consumer Affairs)	Level-10 (56100-177500)	35 Years	01	-	-	-	-	01	-	-	-								
3	Assistant Director (Hindi)	Level-10 (56100-177500)	35 Years	01	01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-								
<b>GROUP B POSTS (TO BE FILLED UP BY DIRECT RECRUITMENT):</b>																				
4	Personal Assistant	Level-6 (35400-112400)	30 Years	27	12	02	04	02	07	02	[01 VI, 01 OH]	-								
5	Assistant Section Officer	Level-6 (35400-112400)	30 Years	43	15	05	06	03	14	01	[HI]	-								
6	Assistant (Computer Aided Design)	Level-6 (35400-112400)	30 Years	01	01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-								
<b>GROUP C POSTS (TO BE FILLED UP BY DIRECT RECRUITMENT):</b>																				
7	Stenographer	Level-4 (25500-81100)	27 Years	19	10	02	01	02	04	01	[01VI]	01								
8	Senior Secretariat Assistant	Level-4 (25500-81100)	27 Years	128	58	12	19	05	34	05	[02 HI, 02VI, 01 IDMI]	12								
9	Junior Secretariat Assistant	Level-2(19900-63200)	27 Years	78	32	08	10	06	22	02	[01 HI, 01 IDMI]	07								
<b>LABORATORY TECHNICAL POSTS</b>																				
<b>GROUP B POSTS (TO BE FILLED UP BY DIRECT RECRUITMENT):</b>																				
10	Technical Assistant (Laboratory)	Level-6 (35400-112400)	30 Years	27	16	02	01	04	04	03	[01 VI, 01 HI, 01 IDMI]	-								
<b>Discipline wise vacancies</b>																				
Mechanical													13	07	01	01	02	02	-	-
Chemical													12	07	01	-	02	02	-	-
Microbiology													02	02	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>GROUP C POSTS (TO BE FILLED UP BY DIRECT RECRUITMENT):</b>																				
11	Senior Technician	Level-4 (25500-81100)	27 Years	18	11	01	01	01	04	01	[01 HI]	01								
<b>Discipline wise vacancies</b>																				
Carpenter													07	03	01	01	01	01	-	-
Welder													01	01	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plumber													02	01	-	-	-	01	-	-
Fitter													05	04	-	-	-	01	-	-
Electrician/Wiremen													03	02	-	-	-	01	-	-
12	Technician (Electrician/Wireman)	Level-2 (19900-63200)	27 Years	01	-	-	-	-	01	-	-	-								

**How to apply:**

- Candidates are to apply through online mode only, as such no other mode of applications shall be accepted.
- Online Registration of Applications: From 09 September, 2024 (00:00hrs) to midnight of 30 September, 2024.
- For further details/information regarding qualification, experience, general instructions etc. kindly visit BIS website [www.bis.gov.in](http://www.bis.gov.in) under the heading 'career opportunity'.

Sd/-  
**Dated: 07/09/24**  
**CBC 08103/12/0013/2425**  
**Director (Establishment)**  
**Bureau of Indian Standards**

**Homi Bhabha National Institute**  
 (A Deemed to be University u/s 3 of UGC Act, MHRD & an Aided Institution of the DAE, Govt. of India)  
 2nd Floor, Training School Complex, Anushaktinagar, Mumbai-400094.

**HBNI Advt. No. 02/2024**  
**Applications invited for Research Associates**

HBNI is a deemed to be University, established to meet the human resource requirements in the multidisciplinary areas of nuclear science, engineering and technology. In order to meet research requirements in the specialized areas, HBNI is inviting applications for Research Associate position in the areas listed as given in the detailed advertisement.

The last date for submission of online application is  
**30th September, 2024**

For more details, please visit [www.hbni.ac.in](http://www.hbni.ac.in)

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY**  
 Rashtrapati Nivas, Shimla-171005

Advertisement No.: 002-2024-25

The Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS) Shimla, invites applications for the following from all parts and regions of the country, as well as from abroad:

- FELLOWSHIPS
  - National Fellowship
  - Tagore Fellowship
  - Fellowship
- Proposals to organize workshops/ seminars / symposiums/ Conferences

The interested scholars may submit their applications for the Fellowships online by visiting the Institute website i.e. [www.iias.ac.in](http://www.iias.ac.in) by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

The application form and details for submission of proposal for conducting the Seminars, Workshops etc., is also available on the website of the Institute. For any assistance in the matter, Academic Resource Section of the Institute, may be contacted on 0177-2831385.

**Secretary IIAS, Shimla**

**HOMI BHABHA CENTRE FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION**  
**TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH**  
 National Olympiad Programme 2024-2025  
 in Astronomy, Biology, Chemistry, Physics,  
 Junior Science

All students wishing to participate in the programme must appear in corresponding National Standard Examinations (NSEs) (for science subjects) on **November 23 and 24, 2024**, conducted by the Indian Association of Physics Teachers (IAPT). Qualification in NSE is the first step towards participation in the corresponding International Olympiads of 2025.

To enroll:  
**NSEs: <https://www.iapt.org.in>** (Aug 21 - Sep 14, 2024)  
 For more details: <https://olympiads.hbce.tifr.res.in>  
<https://www.iapt.org.in>

CBC 48143/12/0007/2425

# Hooda, Vinesh in Cong's 1st list of 31 picks for Haryana

## No MP Has Got Green Signal So Far: Babaria

Manvir.Saini@timesofindia.com

Chandigarh: Congress put out its first list of 31 candidates for Haryana polls late Friday, retaining 27 sitting MLAs and naming wrestler Vinesh Phogat among the four new faces in a play-it-safe strategy that seemingly draws on lessons learnt from rival BJP's attempt to rock the boat. AICC separately announced later that sitting Israna MLA Balbir Singh would seek re-election from the reserved constituency.

Legislature party chief Bhupinder Hooda will contest the Garhi Sampla Kiloi seat and PCC president Uday Bhan has been fielded in Hoda. Olympian Phogat, who joined Congress earlier in the day, is the AICC selection panel's pick for Julana.

Participants in the CEC meeting in Delhi included AICC's Haryana incharge



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge with CPP chairperson Sonia Gandhi at the party's central election committee meeting on Friday

Deepak Babaria, screening committee incharge Ajay Maken, Bhupinder and Bhan. Congress has already decided 71 candidates for the 90-seat assembly, sources said. The first list purportedly



comprises the safest names.

After gauging response to the four new names, Congress could release the remainder of the list either Saturday or Sunday. This will be after the party brass takes a decision on its alliance with Aam

Aadmi Party, insiders said. AICC incharge Babaria confirmed that none of the sitting Congress MPs had been considered for the assembly polls. To supporters of those who expected tickets but didn't make it to the first list, he explained the "compulsions" behind the decision.

Ahead of the CEC meeting in New Delhi, Congress brass had a one-on-one each with Kumari Selja, Randeep Surjewala, and former Union minister Birender Singh Doo-markhan. Sources said Surjewala and Selja did not seek tickets, but a family member each could make the cut.

## Congress-AAP alliance talks hit deadlock

New Delhi: Talks between Congress and AAP over a potential alliance in Haryana have stalled, primarily over the allocation of seats. AAP, which appeared more eager for the partnership, is now preparing to contest 50 seats independently. Congress, on the other hand, is reluctant to leave more than 3-4 seats for the Arvind Kejriwal-led party, despite ongoing negotiations.

Congress sources expressed concerns that sharing seats with AAP could harm the party's prospects, especially in regions like Kurukshetra, where both parties have strong contenders. The party fears that an unsuccessful alliance could benefit BJP, as seen in previous polls.

Despite these challenges, AAP MP Raghav Chadha remained optimistic, stating that efforts are still underway to finalise alliance for benefit of Haryana and country. **TNN**

## 'In a democracy anyone can join politics': BJP on wrestlers' move

Akhilesh.Singh@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Treading cautiously, BJP on Friday downplayed wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia joining Congress and said that in a democracy anyone can join politics. BJP brass, sources said, was of the view that the case against former WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who was dropped as party's candidate from Kaiserganj LS seat, was sub judice and its merit should not be questioned based on political leanings of the wrestlers even as the two were at forefront of the campaign.

BJP netas recalled that PM Modi gave instructions to IOA officials to take all measures to fight the case against IOC decision to disqualify Phogat from medal race at Paris Olympics as they reassured that sports & politics shouldn't be "mixed"

## Will campaign against Phogat, Punia if party wants me to: BBSS

Hours after wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia joined Congress, former BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh said he would take any opportunity given by his party to campaign against the duo if they decided to enter the electoral ring in Haryana, reports **Pathikrit Chakraborty**. Bhushan, who was the WFI chief when Phogat and Punia joined fellow Olympian Sakshi Malik and others in an agitation demanding his removal and prosecution for alleged sexual harassment, iterated that the protest was part of a Congress conspiracy.

and that anyone willing to join politics was welcome.

BJP MP Sambit Patra refused to make any direct comment on the wrestlers joining Congress, saying anybody can join any political party in a democratic country. He further said, "Your question that somewhere or the other they indulged in politics, I would not like to answer. But, yes people, media and intellectuals will ask this question."

Haryana BJP neta Anil Vij, however, took a dig at Vinesh over joining Congress. "Agar woh desh ki beti sey Congress ki beti banna chahti hai, to hamen kya etraaz hai," he added.

# Shah: J&K's statehood will be restored in due course

Continued from P1

I want to ask Rahul Gandhi if he and his party want revival of terrorism, separatism in J&K? Does Rahul support restoration of two flags and Article 370? He won't answer. But I want to state here that Rahul is very much in support of the NC manifesto," Shah said.

On restoration of statehood to J&K, Shah said as home minister he had promised on the floor of Parliament that statehood would be granted to J&K at an appropriate time after state polls.

"Why demand something that has already been accepted," Shah said, adding that it would be restored in due course after assembly polls. PM Modi, in an interview in May, had said restoring J&K's statehood was a solemn promise and he stood by it.

Responding to NC's promise to restore Article 370, Shah said, "The agenda of NC cannot get implemented on the ground. Article 370 is the past. It is history. Nobody can bring it back." On the possibility of talks with Pakistan, Shah said talks and terror couldn't go together. "We will talk to the youth of Kashmir, not Pakistan unless Pakistan stops terrorism," he said. Replying to a query whether trade



Amit Shah at the launch of BJP's manifesto for J&K polls on Friday

could be started with Pakistan, he said trade set the base for terrorism. "So, no question of trade with Pakistan till terrorism is there," he said.

BJP also promised to conduct census to ensure proper decision making, focusing on inclusive development, with targeted interventions for marginalised communities.



Shah promised further development under BJP, with plans to build 10,000 km of roads and a Metro system if the party was voted into office. The party has promised 20% quota to Agniveers in J&K govt jobs and police recruitment, and will follow the J&K reservation policy without affecting the general quota.

"Tourism will be a key focus," Shah said, announcing plans to turn Rajouri into a premier tourist destination. "We will work to restore the beauty of Dal Lake and develop new attractions, including an amusement park at Tota Ground in Srinagar," he said.

Shah also underscored BJP's commitment to women's empowerment, asserting that the party's manifesto was designed to benefit all sections of society in J&K.

The party has promised to undertake reconstruction of Hindu temples and shrines under 'Rishi Kashyap Pilgrimage Rejuvenation Drive' under which 100 ruined temples will be restored. It also vowed to work for rehabilitation of displaced Hindus and a concerted drive to address illegal Rohingya & Bangladeshi settlements in the region.

## Rlys notices to wrestlers over political meets

New Delhi: Railway sources said showcase notices were served to Olympians Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia Wednesday after there was evidence of the wrestler duo "meeting political leaders and reports of their likelihood of joining a national political party and contesting elections".

The two wrestlers joined Congress on Friday. Two days ago, they met Rahul Gandhi and photos of the Olympians with the LoP was widely covered by national media. A Northern Railway official said that following reports that the duo would join Congress, a notice was issued to them on Sept 4. "They were asked to clarify their stand because being govt employees, joining a party amounts to the violation of service rule," he added. However, both the wrestlers resigned from service on Friday. **TNN**

## When we were being dragged on roads, BJP backed BBSS: Vinesh

Continued from P1

The wrestlers said they "will not be scared or back off" and will carry on their struggle. The duo met Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge at his house.

Venugopal complained that Railways Friday issued a showcase notice to Vinesh for meeting Rahul Gandhi even though she has resigned from her job. He said the country stands with the Olympian wrestlers and the govt should relieve her from her duties without delay, and "not play politics".

Thanking Congress, Vinesh said, "It is in tough times that one comes to know about well-wishers. When we were dragged on roads, all parties except BJP stood with us and associated with our pain." BJP, she said, in-

## Their personal choice, says Sakshi Malik

With Olympians Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat joining Congress Friday, Olympic medalist wrestler **Sakshi Malik** said the move was solely the personal choice of the two athletes and that she herself won't be taking a political plunge as she wanted to further the cause of women in wrestling. "I also got several political offers," Malik said, adding that she refused to take them up because she says she "believes in staying true to my fight for women in wrestling." "From my end, the agitation continues... Unless the Wrestling Federation is cleaned and the exploitation of women ends, my fight will continue," she said. **ANI**

stead chose to support Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, then MP and WFI chief against whom they had levelled sexual harassment charges.

Bajrang urged the country to review their support for BJP, "which is harassing women, farmers, jawans".

With their political plunge coming in the backdrop of the Haryana polls,

Bajrang and Vinesh left no doubt that BJP is their target. While Vinesh refused to comment if her disqualification in Olympics was part of a "conspiracy" and said she would speak on the "emotional issue" after some time, Bajrang said the entire country was sad when Vinesh was stripped of final match but BJP IT cell chose to celebrate.

## SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a female namely **Manisha Rathi**, W/o Vikas Taank, R/o: H.No-108, Vill- Pochampur, Sec-23, Dwarka Delhi has been missing since 30.08.2024 at about 11:00 AM from her home. In this regard DD No. 11 A, Dated 31.08.2024 has been registered at P.S. Sec 2-3 Dwarka, Delhi. The description of missing female is as under:

Name: Manisha Rathi, Age: 32 Years, Height: 5'1", Complexion: Fair, Built: Medium, Face: Round, Wearing: Light Blue Top, Blue Jeans.

If anyone have any information about this missing female please inform P.S. Sec 2-3 Dwarka, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO  
Police Station Sec 2-3 Dwarka, Delhi  
DP/11654/DW/2024 Ph: 011-28051584, 8750871021

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that a unidentified dead body of a male namely **Unknown**, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown found dead on 03.09.2024 at about 03:00 PM Rohtak road near under pass towards Shivaji Park, Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi. In this regard DD No. 52A, dated 03.09.2024 has been lodged at Police Station Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi. Identification of unidentified male is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: About 35 Years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Face: Long, Wearing: Dark Green Colour Shirt and Lower.

If anyone have any information or clue about this male may kindly be inform undersigned.

SHO  
P.S. Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi  
DP/11845/WD/2024 Ph.: 8750871124, 8287641531

## SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one Female (depicted in the photo) namely **ARTI** W/o Raj Kumar, R/o H.No.-18, Street No.-2, Partap Vihar, Ranhola, Delhi, Age-31 Years, has been reported missing since 30.08.2024 at about 12.20 PM from her Residence vide, DD No. 0085A, Dated 02.09.2024, registered at Police Station Ranhola, Outer Dist., Delhi-110041. Her physical description is as under:

Sex: Female, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'0", Built: Medium, Face: Round, Clothing: Green Suit and Green Sandal on her feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing female but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing female, please inform to the following.

SHO,  
Police Station Ranhola, Outer Dist., Delhi-110041  
DP/11891/OD/2024 Ph.: 011-28060014, 9868558886

## SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Mamta D/o Lakhnan R/o** H.No. Jhuggi No.25, Kanhaiya Nagar Sabji Mandi, Delhi has been kidnapping/missing from her house 25.08.2024 at 9:30 AM. In this regard a FIR No. 497/24 U/s 137(2) BNS dated 25.08.2024 has been lodged at PS: Keshav Puram, Delhi. The description of kidnapped girl is as under:

Name: Mamta, Father's Name : Lakhnan, Age : 17 years, Height : 4'6", Face : Round, Complexion : Shallow, Built : Meadium, Wearing : Pink Color Frak and Pajama. If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>  
e-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph. : 011-24368638/24368641 SHO  
Extn.-210 P.S., Keshav Puram, Delhi  
Fax: 011-24368639 DP/11379/NW/2024 Ph. : 011-27181325, 8750870223

## SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a female namely **Monika**, D/o: Vinod, R/o: HNO-629, T.Camp, Krishna Colony, Uttam Nagra New Delhi has been missing since 29.08.2024 at about 10:00 AM from her home. In this regard DD No. 402/24A, dated 29.08.2024, has been lodged at Police Station Uttam Nagar, New Delhi. The description of missing female is as under:

Name: Monika, Age: 17 Years 10 month, Height: 5', Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Wearing: White Colour Suit & Black Salwar and Hawai Sleepers in Feet.

If anyone has any information about this missing female please inform P.S. Uttam Nagar, New Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO  
Police Station, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi  
DP/11645/DW/2024 Ph: 011-25377425, 8750871026

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Sunaina D/o Brijesh Kumar R/o** Vill Sisahi, PS Rasulabad, Distt. Kanpur, UP Aged-14 Years 5 Months has been reported missing/kidnapped since 10.07.2024 at about 7:00 AM from Old Delhi Railway Station vide FIR No.74/24 Dated 04.09.2024 u/s 137(2) BNS registered at Police Station Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Fair, Height: 5', Face: Round, Built: Thin, Clothing: White coloured Top, Blue Coloured Jeans and Printed Dupatta.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi at E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
SHO, Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi  
Tel. No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 Station, Delhi  
FAX No. : 011-24368639 Tel.: 011-23961522  
DP/11858/RLY/2024 Mob.: 8750871302

## SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that this man (depicted in the photo) namely: **Raman**, S/o: Dinesh Singh Rana, R/o: Purane Bank wali gali, Rithala Village, Delhi has been kidnapped/Missing from his residence since 02.09.2024 at 12.00 p.m. In this regard a missing report case vide DD No.18A/2024 dated 03.09.2024 has been registered at P.S Budh Vihar, Delhi.

His Physical description is as under:-  
Sex: Male, Age: 28 Years, Height: 5'8", Complexion: Fair, Built: Fat, Face: Round, Wearing: Sky Blue Color Shirt, Pant and Shoes.

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

SHO  
P.S Budh Vihar, Delhi  
Phone: 011-28911393  
DP/11873/RD/2024

## Appeal for Identification

General public is hereby informed that one person namely: **Sanjay**, S/o: Sh. Mohan Lal, R/o: Jamuna Bazar, Hanuman Mandir, Kashmere Gate, Delhi, Age: About 60 Yrs., Height: 5'7", Sex: Male, Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Normal, Face: Oval, Wearing: Without cloth, was found in unhealthy condition on Footpath at Jamuna Bazar, Hanuman Mandir, Kashmere Gate, Delhi, who died during the treatment at LNJP Hospital, Delhi. The dead body of deceased has been preserved for 72 hours in LNJP Hospital Mortuary for identification.

In this regard DD No. 104A, Dated 02.09.2024 has been registered at Police Station: Kashmere Gate, Delhi. Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

SHO  
P.S.: Kashmere Gate, Delhi  
Ph.: 8750870123, 8010809083  
DP/11903/N/2024

## SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that this woman (depicted in the photo) namely: **Shivani**, W/o: Avdesh, R/o: H.No.C-22, Gali No.8, Panchal Vihar, Karawal Nagar, Delhi has been kidnapped/Missing from the area of P.S. Karawal Nagar since 23.08.2024. In this regard a missing report case vide DD No.76A dated 26.08.2024 has been registered at P.S Karawal Nagar, Delhi.

Her Physical description is as under:-  
Sex: Female, Age: 24 Years, Height: 4'9", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Black Color Suit & Salwar and Slipper.

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

SHO  
P.S Karawal Nagar, Delhi  
Phone: 9205832616, 9650535871  
DP/11729/NE/2024

## SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a female namely **Jhalak**, W/o: Vinod Kumar, R/o: Ward No 78 Vill 2<sup>nd</sup> Ganga Nagar has been missing since 31.08.2024 at about 06:00 AM from Railway Station, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 43 A, dated 31.08.2024, has been lodged at Police Station Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. The description of missing female is as under:

Name: Jhalak, Age: 19 Years, Height: 5', Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Identification Mark: Left Eye brow Til Mark, Wearing: Orange Colour Saree.

If anyone has any information about this missing female please inform P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, New Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO  
Police Station, Old Delhi Railway Station Delhi  
DP/11723/RLY/2024 Ph: 011-23961522, 8750871302

## SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is hereby informed that this girl namely **Saniya** D/o Irfan R/o H. No. 373 W 66, Krishna Colony, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi Age: 17 years, Height: 5', Built: Medium, Face: Oval, Complexion: Wheatish, wearing white T-shirt & plazo and chappal in feet has been missing since 31.07.2024 from her house. In this regard a FIR No. 339/2024 dated 31.07.2024 has been lodged at P.S. Uttam Nagar, New Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing girl may kindly inform to the following.  
SHO:  
E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) P.S. Uttam Nagar, New Delhi,  
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Ph. : 011-25377425, 9205634763,  
8750871026, 8802783796  
Fax: 24368638, 24368641  
Tel.: 24368638/24368641  
DP/11882/DW/2024

## SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one Girl (depicted in the photo) namely **KHUSHI** D/o Prem Singh, R/o H.No.-75, Street No.-6, E-Block, Ph.-3, Shiv Vihar, Karawal Nagar, Delhi-94, Age-19 Years, has been reported missing since 25.08.2024 at about 4.00 PM from her Residence vide, DD No. 50A, Dated 31.08.2024, registered at Police Station Karawal Nagar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:

Sex: Female, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 4'9", Built: Thin, Face: Round, Clothing: Red Suit & Pajami and Slipper on her feet.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing girl, please inform to the following.  
SHO,  
Police Station Karawal Nagar, Delhi  
Ph.: 9205832616, 9971553374  
DP/11923/NE/2024

**NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORT CORPORATION LTD.**  
(A JV of Govt. of India and participating State Governments)

**Notice Inviting Bid**  
E-Tender Notice Tender ID: 2024\_NCRCT\_205796\_1

Online Bids are invited for Construction of Public Toilet Blocks at Anand Vihar, Bhaisali, Meerut South and Begumpal RRTS Stations of Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS Corridor.

For detailed information and subsequent addendum/corrigendum (if any), please visit NCRCT website [www.ncrtc.in](http://www.ncrtc.in) or CPP Portal [www.etenders.gov.in](http://www.etenders.gov.in) from 07.09.2024 to 08.10.2024 (upto 1500 hrs.).  
Sd/- GGM/Procurement

**IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED**  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**  
Ref. No.: IRCON/BD/Dhansiri-Naogan/EOI/2024 Dt. 06.09.2024

Expression of Interest (EOI) invited for association as sub-contractor through pre-bid tie up (Only for Civil Work) from Experienced Agencies for "Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract Agreement for Doubling of Track between Dhansiri (Including) (km 241.000) to Naogan stations (Excluding) (km 285.860) (excluding) Dimapur yard from km 259.062 to km 260.782+1.72 Km (Total Length- 43.140 Kms) including Electrification & Signaling works in connection with Lunding - Tinsukia Jn - Dibrugarh doubling project of Northeast Frontier Railway in the state of Assam".

For further details and updates, please visit tender section on IRCON's website [www.ircon.org](http://www.ircon.org) & [www.etenders.gov.in](http://www.etenders.gov.in). Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted on the website only.  
General Manager / Business Development

**RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED**  
**Notice Inviting Bid**

Online bids are invited for Supply and installation of IT hardware in RVPN with warranty support services for a period of 5 years upto to 06:00 PM on 21.10.2024.

Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>) of the state; and <http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvpnl> departmental website.  
(BN-9024002407 & UBN: VFN2425GLOB01304)

Supervising Engineer (MIS & IT), Jaipur  
Raj.Samwad/C/24/4809 RRVN/TR-6338/2024

**RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, KARNATAKA**  
4th 'T' Block, Jayanagara, Bengaluru - 560 041.  
Ph No.080-26961928 Fax-080-26961929

**No:RGU/ENG/WF/15/2024 Date: 05.09.2024**

**E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (RFP)**

The Registrar, Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Invites tender for Construction of Regional Centre along with Skill Labs, Research Labs and Indoor Sports Facilities for RGUHS at Mangaluru. More details on the tender are provided in the attached Terms of Reference. (Tender Reference Number: RGUHSK/2023-24/BD/Work\_Indent/Call-2)

Tender document available for download	05/09/2024
Last date and time for Tender Queries/Clarification	11/09/2024 16:30 Hrs
Pre Bid meeting	12/09/2024 12:30 Hrs
Last date & time for receipt of Tenders	23/09/2024 17:30 Hrs
Date & time for Opening of Technical Bid	25/09/2024 11:30 Hrs
Date & time for Opening of Financial Bid	As per kppp Portal

More details can be fetched from website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>.  
Sd/- REGISTRAR  
DIPR/Spectrum/1863/2024-25

**GHAZIABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
Navyug Market, Opp. Old Bus Stand Ghaziabad 201001, UP  
E-mail: [gzb.nagar.nigam@gmail.com](mailto:gzb.nagar.nigam@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.ghaziabadnagarnigam.in](http://www.ghaziabadnagarnigam.in)

निविदा नोटिस संख्या: 668/स्वा/2024-25 दिनांक: 06.09.2024

**E-Tender**

Name of the Project	Selection of Monitoring, Performance Improvement & Technical Support Unit at Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation (GMC)
Date of Publication of e-Bid notice	07.09.2024 on e-Tender Portal <a href="https://etender.up.nic.in">https://etender.up.nic.in</a>
Last date for submission of eBids on eTender portal	18-09-2024 2:00 P.M.
Pre Bid Meeting Date & venue	NA
Site for Submission of e-Bids	eTender Portal <a href="https://etender.up.nic.in">https://etender.up.nic.in</a>
eBid Inviting Officer	Municipal Commissioner, Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation
Date of Opening of Technical eBids	18-09-2024 4:00 P.M.
Date of Opening of Financial e-Bids	To be informed at a later stage
Venue of Opening of eBids	Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation Navyug Market, Opp-Old Bus Stand Ghaziabad, -201001 (UP)
Contact addresses	Municipal Health Officer (Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam) Phone: 8178016808 Email: <a href="mailto:gzb.nagar.nigam@gmail.com">gzb.nagar.nigam@gmail.com</a>
Consortium:	Not allowed
Tender Fee:	Rs. 10,000 + 18% GST Total 11,800/- to be paid on E-tender website i.e. <a href="https://etender.up.nic.in">https://etender.up.nic.in</a>
EMD:	Rs. 3,00,000/- to be paid on E-tender website i.e. <a href="https://etender.up.nic.in">https://etender.up.nic.in</a>

Tender Inviting Authority  
Municipal Commissioner  
Municipal Corporation Ghaziabad

**PIMPRI CHINCHWAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
**CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**  
**TENDER NOTICE No: - CIVIL/H HO/16/01/2024-2025**

Offers by way of e-tendering (Percentage) are invited by the City Engineer, Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation from contractors in e-tendering system for following works.

- The contractor shall quote his Percentage offer on the Cost of work excluding material testing charges as mentioned below.
- The offer for work shall be exclusive of GST. The GST at the applicable rate shall be paid separately by PCMC for work
- Regarding the Royalty, the policy that the corporation determines will be binding on you.

Sr. No	Name of work	Estimated cost put to the Tender (Rs) (4+6)	Cost of Work excluding Material testing Charges (Rs)	Royalty (Rs)	Material Testing Charges (Rs)	Earnest Money (Rs)	Security Deposit (Rs)	Time limit in calendar Months	Cost of Tender Document +With GST (Non Refundable) (Rs)
1	Proposed upgradation work of 5th Floor of YCM Hospital as per M.C.A. norms, at Ward no. 20, Sant Tukaram Nagar, P.C.M.C.	78,627,091	78,480,513	79,303	67,275	393,135	3,931,360	12	22,523

**Time table for the tenders shall be as follows:**

Online sale of tenders	-	Date- 09/09/2024 to Date 18/09/2024
Last date of submission of tenders	-	Date - 18/09/2024 up to 3.00 pm
Pre Bid Meeting Date and Time	-	Date - 13/09/2024 at 3.00 pm
Place of Pre Bid Meeting	-	Office of City Engineer, 1st Floor, PCMC Main Building Pimpri, Pune - 411018
Date of opening of tenders	-	Date - 19/09/2024 at 3.00 pm (if possible)

The Municipal Commissioner PCMC reserves the right to accept or reject any tender partially or completely without any reason thereof. The details of above works, such as Security Deposit, Earnest Money Deposit, Terms & Conditions of the Tender and Schedule of works, are available on web site [www.pcmcindia.gov.in](http://www.pcmcindia.gov.in), <http://mahatenders.gov.in>. In case of any technical problem related to the tender document, the same can be referred to the NIC email support at [eproc@nic.in](mailto:eproc@nic.in) or on telephone numbers 0120-4200462, 0120-4001002, 0120-4001005, 0120-627787.

ADVT No: 157  
No: ENGG/12/WS/572/2024  
Date :- 06/09/2024

Sd/-  
City Engineer,  
Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation,  
Pimpri - 411 018.

**KOLHAPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, KOLHAPUR**  
(Maharashtra)  
**Tender Notice No.50 (Workshop Dept.)**

Kolhapur Municipal Corporation wishes to invite tenders for APPOINTMENT OF AGENCY FOR SUPPLY, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF MULTIPURPOSE SPRAYER AND DUST SUPPRESSION VEHICLE. The tender has to be submitted as E-Tender through [www.mahatenders.gov.in](http://www.mahatenders.gov.in)

Tenders from Dt. 07/09/2024 to 27/09/2024 till 3.30 pm. Tenders will be accepted only through E- tendering system. Detailed tender notice, terms, conditions, etc. information can be seen to [www.mahatenders.gov.in](http://www.mahatenders.gov.in)  
Sd/-  
City Engineer  
Kolhapur Municipal Corporation

**TOURISM CORPORATION OF GUJARAT LIMITED (TCGL)**  
(A Government of Gujarat undertaking)  
Udyog Bhavan, Block No. 16, 4th Floor,  
Sector - 11, Gandhinagar - 382 011  
Website: <https://www.gujarattourism.com>

**TENDER NOTICE**

Bids are invited from reputed and experienced agencies towards "Selection of an Agency for Overall Development, Operation and Management of Rann Utsav Destination at Dhordo, Kutch, Gujarat".

The project requirements, technical specifications, eligibility criteria, selection process, etc. are included in the Tender documents, which shall be available for download from the websites: <https://tender.nprocure.com/> and <https://www.gujarattourism.com> from 09/09/2024 onwards.

The last date for submission of Technical and Financial Bid (online), as well as the Technical Bid (physical), is 17/09/2024, on or before 3:00 pm.  
Managing Director

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग वृत्त डूंगरपुर  
क्रमांक : टी.एम./ निविदा फॉर्म/2024-25/1116-24 दिनांक : 30/08/24

निविदा सूचना संख्या - 01 /2024-25  
NIB Code :- PWD2425A1417

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय को और से विभिन्न सड़क व पुल निर्माण कार्यों में पंच पंच कि मरम्मत एवं संभारण को अर्थात् वि.पु. उ.पु.क श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार, केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों / केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग / डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग / रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपर्युक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हों, से कार्य हेतु ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से निविदा प्रारंभ से कुल 8 कार्य विज्ञानों को कृत लागू करने के 2022.07 तक हेतु, प्राप्त की जायेगी। निविदा से संबंधित विवरण वगैरह हेतु <http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in> व <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है। कार्यवार यू.पी.ए. संख्या निम्नानुसार है :-

NIB Code No.:	PWD2425A1417	
UBN No.:	1. PWD2425WSOB05101	2. PWD2425WSOB05108
	3. PWD2425WSOB05110	4. PWD2425WSOB05113
	5. PWD2425WSOB05123	6. PWD2425WSOB05124
	7. PWD2425WSOB05125	8. PWD2425WSOB05126

Sd/-  
(अभिनेत पायल)  
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता  
सार.नि.वि. वृत्त डूंगरपुर  
DIPRC/8337/2024

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता  
12वां वृत्त, लो०नि०वि०, पौडी  
Office of The Superintending Engineer,  
12th Circle, P.W.D. Pauri  
Phone No. 01368-222322 E-mail: [sepwda@nic.in](mailto:sepwda@nic.in)

पत्रांक- 4502/141 यत्त-12/2023-24 दिनांक- 06.09.2024

**शुद्धि-पत्र**

इस कार्यालय के पत्र संख्या 4338/141yata 12/2023-24 date 22.08.2024 द्वारा ई-टेंडर के माध्यम से ऑन लाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की गई थी, जो कि दिनांक 09.09.2024 से ऑन लाईन अपलोड होनी थी, में अपरिहार्य कारणों से संशोधन करते हुए उक्त निविदा को दिनांक 15.10.2024 से ऑन लाईन प्रदर्शित किया जायेगा।  
शेष शर्तें पूर्व तः रहेंगी।

(डॉ० पी०एस० बुजवाल)  
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता  
12वां वृत्त, लो.नि.वि., पौडी

**म.प्र. राज्य सहकारी विपणन संघ मर्या.**  
जहांगीराबाद, भोपाल, पिन कोड - 462008

**मूंग (साबुत) विक्रय के लिये अत्यावधि ऑफर आमंत्रण सूचना**

रबी सीजन 2022-23 (विपणन वर्ष 2023-24) की मात्रा लगभग 146846 मी. टन एवं वर्ष 2024 (विपणन वर्ष 2024-25) की मात्रा लगभग 249110 मी. टन राज्य शासन खाते भंडारित ग्रीष्मकालीन मूंग (साबुत) का विक्रय सेवाप्रदाता पोर्टल NCDEX E-MARKET LTD. (NEML) पर ई-नीलामी द्वारा किया जाएगा। ई-नीलामी की कार्यवाही सेवाप्रदाता पोर्टल पर दिनांक 18.09.24 से निविदा रूप से प्रारंभ की जाएगी। इच्छुक क्रेता अधिकृत सेवाप्रदाता पोर्टल पर पंजीयन कराकर ई-नीलामी प्रक्रिया में भाग ले सकेंगे।

ई-नीलामी की शर्तें विपणन संघ की वेबसाइट [www.mpmarkfed.gov.in](http://www.mpmarkfed.gov.in) पर एवं सेवाप्रदाता पोर्टल के माध्यम से अवलोकन कर सकेंगे। ई-नीलामी शर्तों से संबंधित सभी संशोधन आदि की सूचना केवल विपणन संघ की वेबसाइट पर ही दर्शित होगी।  
म.प्र. माध्यम/116312/2024 प्रबंध संचालक

**OFFICE OF THE ADDL.CHIEF ENGINEER P.W.D. ZONE TONK**  
क्रमांक :- कैरियर/24-25/डी-2156-2165 दिनांक : 03.09.2024

**Notice Inviting Bid**  
02/2024-25

Bids for Nit No 02/2024-25, (Road works Pkg.) 4 Nos. are invited from interested bidders upto Date 24.09.2024, 06.00 P.M. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state, and - departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 5315.71 Lacs

NIB code	PWD2425A1394
UBN	PWD2425WLOB05024
UBN	PWD2425WLOB05026
UBN	PWD2425WLOB05028
UBN	PWD2425WLOB05029

Sd/-  
(Chandan Singh)  
Addl. Chief Engineer  
P.W.D, Zone Tonk  
DIPRC/8297/2024

**CAD-1073 BIJU PATTANAİK**  
**FILM & TV. INSTITUTE OF ORISSA,**  
(An Autonomous Institution of Government of Odisha)  
BOSE Campus, Cuttack-753 007, Odisha  
Email- [info@bpfio.ac.in](mailto:info@bpfio.ac.in)

**National Competitive Bidding No.1042**

Sealed BIDs are invited from reputed manufacturers /authorised dealers / distributors / suppliers / firms for supply of different Equipment for training & practice of the students. Complete BID documents and terms can be downloaded from the website: [www.bpfio.ac.in](http://www.bpfio.ac.in)

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any part or all the BIDs without assigning any reason thereof.  
Sd/-  
Director (I/C)  
OIPR-11058/110001/24-25

**TENDER NOTICE**  
Directorate of Archaeology and Museums,  
Government of Gujarat, Ahilekhagaar Bhavan,  
Sector-17, Gandhinagar

The Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Gujarat is inviting interested Bidders to participate in the bidding process for the "Rectification of floor settlement and related works at Dandi kutir, Gandhinagar, Gujarat".

Please note that the Tender Documents can be downloaded from 06th September 2024 on the website <https://tender.nprocure.com>. Further the last date of submission of the Bid (online) is 27th September 2024 by 17:00 hrs. The last date for submission of Bid in hard copy is 30th September 2024 by 18:00 hrs. For further detail please contact 079-23256730/40.  
Director,  
INF/959/24-25  
Directorate of Archaeology & Museums

**RESEARCH DESIGNS & STANDARDS ORGANISATION, LUCKNOW**  
**E-OGT Notice No. : 03245002/171**

Executive Director/Stores on behalf of President of India invites Open-Global Tender (Single Packet System) by this office as follows-

S N	Tender No.	Brief Description	QTY.	Tender Closing Date/ Opening of Tender
1	2	3	4	5
1	03245002	Renewal of Vehicle Dynamics Software (NUCARS) for 05 years.	02 Nos.	07/10/2024 (Monday)

For complete details of tender conditions and Corrigendum issued in tender, if any please visit IREPS website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
Executive Director/Stores/RDISO/Lucknow

**KALYAN SINGH SUPER SPECIALTY CANCER INSTITUTE**  
C. G. City, Sultanpur Road, Lucknow-226002  
Website: <https://cancerinstitute.edu.in>, Email: [procurement.kssci@gmail.com](mailto:procurement.kssci@gmail.com)

**TENDER NOTICE**

On-line offers are invited through GeM Bidding/Bidding From Manufacturer/Direct Importers/Authorized distributors/Dealers/Accredited Agents for the supply and installation of equipments for various departments of the institute such as Medical Record Forms/Certificates/Registers.

The vendors are required to submit their offers on GeM portal only in two bid system i.e. Technical and Financial Bid as per terms and conditions of bid document.

For Detailed information like Name of Equipment, Date of Submission and opening of bid etc. You may please visit the Gem Portal. The list of equipment will also be available on our website- <https://cancerinstitute.edu.in> for reference only. The offer will be accepted On-line only on GeM portal with terms and conditions as mentioned against each bid.

The Director reserves the right to accept or reject any tender in part or full without assigning any reason thereof. In case any legal dispute: the legal jurisdiction shall be court of law at Lucknow (UP), India.  
Advt No. KSSCI/PRO-04/2024-25  
Director

**PRAYAGRAJ MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**  
1, SAROJINI NAIDU MARG, CIVIL LINES,  
PRAYAGRAJ UP-211001

**Short Notice Inviting E-Tender- Selection of Agency/ Agencies For Conceptualisation, Designing, Construction and Maintenance of various Out-door Digital Advertisement Infrastructures and Management of Advertisement Right in Prayagraj Nagar Nigam Area.**

Prayagraj Municipal Corporation Invites Bid of Tender no-1/L/0/2024-25 "Selection of Agency for Conceptualisation, Designing, Construction and Maintenance of Out-door Digital (LED wall/Digital Stand/Backlit/Water ATM) Advertisement Infrastructures and Management of Advertisement Right in Prayagraj Nagar Nigam Area". The request for proposal documents shall be made available on the Uttar Pradesh E-Procurement website <https://etender.up.nic.in> on 09.09.2024. Interested parties may download/upload their proposal from 16:30 hrs 09.09.2024 till 1200 hrs 30.09.2024 Via Digital Signature Certificate (DSC). The bids received from interested parties shall be opened in the presence of the respective bidders at 1500 hrs on 30.09.2024 Details regarding the tender shall be made available on <https://etender.up.nic.in>.

Additional Municipal Commissioner  
Prayagraj Municipal Corporation

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
Tender Notice No. - 8720242025 Dated: 04.09.2024

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering)/ North Central Railway/ Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-TENDERS by Two Packet System on prescribed form for the following work up to 13.30 hrs. on 27.09.2024 The details of the Tender are as under:-

Tender No. : 198	Approx Cost of work (Rs.) : 10,47,71,132.91
Name of work : TSR(P) Work with PQRS in TDL-GZB Section Under Sr. DENVI/PRYJ	
Earnest Money (Rs.) : 6,73,900.00	Completion Period : 14 Months
Date of Opening of tender : 27.09.2024	
Eligibility Criteria For similar work : Any P.Way Work	

**Bid Capacity Required :-** NO. (1) E-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenders. (2) The complete information along with tender document of above E-TENDERS by Two Packet System is available on Website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) upto 13:30 hrs. on the due date of tender opening i.e., 27-09-2024. (3) Tender offer shall be made on line through Two Packet System. (4) Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. (5) Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form / letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. (6) The tenders shall submit a certificate as given in tender document in standard format, without which their tender may not be considered and shall be summarily rejected. (7) The supplier / contractor of goods and / or services would be subject to GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time. (8) Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. (9) This tender notice has also been uploaded on [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in). In case of any difficulty helpline available on the website of IREPS may be approached. (10) The tenderer has to submit necessary documents in compliance of clause 10 to 18 (Part-I) of GCC July 2022 mandatorily, otherwise offer will be considered as incomplete offer and accordingly shall not be considered. 1568/24 (AS)

North central railways @ [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in) @ CPRONCR

**TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI**  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, TTD, TIRUPATI DIST. A.P.

**TENDER NOTICE**  
ADV No.20/D3/CE/TTD/2024-25 & NIT No.105/SE-II & 21/SE-III/TTD/2024-25, Dt. 05/09/2024

Name of Works: (1) Providing galleries at North West corner of mada streets in open space at Tirumala, Amount Rs.525 Lakhs, Time for completion 12 months.  
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TTD-40021(31)/1/2024-PRO SEC (Adv. No. 137), Date: 06-09-2024  
Sd/- Executive Officer

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**E-TENDER CORRIGENDUM**

"Repairing of 01 No. 40 MVA 132/33 kV IMP make Transformer at 132 KV Sub-Station, Chudiyala" against e-tender specification No.CE/GZR-02/2024-25 is hereby extended. The last date of submission of online offline e-tender is 07.10.2024 upto 15:00 hrs which shall be opened on 08.10.2024 at 15:00 hrs. Details of e-tender can be obtained from e-tender website [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) and information of e-tender can be seen from PTCUL website [www.ptcul.org](http://www.ptcul.org). All other terms and conditions shall remain same. For any assistance on e-tendering, please contact on Mb. No.+91-88989890000.  
CHIEF ENGINEER (O&M)  
Dated: 05/09/2024  
No. 1361/CE(O&M)/GZR/Adv. "SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF NATION"

IN THE COURT OF SH. BHUPESH KUMAR, DISTRICT JUDGE (COMM. COURT-05) ROOM NO.22, BLOCK-1, SOUTH-EAST DISTRICT, SAKET COURTS, NEW DELHI.  
**NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION (ORDER 5, Rule 20 of the CPC.)**

CS (COMM) No. 638/2023  
AXIS BANK LTD. VS MM TRADERS Plaintiff. Defendants.  
TO, 1. MM Traders 252, First Floor, Nehru Market, Near Durga Mandir, Badapur, South Delhi, New Delhi-110044. Mobile No. 9810488281, Email: [mohit.mehta@mmtraders.us](mailto:mohit.mehta@mmtraders.us)  
2. Mohit Mehta S/o Prem Kumar, R/o 252, First Floor, Nehru Market, Near Durga Mandir, Badapur, South Delhi, New Delhi-110044. Also At - Shop No. 148, Lal Kuan Near Primary School, M B Road, South East Delhi, New Delhi-110044. Mobile No. 9810488281, EMAIL: [mohit.mehta@mmtraders.us](mailto:mohit.mehta@mmtraders.us).

Whereas Plaintiff has instituted that about SUIT FOR RECOVERY against the defendants. You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person or by a pleader on the 24TH day of SEPTEMBER 2024, at 10:00 O' clock, to answer the same, failing which the Suit will be disposed of ex-parte. Given under my hand and the seal of the court, this 27th MAY, 2024 to be published in English Newspaper 'THE TIMES OF INDIA'.  
NOTE: Defendant is informed to file WS within a period of 30 days from the date of receipt of summons with advance copy to the plaintiff and filling of WS in commercial suit in 120 days period is mandatory and no extension can be granted.  
DISTRICT JUDGE (COMMERCIAL COURT) 05 SOUTH-EAST,SAKET,NEW DELHI

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Interested bidders can download RFQ from web site <https://www.krribhco.net/> till - 15th Sep-2024 at 16.30 Hrs.  
Last date of submission of the Bid: 17.00 Hrs on-15th Sep-2024  
Chief Financial Officer  
[rvenkat@krribhco.net](mailto:rvenkat@krribhco.net)  
RFQ No.: KGEPL/PL/003

**K-RIDE**  
**RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (KARNATAKA) LIMITED**  
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of Karnataka & Ministry of Railways)  
**BENGALURU SUBURBAN RAIL PROJECT**

Website: [www.kride.in](http://www.kride.in) | Email ID: [gmpurchase@kride.in](mailto:gmpurchase@kride.in) Date: 06/09/2024

**e-TENDER NOTICE**  
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Tender ID: 2024\_KRIDE\_207299\_1  
"Supply of 19000 MT 60E1 (UIC 60), 1080 HH Grade Rails".  
Last date for submission of bids is 04/11/2024, IST 15:00 Hrs, for details visit <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>.  
Tender Notice No. : KRIDE/BSRP/880/Rail/2024 Date : 06/09/2024.  
Tender ID: 2024\_KRIDE\_207456\_1  
"Supply of 2250 MT 60E1 (UIC 60), 880 Grade Rails". Last date for submission of bids is 05/11/2024, IST 15:00 Hrs, for details visit <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>.  
DIPR/CP/1870/zm/2024-25 Sd/- GENERAL MANAGER /Procurement/KRIDE  
KridePrm KrideBsrp kride\_bsrp KRIDE,BSRP

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, (RRN-Lakes) Annex Building-3  
3rd Floor, Room No.308, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.  
No:EE(RRN-Lakes)/Tend-01/2024-25 Date: 05.09.2024

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(Through GOK KPP Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> only)

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# Guv sends anti-rape bill to Prez after day-long spat with TMC

## 'Technical Report' Issue Resolved After Speaker's Intervention

Debashis Konar  
@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Bengal governor C V Ananda Bose on Friday referred the Aparajita Bill to President Droupadi Murmu after spending the first half of the day slamming the state govt and deliberating on the lack of a technical report.

The "technical report" issue was resolved after assembly speaker Biman Banerjee asked the state law department to provide one to Raj Bhavan. Bengal chief secretary Manoj Pant later called up the governor to provide the report.

On Sept 3, the Bengal assembly had unanimously passed the Aparajita Woman and Child Bill, which introduced stringent punishments like death penalty for convicted rapists.

The governor's initial response to the bill — where he had admonished the state govt for "failing to do homework" and said that it appeared to be a copy-paste of similar bills passed by And-



Members of Left organisations try to break police barricades during a protest march in Howrah on Friday over the RG Kar case

hra, Maharashtra and Arunachal Pradesh govts — drew a strong response from TMC, which questioned whether he was intent on "stalling" it because he himself faced sexual abuse allegations.

A statement issued by Raj Bhavan on Friday evening said: "Governor has reserved the bill for consideration of the President of India. Now the West Bengal Bill will join many similar bills pending with the President from Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh." AP's Disha Bill and Maha-

rashtira's Shakti Bill are yet to get President's assent. An earlier statement by Raj Bhavan had admonished the state govt for "failing to do its homework", raising the "copy-paste" observation. "Governor expressed his displeasure at such political gimmicks on such a sensitive issue ignoring the sentiments of the parents of the victim. The governor advised the chief minister that 'honesty is the best policy', the release had said. It also quoted Bose as saying, "This appears to be a govt of halfwits

run on half-truths."

Speaker Biman Banerjee had responded: "The technical report sought will be sent on Friday by the state law department. In the past, bills have been sent to the governor. There are constitutional rules and questions of maintainability. This is the governor's discretion. I hope the governor takes this up with the President immediately. I do not wish to comment on which state did what; what happened in Bengal is entirely different. People are anxious, their souls — including that of the victim's family — are pained. Hence, this bill."

Former TMC Rajya Sabha MP Kunal Ghosh said: "This bill envisages a time-bound probe, a fast-track trial and maximum punishments for those who commit sex crimes. This is a model bill. Why would anyone try to stall it? The governor mentioned Maharashtra. He is perhaps unaware that senior leader Sharad Pawar has asked for a bill like Aparajita Bill to be implemented in Maharashtra."

# CBI lawyer late for hearing by 50 mins, court asks if it should give rape-murder suspect bail

Rohit Khanna  
@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: A CBI lawyer kept a Kolkata court waiting 50 minutes for a hearing Friday on RG Kar hospital rape-murder suspect Sanjay Roy's bail application, prompting the exasperated magistrate to wonder aloud at one point if she should accept the plea and let out the alleged perpetrator of the Aug 9 crime.

"If the lawyer is not present, he (Roy) should be granted bail," additional chief judicial magistrate Pamela Gupta said on hearing

from a CBI officer at 4.10pm that the public prosecutor was delayed.

As the minutes ticked by and lawyer Dipak Poria still hadn't arrived, the magistrate asked the CBI officer to call him. "It is 4.20pm now. This is very unfortunate," she said.

The officer, who identified herself as an assistant investigating officer in the case, stepped out of the courtroom to make a call and returned after nearly 15 minutes to say that the lawyer was on his way.

When Poria entered the

courtroom at 5pm, defence lawyer Kavita Sarkar got up to question why CBI wasn't being represented by the counsel who attended the Aug 23 hearing.

Poria replied that he was CBI's "full-time lawyer" and informed the court without citing any reason that the agency opposes Roy's bail plea. Magistrate Gupta demanded the rape-murder suspect, the lone person named in the FIR, in judicial custody till Sept 20.

Defence lawyer Sarkar had argued for bail to Roy on the ground that he didn't

have criminal antecedents or a criminal case pending against him. She also mentioned that CBI was still to reveal the evidence against him, while the prosecution was "reluctant" and "lethargic" to argue in court.

"Roy should be granted bail for these reasons," Sarkar said.

CBI's second remand plea since the agency was handed the probe by Calcutta HC reiterates that Roy, who used to be a civilian traffic police volunteer, remains the only suspect in the rape-murder of a 31-year-old junior doctor.

# Senior cop under attack for late FIR, vandalism at hosp removed

Dwaipayan Ghosh  
@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Under fire for delayed registration of an FIR for the RG Kar murder and rape on Aug 9 and the vandalism at the hospital on the intervening night of Aug 14 and 15, Tala police station officer-in-charge (OC) Abhijit Mondal has been relieved of his charge. He has been replaced with Moloy Dutta, additional OC of Shyampur police station.

Mondal had applied for leave on medical grounds. His leave had been allowed. Lalbari (Kolkata police headquarters) indicated. He is now in hospital. Sources claimed Mondal himself had requested that he be relieved owing to poor health. "As the officer is not well, an additional OC of a neighbouring police station has been given charge. We do not want to add anything to it," said a senior officer.

Mondal has been facing tough questions on police's immediate response to the rape and murder complaint, their failure to stop "outsiders" from accessing the crime spot.

Last Wednesday, he had complained of chest discomfort and gone to four different hospitals in south Kolkata, but none admitted him after carrying out the basic tests. Mondal managed to get admission to a fifth hospital, which, police indicated, was a private facility.

# ED searches houses of ex-principal, kin; detains one aide

Rohit Khanna  
@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Enforcement Directorate on Friday conducted searches at 11 places, including the residence and farmhouse of former RG Kar Medical College principal Sandip Ghosh and homes of his relatives and associates, in connection with alleged financial irregularities in the hospital during his tenure. The Central agency also detained Prasun Chatterjee, a data entry operator at Kolkata's National Medical College and Hospital (NMCH) and a close associate of Ghosh.

When ED officials reached Ghosh's residence in Beliaghata at 6.40am, the main gate was locked from outside. The officials entered the house after three hours when Ghosh's wife, Sangita, reached there with the keys from their apartment in Chinarnagar Park, about 12km away.

While the search was on, Sangita — face covered in mask and oversized shades and pallu covering her head — emerged from the house and told reporters that whatever was being said about her husband was not true. "We have cooperated with each of the investigating agencies. They could not



Sandep Ghosh's farmhouse in Narayanpur village panchayat area

find any document. They will never find any document. Truth will surface soon. Don't turn someone into a villain before anything is proven in court," she said.

A second team of ED officials reached Ghosh's in-law's residence at Chandannagar's Padri Para on Friday morning but found the house was locked. Another group reached the apartment of his sister-in-law, a healthcare worker at Manikata ESI hospital, around 11.30 am and emerged several hours later with a black trolley bag. Ghosh's in-laws have recently moved into this housing estate.

Yet another set of officials reached the residence of Prasun Chatterjee — the NMCH data entry operator — in Subhasgram in South 24 Parganas. Around 2pm, Chatterjee was detained.

**L-58**

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS' EMPOWERMENT  
DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE & FOOD PRODUCTION, ODISHA  
KRUSHI BHAWAN, BHUBANESWAR  
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Tenders through e-procurement are invited from reputed Manufacturers /MSME units in two bid systems i.e. technical bid and financial bid for procurement & supply of Rubber Roll Sheller-cum-Polisher to selected procurement centres of different districts as per the following table.

Sl No	Name of the Post-Harvest Machine to be procured and supplied	Approx. No	Approx. Total Cost (In Rs.)	EMD (In Rs.) @2%	Paper Cost, Incl GST (in Rs.)	Period of completion	Class/ Eligibility
1	Rubber Roll Sheller-cum-Polisher suitable for cleaning and PEARLING of Ragi (3 HP single phase electricity operated)	247	247,00,000	5,00,000	Rs 10,000/-	45days	Manufacturer

2. Date & time of bidding online : From 10.09.2024 at 11.00 AM. to 30.09.2024 up to 5 P.M.

3. Pre bid Meeting : 20.09.2024 at 11.00 A.M. in Krushi Bhawan

4. Last Date of Submission of Original document : 08.10.2024 at 5.00 P.M.

5. Date of opening of the Technical Bid : 09.10.2024 at 11.00 A.M. onwards

6. Date of opening of the Financial Bid : To be intimated to the eligible bidders.

Bid conditions consisting of detailed Tender Call Notice, the schedule of quantities and terms & conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be downloaded from [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in) from 10.09.2024 at 11.00 AM. to 30.09.2024 up to 5 P.M. It can also be available at <https://agrisnetodisha.gov.in> and <https://ofmrddag@nic.in> for reference.

Bidders shall have also to submit all papers as per Terms and Conditions through Registered Post/ Speed post/ Courier Service to the O/o the Development Engineer, OFMRDC, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar-751007, Odisha only failing which the bids shall be summarily rejected.

Sd/-  
Director of Agriculture  
Odisha, Bhubaneswar  
OIPR-01051/11/0004/24-25

**O-261**

**OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF, RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION,**  
JAL "O" PARIMAL BHAWAN, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR-751001, ODISHA  
Tel: 0674-2395734, FAX: 0674-2394946, e-mail: cerwssodisha@gmail.com  
NO. 9640 Dt. 05.09.2024

**Request for Proposal (RFP)**  
Bid Identification No. EIC/RWSS&S/04/2024-25

**Request for Proposal (RFP) for Hiring of Agency to provide Manpower support to Rural Sanitation Work in 35 RWSS Divisions, Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department, Government of Odisha**

The Engineer-in-Chief, RWSS&S, Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department, Government of Odisha invites Request for Proposal (RFP) for Hiring of Agency to provide Manpower support to Rural Sanitation Work in 35 RWSS Divisions, Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department, Government of Odisha.

The eligibility criteria for selection of Agencies/Firms are provided below:

(a) The bidder should be registered for minimum period of 3 years under the Indian Companies Act 1956/ Societies Registration Act/ Trust Act/ Any other Relevant Act in India.

(b) The bidder should have an Average Annual Turnover of atleast 10 crore during the last three Financial Years i.e. FY 2021-22, FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24 (Supported by duly audited balance sheet and statutory auditor certificate);

(c) The bidder should have successfully undertaken at least either of the following Similar Assignment/ Project of value specified herein during the last five financial years as on the last date of submission for International/ National/ State level Govt./ Corporate Sector Programs

- One project of similar nature not less than the amount of Rs. 4 crores or
- Two projects of similar nature not less than the amount of Rs. 2.50 crores each

(d) The bidder/ firm/ any partners of the firm should not be blacklisted by any Government or any other organization in respect of any assignment or behaviour.

(e) The bidder should have never been indicted by any court of law or any regulatory body or any State/ Central Government agencies.

Interested Agency/ Firms may download the RFP document from Government of Odisha Website i.e. <https://odisha.gov.in> and <https://panchayat.odisha.gov.in> from 12.09.2024 to 02.10.2024 up to 5:00 PM.

A pre-bid meeting shall be conducted on 11:30 hours dated 17.09.2024 at Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation, Jal o Parimal Bhawan, Unit-V, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha. Interested bidders may send their queries to [cerwssodisha@gmail.com](mailto:cerwssodisha@gmail.com) and attend the said pre-bid meeting. The Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any/all RFP without assigning any reason therefor. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://odisha.gov.in/> <https://panchayat.odisha.gov.in>

Sd/-  
Engineer-in-Chief, RWSS  
OIPR-25003/11/0007/24-25

**बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग**  
15, नेहरू पथ (बेली रोड), पटना-800001

**आवश्यक सूचना**

विज्ञापन संख्या 18/2024 से 21/2024 के अंतर्गत बिहार कृषि सेवा के विभिन्न पदों पर नियुक्ति हेतु आयोजित दस्तावेज सत्यापन / साक्षात्कार के दिन अभ्यर्थियों द्वारा समर्पित शैक्षणिक योग्यता की पुनः जाँच कृषि विभाग, बिहार के ज्ञापांक- 3498 दिनांक- 22.08.2024 द्वारा प्रतिनियुक्त विभागीय विषय विशेषज्ञ द्वारा कराई गई। जाँचोपरान्त कतिपय अभ्यर्थियों को विज्ञापन में उल्लिखित शैक्षणिक योग्यता से भिन्न होने के कारण Ineligible / Not Recommended की श्रेणी में रखा गया है, जिसकी सूची आयोग के वेबसाइट [www.bpsc.bih.nic.in](http://www.bpsc.bih.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

उक्त अभ्यर्थियों को अपने अनर्हता पर यदि कोई आपत्ति हो तो वे अपनी अभ्यर्थिता के संबंध में अभ्यावेदन साक्ष्य / प्रमाण के साथ अधोहस्ताक्षरी के पदनाम से सिर्फ आयोग के E-mail ID - [bpscpat-bih@nic.in](mailto:bpscpat-bih@nic.in) के माध्यम से दिनांक- 20.09.2024 तक आयोग कार्यालय को भेज सकते हैं। अंतिम तिथि के बाद प्राप्त अभ्यावेदन अविचारणीय होगा। उपर्युक्त अभ्यर्थियों के पात्रता के संबंध में संबंधित प्रमाण पत्र / कागजातों की विधिवत जाँच / सत्यापन के पश्चात् अंतिम निर्णय लेने हेतु आयोग स्वतंत्र रहेगा।

स्वाः/-  
परीक्षा नियंत्रक,  
बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग, पटना

**Bihar State Power (Holding) Company Limited**  
(A Govt. of Bihar Undertaking)  
(Department of General Administration)  
GST Number : 10AAFCB2394A2ZD, CIN Number : U40102BR0125GGC018495  
Job Contract Notice No. -08/2024 (Contract)  
Walk-In-Interview

Bihar State Power (Holding) Company Ltd. invites application for one no. of post of GM (HR & Adm.).

Walk-In-Interview is scheduled to be held on 24.09.2024 (Tuesday), at 3:30 PM in BSPHCL, Viduyt Bhawan, Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, Patna.

For application format & details kindly visit company website : [www.bspchl.co.in](http://www.bspchl.co.in)

PR- 007702 (B & C) 2024-25  
नरो की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार। GM (HR & Adm.)

**कार्यालय संचालक वन विहार राष्ट्रीय उद्यान भोपाल**  
भद्रमा रोड भोपाल- 462003  
e-mail- fdvanvnp.bpl@mp.gov.in Phone & Fax- 0755-2674278

क्रमांक / भंडार / 2666 ई-निविदा शुद्धिपत्र भोपाल, दिनांक : 03/09/2024

वन विहार राष्ट्रीय उद्यान, भोपाल में प्रधान युवा वन संरक्षक (वनरक्षक) म.प्र. भोपाल के उपयोग हेतु माह सितम्बर 2024 से मार्च 2025 के दौरान हेलिकॉप्टर ऑपरेटर 44 क्रियाए पर लेने हेतु अधिवृत्त विक्रेताओं से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में <https://mptenders.gov.in> पर दिनांक 02.09.2024 Time 03.30 pm तक निविदा आमंत्रित की गई थी। उक्त निविदा विक्रेता क्र. / जी 14823 / 24 से विभिन्न समयावधियों में प्रकाशित हुई थी। दिनांक 02.09.2024 को निवत समय तक प्रमुचित निविदा प्राप्त न होने के कारण उक्त निविदा को निविदा निम्नानुसार बरखाई जाती है -

Bid Submission closing Date 10.09.2024 Time 03.30 pm है।  
Bid Opening Date 11.09.2024 Time 03.30 pm है।  
उक्त निविदा हेतु निर्धारित फार्म एवं विस्तृत शर्तों को जानकारी <https://mptenders.gov.in> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

Sd/-  
संचालक  
वन विहार राष्ट्रीय उद्यान भोपाल  
G-15818/24

**UTTARAKHAND ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
Viduyt Niyamak Bhawan, Near ISBT, PO- Majra, Dehradun-248171  
PH: 0135-2641115 Website [www.urec.gov.in](http://www.urec.gov.in) E-mail- [secy.urec@gov.in](mailto:secy.urec@gov.in)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Inviting Comments on draft Order on Review of the Benchmark Capital Cost for Solar PV, Solar Thermal and Grid Interactive Rooftop & Small Solar PV Plants to be applicable for FY 2024-25 and onwards till reviewed/revised by the Commission.**

In exercise of powers vested in it under Section 61(h), 86(1)(e) read with Section 181(2)(zd) of the Electricity Act, 2003, the Commission has issued draft Order on Review of the Benchmark Capital Cost for Solar PV, Solar Thermal and Grid Interactive Rooftop & Small Solar PV Plants to be applicable for FY 2024-25 and onwards till reviewed/revised by the Commission. The draft Order dated 05.09.2024 has been posted at the Commission's website [www.urec.gov.in](http://www.urec.gov.in).

Notice is hereby given inviting comments/written responses on the draft Order from all the stakeholders. These could be sent to the undersigned latest by 30.09.2024 by post or e-mail or in person at the above-mentioned address for Commission's consideration. The comments/suggestions/objections received after the stipulated date in the Commission's office may not be considered while finalizing the Order.

Advt. No.-18/2024-25 Secretary

**LIFE**  
Life for Environment

**उत्तराखण्ड प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड**  
46वीं, आई.टी. पार्क, सहस्त्रकारा रोड, देहरादून  
E-mail: [maukpcb@yahoo.com](mailto:maukpcb@yahoo.com), फोन: 0135-2607092

पत्रांक-यू.के.पी.सी.बी. / एच.ओ. / एन.ओ.सी. (पी.एच.)-8006 / 2024 / दिनांक:06.09.2024

**पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई के लिये सूचना**

पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई के लिये सूचना नं.0 को कम्प्लायर मिन्स्ट्रल्स प्रालि.0, द्वारा श्री उमेश चन्द्र पाण्डे, ग्राम पणकाण्डे, तहसील एवं जिला बागेश्वर द्वारा ग्राम पणकाण्डे, तहसील एवं जिला बागेश्वर में पणकाण्डे सोपस्टोन माईनिंग (क्षेत्रफल-16.294 हे०) की पूर्व पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई का प्रस्ताव उत्तराखण्ड प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, देहरादून के सम्म प्रस्तुत किया गया है। प्रस्ताव के लिये राज्य स्तरीय पर्यावरण समन्वय निवारण प्राधिकरण (SEIAA) द्वारा Terms of Reference निर्धारित किये गये हैं, जिनके अन्तर्गत प्रस्तावक के द्वारा ड्राफ्ट पर्यावरण प्रभाव मूल्यांकन रिपोर्ट एवं पर्यावरण प्रबंधन योजना तैयार कर प्रस्तुत की गयी है। पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा जारी ई.आई.ए. अधिसूचना 14.09.2006 (पैथासंशोधित) के अनुसार उक्त प्रकार की परियोजनाओं के क्रियान्वयन से पूर्व लोक सुनवाई का प्रावधान है, जिस हेतु 30 दिनों का नोटिस समयावध पत्रों के माध्यम से जन साधारण के संज्ञानार्थ दिया जाना आवश्यक है। लोक सुनवाई हेतु 'पैनल' की संरचना उक्त अधिसूचना के अनुसूचि नमिनत्व है :-

- जिलाधिकारी, जनपद बागेश्वर या उनके नामित / अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि जो जिला स्तरीय अधिकारी हो-लोक सुनवाई के अध्यक्ष।
- उत्तराखण्ड प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के प्रतिनिधि। प्रस्ताव से सम्बन्धित जमा समस्त अभिलेख (i) क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, 25-सुभाष रोड, देहरादून (ii) मध्यालय, उत्तराखण्ड प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, गीता देवी पर्यावरण भवन, 46-बी, आई.टी.पार्क, सहस्त्रकारा रोड, देहरादून (iii) क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, उत्तराखण्ड प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, आवास विकास कालोनी, हल्द्वानी, जनपद नैनीताल (iv) कार्यालय जिलाधिकारी, बागेश्वर (v) कार्यालय, जिला पंचायत, बागेश्वर (vi) जिला उद्योग केंद्र, बागेश्वर में उपलब्ध हैं, जिनका कोई भी इच्छुक संस्था / व्यक्ति अवलोकन कर सकता है। ड्राफ्ट पर्यावरण प्रभाव मूल्यांकन रिपोर्ट एवं पर्यावरण प्रभाव मूल्यांकन रिपोर्ट [www.ueppcb.uk.gov.in](http://www.ueppcb.uk.gov.in) पर भी उपलब्ध है।

मैं कम्प्लायर मिन्स्ट्रल्स प्रालि.0, द्वारा श्री उमेश चन्द्र पाण्डे, ग्राम पणकाण्डे, तहसील एवं जिला बागेश्वर द्वारा ग्राम पणकाण्डे, तहसील एवं जिला बागेश्वर में पणकाण्डे सोपस्टोन माईनिंग (क्षेत्रफल-16.294 हे०) की पूर्व पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 09.10.2024 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे से परियोजना स्थल में तत्समय कोविड-19 के संदर्भ में विद्यमान SoP के अधीन सांश्ल डिस्टेंसिंग, आवश्यक कप से मास्क का प्रयोग, थर्मल स्क्रीनिंग एवं हंडेलाइजर तथा अन्य सुरक्षात्मक उपायों के साथ निर्वाहित की जाती है।

अतः सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि सम्बन्धित परियोजना के प्रस्ताव के सम्बन्ध में अपने मौखिक, लिखित, सुझाव, टीका टिप्पणियों एवं आपत्तियों इस कार्यालय अथवा बोर्ड के क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, उत्तराखण्ड प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, आवास विकास कालोनी, हल्द्वानी में इस सूचना से सम्बन्धित विज्ञान प्रकाशन की तिथि से 30 दिनों के अन्दर प्रेषित कर सकते हैं अथवा लोक सुनवाई के समय भी प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं।

सदस्य सचिव  
उत्तराखण्ड प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड

**बिहार सरकार**

नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग  
कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी का कार्यालय, नगर परिषद, राजगीर, नालन्दा  
अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या- 04/2024-25  
ई-0-टेंडरिंग द्वारा (<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)

**On SBD Tender**  
ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ई-0-टेंडरिंग द्वारा (<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)

- निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत की तिथि :- दिनांक- 05.09.2024
- निविदा अपलोक करने की प्रारंभ तिथि/समय :- दिनांक- 17.09.2024 को 10:30 बजे से (<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)
- प्री बिड मीटिंग का समय स्थान / तिथि :- समय 11:30 बजे, स्थान- कार्यालय नगर परिषद, राजगीर, नालन्दा। दिनांक- 23.09.2024
- संदेहक द्वारा निविदा अपलोक करने अंतिम तिथि :- दिनांक- 27.09.2024 को 15:00 बजे तक (<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)
- तकनीकी बोड खोलने की तिथि/समय :- दिनांक- 28.09.2024 को 15:30 बजे के बाद
- वित्तीय बोड खोलने की तिथि/समय :- दिनांक- 30.09.2024 को 15:00 बजे तक
- शक्य पत्र (मूल में) एवं स्वचिनिमगाणित निविदा कागजात :- दिनांक- 28.09.2024 को 14:00 बजे तक स्थान- कार्यालयक पदाधिकारी, नगर परिषद, राजगीर का कार्यालय।
- कार्य का विवरण :-

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	अवधि का राशि	कोटेशन का मूल्य	Bid Processing fee (Through online payment)
1	कार्यालय नगर परिषद, राजगीर में कम्पनी अधिनियम में पंजीकृत वित्तीय प्रबंध राजस्व बर्द्धन एवं सलाहकार कार्य हेतु एजेंसी का चयन।	10000/-	1000/-	As Per eproc2

नोट :- 1. Bidders should submit Bid/Processing fee through online payment as per amount generated on website <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in/>

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The due Date and Time of submission and opening of following SRM e-tender is extended as follows:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-0634/0924 [3 <sup>rd</sup> Call] [RFX No. 7000033126] (Two Bid System)	2082.20 Lakhs	12.09.2024 Up to 17:00 Hrs. at 17:15 Hrs.
SITC of capacitor banks of voltage ratings of 11kV, 22kV & 33kV-305 MVAR in Phase-VI [6.4] at various EHV substations under Pune zone in MSETCL.	25000.00	

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (P&C)  
Tel. No. 022-69852712/ Cell No. 8329909813  
Email: [eegrp6@mahatransco.in](mailto:eegrp6@mahatransco.in), [eeppc@mahatransco.in](mailto:eeppc@mahatransco.in)  
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**NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/57 -2024-25**

The due Date and Time of submission and opening of following SRM e-tender is extended as follows:

Tender No. & Description of Item	Estimated Amount (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-0519/0924 [RFX No. 5000001279] [2 <sup>nd</sup> Call] (Two Bid System)	Rs. 6450.69 Rs. 25000.00 (excluding taxes)	19.09.2024 Up to 16:00 Hrs. at 16:15 Hrs.

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Pre-bid meeting Date, Time & Venue  
Date: 09.09.2024  
Time: 14:30 Hrs.  
Venue: 8th Floor, MSETCL C.O. 'Prakashganga' Plot No. C-19, E-Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400051

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (P&C)  
Tel. No. 022-69852717/ Cell no.-8329909813  
Email: [ceom@mahatransco.in](mailto:ceom@mahatransco.in), [secpa@mahatransco.in](mailto:secpa@mahatransco.in), [eegrp5@mahatransco.in](mailto:eegrp5@mahatransco.in), [eeppc@mahatransco.in](mailto:eeppc@mahatransco.in)  
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Sd/-  
Executive Engineer (P&C)

# 'Elephants have amazing cognitive and creative intelligence — they can even mimic our speech'

Scientist **Angela Stoeger** is Head of Mammal Communication at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, ARI, Vienna. Speaking to **Srijana Mitra Das** at **Times Evoke**, she discusses how elephants converse:

Photos: iStock & Getty Images

**What is the core of your research?**  
■ We want to understand what elephants tell each other — this includes studying how they produce the variety of calls they make, what information is transmitted and how their perception of such communication then influences their behaviour.

**What are some important features you've observed in the communication patterns of African elephants?**

■ What we know about vocalisation among African elephants is also true for Asian elephants. It is now fairly easy to discern if a calf or adult is vocalising — we also have techniques to understand demographics through vocalisation, such as whether those communicating are a family group or a cluster of males, if they are calm or agitated, etc. Elephants are capable of vocal imitation — they learn from each other. Elephants establish vocal dialects too — a family unit has a specific dialect which can be recognised in terms of an individual belonging to a family. Interestingly, vocalisations are also distinctive at the individual level.

It's difficult to say currently if elephants have language but their communication is extremely complex — we have approval now for a research project which will use artificial intelligence to decode elephant communication, so we can understand more about how they encode information. I think we'd all be surprised to learn just how complex animal communication is in general. I hope this helps us protect



**LET'S CHAT!** Elephants communicate via vocalisation, conveying key data like water sources to emotions — they use their trunk or ears to add information

them better — knowing how they communicate could reduce human-elephant conflict by using knowledge to steer them away from habitations, etc.

**What are some of your research methods?**

■ We record elephant speech and use microphones which can capture infrasound — elephants produce low-frequency rumbles as well, the lowest ones in the infrasound range being below human hearing. We use equipment capable of inferring this. We use acoustic cameras which visualise sound emission — based on this, we can tell if a vocalisation is coming from the trunk or the mouth of an elephant. To learn the function of a vocalisation, we play these recordings

back on sound woofers, the kind used in rock concerts, to help us hear low-frequency rumbles — we actually have a huge 200-kilogram, two-metre-long sound woofer used for this. We also use sound analyses equipment, adapted for these frequencies and vocalisations.

**Why are the rumbles of African males particularly significant?**

■ These tell us how big the elephants are as well as their age. They also go through a state termed 'musth' which can last weeks to months when an elephant has elevated testosterone levels, making them aggressive. There is a specific call to inform other elephants about someone being in this state — it is also meant to attract females while deterring males.

**What is 'multimodal communication' among elephants?**

■ Communication for them, just like for humans, is not via one modality. When we speak, we use our hands or face to emphasise our meaning, stress a fact or tell a joke — elephants do this too. Vesta Eleuteri, a researcher, is studying how elephants combine vocalisations and gestures as they flap their ears or use a chemical signal to convey a meaning. This is both for long-distance communication and close-by groups which can sense ear flaps, trunk-lifts or head-raising, all these postures having a meaning.

**Can you tell us about the elephant you found mimicking human speech?**

■ Koshik, this amazing elephant I researched in Korea, puts the tip of his trunk into his mouth, somehow modulating the oral chamber to imitate human speech sounds. Vocal learning is a critical skill for humans but our children learn to speak via imitation — this is not common in non-human animals. Those capable of such learning, where you modify vocalisation based on auditory experience, include songbirds, parrots, whales, dolphins, seals and elephants.

The elephant brain is clearly capable of transferring information from the auditory centres to multi-planning regions like the larynx, which needs adjustment to modify frequency and pitch. Koshik was also using his trunk muscles here — elephants have 40,000 muscles in their trunk. Clearly, elephants are cognitively capable of overcoming anatomical limitations — they don't have lips as their upper lip is fused with the nose to form a trunk but Koshik found out he could put the trunk to his mouth and modulate and articulate human speech sounds. This was extremely intelligent — it shows elephants' creative intellect and cognitive flexibility.



**NOW HEAR ME:** Kids talk via imitation

**Facing habitat loss, hunters and climate change now, is elephant communication also altering?**

■ Not as yet but we are seeing behavioural changes — elephants are more stressed now and their pitch rises in frequency. We noticed this in a family group which was translocated. The group itself decided it wanted to move back to its original home and did so over three weeks — their pitch normalised only when they got home. When elephants are happy, they are busy with family business and their behaviour — and voices — are harmonious.

## READERS WRITE

Dear Times Evoke,

The TE discussion with Mark J. Rowlands (31<sup>st</sup> August) was a write-up full of happiness, especially for pet parents. It's sheer joy which both our pets have brought us since we got them as our pet children. At times, I feel my married daughter visits not so much to see us but to meet her adorable furry friends! For us, they aren't 'pets' but 'family'. Thank you for such a wonderful page, TE!  
— **Col Gopal Verma, Delhi**

We readers and TE are indeed becoming 'pet friends forever!' Thank you for highlighting such an important topic. There is always something unique and different in TE. Dogs, trees and birds are nature's most common blessing to humans globally. TE reminds us to nurture these precious gifts.  
— **Navneet Agarwal, Pune**

It was so nice to read about the relationship between humans and pets. The horse's grace, speed and loyalty are truly amazing. Here, in hilly Malkangiri, Odisha, tribal groups used to carry their precious rations only using their pet horses. They are an integral part of this area's history. Thank you for the stunning page, TE!  
— **Diptiranjana Mohapatra, Bhubaneswar**

Dear TE, you are my family's 'pet friend forever!' We read you together every weekend. This time, we showed beautiful TE to our two pets, Muffin and Pichu! Tami Harbort on women managing animal rescues in America and 'cat ladies' was amazing. You should have also had a photo of Shadow, Mark Rowland's dog! Please do more such lovely topics, TE!  
— **Namita Agarwal, Chandigarh**

Share your thoughts at:  
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# EAM: IMEC set to be cornerstone of global connectivity

'Project Delay Due To Conflict In West Asia Worries India'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



The project holds the potential to significantly contribute to growth and resilience, Jaishankar said

**India, Maldives aim to expedite defence projects**

India and the Maldives on Friday discussed expediting implementation of various ongoing defence cooperation projects in the archipelago, in a development that comes soon after external affairs minister S Jaishankar visited Malé last month amid a strain in ties.

The 5th defence cooperation dialogue, with Indian defence secretary Girdhar Aramane and Maldives' chief of national defence force General Ibrahim Hilmy leading the delegation-level talks in Delhi, extensively reviewed matters related to bilateral defence cooperation. "The two sides also deliberated on some other areas of common interest such as high-level military exchanges and capability development projects," an official said. **TNN**

idly, emerging technologies and supply chain disruptions, there is a strong case for more industry interaction," he said, adding that 'Make in India' has now taken a deep root in the defence domain as well.

Energy cooperation is another key dimension, he said. "It is not just the region's abundant oil and natural gas reserves, but its vast green hydrogen and green ammonia potential that present new opportunities for collaboration and I'm happy to see that Indian businesses are already active in exploring that," Jaishankar added.

**New Delhi:** The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), which was launched at the G20 summit hosted by India last year, aims to become a cornerstone of global connectivity, providing a robust framework for boosting trade and other flows across critical regions, foreign minister S Jaishankar said on Friday.

By integrating innovative logistics and sustainable practices, he said, the initiative holds the potential to significantly contribute to both growth and resilience. Jaishankar was speaking at an India-Mediterranean business conclave. India has been concerned about the delay caused by the West Asia conflict in the implementation of the project. The minister said that the ongoing conflict had understandably generated concerns about some of the contemporary initiatives.

"Disruptions in crucial shipping routes that have increased shipping costs and necessitated the rerouting of trade flows, have added to our collective worries. But if you reflect on these happenings, they only strengthen the case for derisking. As the three hubs of India, Europe and the Middle East step up their interactions, connectivity will be more needed, not less," Jaishankar said.

The minister added that in a volatile and uncertain world, security and stability have to be an integral part of the calculation. "Hence, it is natural that strengthening defence and security cooperation with Mediterranean nations should actually parallel deeper economic links. This has taken the form of exercises, consultations and exchanges. But in an era of rap-

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## Drunk cop mows down two women in Bulandshahr

**Rahul.Singh**  
@timesofindia.com

**Meerut:** Two women were killed after a speeding car driven by a drunk Uttar Pradesh Police head constable ran over them on Meerut-Bulandshahr road in the Gulaothi area of Bulandshahr district on Thursday night. Head constable Rahul Yadav (40) was posted at Bulandshahr Dehat police station.

Manju Devi and her aunt Krishna Devi were out for a walk around 9:30pm when the car, driven by head constable Yadav ran over them, killing them on the spot, said police. Yadav was driving recklessly on the wrong side of the road, according to eyewitnesses.

Locals caught Yadav after his car crashed into a roadside railing, trapping him inside, and it stopped. Two others in the vehicle managed to flee. "We saw two men escaping from the car, but the driver could not as he got stuck inside the vehicle. People caught him and handed him over to the police," said Vineet Sharma, a shopkeeper, a witness.

## Woman alleges sex assault by senior cop now in eye of a storm

**Kozhikode:** A woman from Ponnani has alleged that she was sexually assaulted by former Malappuram district police chief S Sujith Das, who was suspended from service following charges levelled against him by Nilambur MLA P V Anvar.

The woman appeared on various news channels on Friday and said the then Ponnani inspector of police, Vinod Veliyathoor, also sexually assaulted her, while former Tirur DSP VV Benny sexually harassed her. Both have denied the allegations and threatened legal action against her.

The woman said when she approached Ponnani police station for a case, inspector Veliyathoor came to her house for investigation and sexually assaulted her. She added that when she approached Benny with a complaint against the inspector, he too sexually harassed her.

## Cyanide murders rock AP's Guntur, three women held

**Madhu.Rasala**  
@timesofindia.com

**Vijayawada:** In a chilling case reminiscent of Kerala's notorious Jolly Joseph murders, three women from Tenali in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh have been arrested for a series of killings using cyanide, targeting vulnerable people over the past two years. Police have so far identified three victims but suspect there could be more.

The accused, identified as Munagappa Rajani (40), Mudiylava Venkateswari alias Bujji (32), and Gontu Ramanamma (60), all residents of Tenali, have so far admitted to killing three with cyanide-laced drinks and food to rob them of gold and money. Police said they would get to know if there were other victims once their interrogation is over.

The group targeted individuals, including family members and neighbours, and are believed to be involved in multiple

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## Agni-4 IRBM tested off Odisha coast

**New Delhi:** Days after commissioning its second nuclear-powered submarine, India on Friday conducted a successful launch of the intermediate range ballistic missile Agni-4 from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur off the Odisha coast.

The launch of the missile, which has a strike range of 4,000-km, "successfully validated all operational and technical parameters", a defence ministry official said. The Strategic Forces Command, which handles the country's nuclear arsenal, conducted the test. On Aug 29, India's second nuclear-powered submarine, INS Arighaat, was inducted. **TNN**

## Fan beaten to death by actor Darshan suffered 39 injuries: Autopsy report

**Santoshkumar.B**@timesofindia.com

**Bengaluru:** The autopsy report of Chitradurga resident Renukaswamy, who was allegedly beaten to death by actor Darshan and his associates, has revealed he suffered 39 injuries, including a broken chest bone and damage to his testicles, leading to his death.

The prosecution had submitted the autopsy report and the case diary with photographs to the 56th additional city civil and sessions court, which was hearing bail petitions of four suspects, including Darshan's girlfriend Pavithra Gowda, after the last fortnight. The court rejected all four petitions.

## Pavithra coaxed Renukaswamy into revealing his identity

According to police sources, Renukaswamy had been messaging Pavithra on Instagram from Feb. He sent her derogatory messages. She informed Puttaswamy, alias Pavan K, who Darshan had assigned to assist her, about it. Pavithra provided Pavan's mobile number to Renukaswamy. She asked Renukaswamy to send messages to the number on WhatsApp. When Renukaswamy called on the number, Pavithra coaxed him into revealing his identity.

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3. JDA2425WSOB00271 285.43 Road 26.09.2024  
4. JDA2425WLOB00274 641.71 Road 18.09.2024  
Other particulars of the respective bid may be visited on Procurement Portal website [www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in), [www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) and [www.jda.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.jda.rajasthan.gov.in).  
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Auroville Foundation Bhavan, Auroville - 605 101.  
(A statutory Autonomous Body under Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India)  
Advt. No. AVF/Rect./Deputation/09-01/2024 Dated : 05.09.2024  
**Recruitment Notification for Deputy Secretary & Under Secretary**  
Auroville Foundation invites applications for the positions of Deputy Secretary (3 posts) & Under Secretary (1 post) from the eligible candidates as per the recruitment rules for the said posts.  
Interested eligible candidates are requested to check the Auroville Foundation website [www.aurovillefoundation.org.in](http://www.aurovillefoundation.org.in) for the qualification, experience and other details.  
The hard copy of the application, together with all enclosures should be sent to **The Secretary, Auroville Foundation, Auroville Foundation Bhavan, Vanur Taluk, Villupuram District, Auroville - 605 101, Tamilnadu** on or before **04.10.2024** by 5.30 P.M., through Post by super scribing the name of the post on the envelope.  
Sd/-  
Officer-on-Special Duty

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT**  
**SAFDARJUNG HOSPITAL & V.M.M.C NEW DELHI-110029**  
File No.: E27024ACDM-22/1/2024-ACAD-VMMC Dated: 30.08.2024  
**SELECTION OF TRAINEES FOR 15th COURSE OF PRE-HOSPITAL TRAUMA ASSISTANT, IN SAFDARJUNG HOSPITAL, DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIA HOSPITAL, LHMC & ASSOCIATED HOSPITALS (SESSION 2024-25)**  
The Medical Superintendent, Safdarjung Hospital & VMMC, New Delhi invites application for Pre- Hospital Trauma Assistant Training Course (PTA Course) to commence from 1st October, 2024 at Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital and LHMC & Associated Hospitals. The prescribed Proforma for applying along with the detail of Course, eligibility criteria, other terms & conditions shall be available on the hospital website [www.vmmc-sjh.nic.in](http://www.vmmc-sjh.nic.in) & [www.dghs.gov.in](http://www.dghs.gov.in). Candidates are requested to visit official website of this institution regularly for any further notifications.  
This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.  
**Asstt. Admin. Officer Academic Section For Medical Superintendent**  
CBC 17145/11/0007/2425

**GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA**  
**Public Works Division Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar**  
**E-Tender Notice No. 182 OF 2024-2025**  
E-Tender for the following works in "B-1/ Form" for the (01) Works is invited via online E-Tendering system from Contractor/Agency/Firm/Company of Eligible Class by Executive Engineer Public Works Division Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar (PH No.0240-2331174) on behalf of Public Works Department of Government of Maharashtra.  
All details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-Tendering Portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in> on sub Portal of public works Department also on [www.mahapwd.gov.in](http://www.mahapwd.gov.in) in portal as per online tender Schedules.  
Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Public Works Division  
Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar  
DGIPR/2024-2025/2674

**GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION**  
**MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**  
Short Re - e-Tenders are invited for the following work by Superintending Engineer (Mech / SWM), as per Tender condition  
**M.E.D.C.No. M1 / 0954A / 2024**  
**Purchase of 6 Nos. of Hydraulically Operated Self - Propelled Tree Pruning Machine with 5 Years Operation & Comprehensive maintenance.**  
**EMD Amount : As per Tender Document**  
**Last Date and Time of Submission : 17.09.2024, 3.00 PM**  
**Tender Opening Date and Time : 18.09.2024, 3.30 PM**  
**For Further details Please visit : <https://tntenders.gov.in>.**  
DIPR / 3566 / Tender / 2024 **Superintending Engineer (M/SWM)**

**योजना तथा वास्तुकला विद्यालय, नई दिल्ली**  
(संसद के अधिनियम के तहत राष्ट्रीय महत्व का संस्थान शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)  
**School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi**  
(An Institution of National Importance enacted by an Act of Parliament, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)  
प्रवेश एवम परीक्षा विभाग **ADMISSION AND EXAMINATION SECTION**  
**Admission to Bachelor of Architecture / Planning against Reserved seats for Armed Personnel and Kashmiri Migrant**  
Applications are invited for admission to Bachelor's Degree Course in Architecture / Planning for the session 2024-2025 against the reserved category of (1) Dependents of Defence or Paramilitary Personnel killed or permanently disabled and (2) Kashmiri Migrant, on the basis of JEE- 2024 All India Rank and the eligibility defined by JoSAA. The last date for receipt of application is **Friday, 13th September, 2024**. For details please see SPA, New Delhi Website: [www.spa.ac.in](http://www.spa.ac.in)  
Sd/-  
REGISTRAR

**YEIDA**  
First Floor, Commercial Complex, P-2, Sector Omega 1, Greater Noida,  
Toll Free No. 18001808296 Website: [www.yamunaexpresswayauthority.com](http://www.yamunaexpresswayauthority.com)  
Reference Number: YEIDA/SYSTEM/271/2024 Dated: 06.09.2024  
**RFP for Selection of Consultant for Development and Implementation of Human Resource Management System (HRMS) at YEIDA**  
Detailed RFP document is available on the E- Procurement Portal of Government of UP [<http://etender.up.nic.in>] from 07/09/2024.  
Interested Bidders are required to apply online on the E-procurement website on or before **30/09/2024, 17:00 hrs (IST)**. Pre-bid conference is scheduled for **17/09/2024, 15:30 hrs (IST)**. In case of any queries, the Bidders are invited to contact Manager Systems, YEIDA. Email: [mgrsystem@yamunaexpresswayauthority.com](mailto:mgrsystem@yamunaexpresswayauthority.com)  
**OSD, YEIDA**  
यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण के अधिसूचित क्षेत्र में प्राधिकरण द्वारा स्वीकृत मास्टर प्लान के अतिरिक्त प्लॉटिंग / हाउसिंग / कॉलोनी या किसी भी प्रकार का अन्य निर्माण पूरी तरह से अर्थात् सामान्यतः इस प्रकार की खरीददफरोख्त से पूर्णतः सचेत रहें तथा कॉलोनाइज़र के ग्रामिक विज्ञापनों से बचें। अधिक जानकारी के लिए प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट [www.yamunaexpresswayauthority.com](http://www.yamunaexpresswayauthority.com) देखें।

**CAD-1041**  
**ODISHA POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LTD.**  
(A Government Company of the State of Odisha)  
CIN : U40104OR1984SGC001429  
Sl. No. DESCRIPTION BID SALE DATE  
1 Fabrication & Erection of Dust Suppression System at Ash Pond-C 10.09.24 to 25.09.24  
2 ACH of Unit-II Boiler 10.09.24 to 23.09.24  
3 Replacement of 250 NB CI pipe, 300 & 350 NB MS ERW pipes with 11 mm thickness for ash conveying line 3B, 3D, 3F, 4A, 4D & 4F, from air compressor house to dry ash silo of U# 3 & 4. 10.09.24 to 25.09.24  
4 Operation Assistance Job contract at CHP 1. 10.09.24 to 25.09.24  
5 Supply & Installation of 30M high mast Light inside Warehouse 14.09.24 to 05.10.24  
6 AMC of Fire Detection System in BTG, BOP, CHP and OFF-SITE area of U#3&4 14.09.24 to 05.10.24  
7 Hiring of Manpower for Lighting AMC work 2024-25-OPGC II 14.09.24 to 05.10.24  
8 Construction of Community Centres (Rengali, Rajpur, Jharmunda & Pandari) Village 17.09.24 to 04.10.24  
9 Shed Extension for Ash Brick Stacking at Ash brick manufacturing plant 17.09.24 to 03.10.24  
10 RIM lock in main door of D1,D3 & C-type blocks , MS Grill in balcony opening of D1 block 1st floor) and replacement of Indian pans to commode in D1 quarters. 16.09.24 to 01.10.24  
11 Hiring of Ambulance Drivers for Plant Gate & Hospital. 14.09.24 to 30.09.24  
12 Development of ETP,PTP and CTBD Area inside Main Plant. 10.09.24 to 25.09.24  
13 Civil work Modification of fire fighting system at OPGC II 12.09.24 to 27.09.24  
14 Repairing of Roads in Main Plant Area 13.09.24 to 28.09.24  
15 Acid Resistance Tile work Neutralization Pit Regeneration Area & Bulk Chemical store at DM Plant 14.09.24 to 30.09.24  
16 Water proofing of Bunker Roof of Unit-1&2. 16.09.24 to 01.10.24  
17 Construction of Road From Main Plant to MGR Road and Repairing of Ultratech Silo Road. 16.09.24 to 01.10.24  
Supply Tenders:  
1 Supply of Aviation Light ITPS/Pur/24-25/47 10.09.24 to 27.09.24  
2 Procurement of Segregating Valve Assembly ITPS/Pur/24-25/48 14.09.24 to 30.09.24  
3 CCTV Camera System ITPS/Pur/24-25/49 16.09.24 to 01.10.24  
4 Spares for Fire System Revival of CHP area & Main Plant. ITPS/Pur/24-25/50 16.09.24 to 01.10.24  
5 Revival & Commissioning of Fire Detection System at Guest House ITPS/Pur/24-25/51 16.09.24 to 01.10.24  
6 Procurement of Dewatering Pump ITPS/Pur/24-25/52 14.09.24 to 01.10.24  
The detailed NITs along with Terms and Conditions are available for download at OPGC website at [www.opgc.co.in](http://www.opgc.co.in). Addenda/Corrigenda/ Extensions, if any, will be notified on the OPGC website only and will not be published in any other media. Interested companies or entities may visit OPGC website for the tender timeline and other details.  
GM-CONTRACTS  
OIPR-64867/11/0006/24-25

**अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान (एम्स), भुवनेश्वर**  
**ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), BHUBANESWAR**  
(A Statutory body under aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India)  
Sijua, Post-Dumuduma, Bhubaneswar (Odisha) -751019  
RECT-11014/2/2024-RECU SEC Date: 05.09.2024  
**VACANCY NOTICE**  
**ADVT NO. DEPUTATION/02/2024**  
Applications are being invited for the various post on deputation basis at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.  
Sl. Name Group Pay Scale Vacancy  
1. Accounts Officer A Level 10 as per 7th 01  
2. Assistant Accounts Officer B Level 7 as per 7th 01  
3. Chief Dietician (Nutrition Officer) A Level 11 as per 7th 01  
4. Chief Librarian A Level 13 as per 7th 01  
5. Chief Medical Social Service Officer A Level 11 as per 7th 01  
6. Chief Pharmacist B Level 7 as per 7th 01  
7. Executive Engineer (Civil) A Level 11 as per 7th 01  
8. Executive Engineer (Electrical) A Level 11 as per 7th 01  
9. Hospital Architect A Level 11 as per 7th 01  
10. Medical Superintendent A Level 14 as per 7th 01  
11. Nursing Superintendent A Level 11 as per 7th 03  
12. Senior Procurement Cum Store Officer A Level 11 as per 7th 01  
13. Senior Sanitation Officer B Level 7 as per 7th 01  
For full details regarding the departments, essential educational qualification, eligibility criteria and other terms & conditions, please visit the institute website <https://aiimsbhubaneswar.nic.in>  
Sd/-  
Senior Administrative Officer  
AIIMS, Bhubaneswar

**संक्षिप्त जाहिरात**  
**GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Ambejogai**  
**Ramai Chowk, Ambejogai, Pin - 431 517**  
email: [ambejogai.ee@mahapwd.gov.in](mailto:ambejogai.ee@mahapwd.gov.in) Phone: 02446 / 247 760  
**E-TENDER NOTICE NO.14 OF 2024-2025**  
Public Works Department Government of Maharashtra has taken up the project "Climate Smart Connectivity for Inclusive Growth in Maharashtra" (CSCIGM) through EPC Package in Beed District of Maharashtra State On behalf of the Public Works Department, Government of Maharashtra represented by the Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department (Authority) through Chief Engineer (Konkan) and Project Director (EAP) ("the Employer), Executive Engineer, Public Works Division Ambejogai (Phone No.02446/247760) invites online bids from eligible bidders for the **Work of Improvement of Kharda Chausala Salegaon Malegaon Borisawargaon Lokhandi Sawargaon Road SH 64 Km 71/000 to 98/000 (Part - Malegaon to Lokhandi Sawargaon) Taluka-Kajaj and District - Beed on EPC mode.**  
The detailed Tender Notice and Request for Proposal (RFP) can be viewed/downloaded from E-Procurement portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in>. The detailed Notice can also be viewed on [www.mahapwd.gov.in](http://www.mahapwd.gov.in). The last date of submission of bid shall be on 30.09.2024 upto 17.00 Hrs. (IST). The authority reserves the right to accept or reject all/ any of the offers without assigning any reason whatsoever. Conditional bid shall not be accepted.  
Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Public Works Division, Ambejogai  
DGIPR/2024-2025/2720

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES**  
**PRITHVI BHAWAN, LODI ROAD**  
**NEW DELHI - 110 003**  
**Advertisement No F.No.,MoES/P.O(Seismo)/SAGE-Manpower/2023(e-12753)**  
Engagement of Project Scientist-I & Project Scientist-II on contractual basis to work under "Seismology and Geosciences (SAGE)" Scheme of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Prithvi Bhawan, New Delhi.  
Applications are invited from Indian Citizens for filling up temporary positions of 02 Project Scientist-I & 01 Project Scientist-II in Ministry of Earth Sciences "Seismology and Geosciences (SAGE)" Scheme. The engagement is purely temporary and on contractual basis. Selected candidates would be engaged for a period of 01(one) year initially.  
2. Circular regarding details of the posts, qualifications, experience, age limit, emoluments, etc may be downloaded from MoES website i.e <http://moes.gov.in/notices/recruitments>.  
3. Interested candidates may apply online at <https://vacancies.incois.gov.in/jobs/moes0324/home.jsp> in the prescribed format. Last date for receipt of applications is 21 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the leading Newspaper. No offline application will be entertained.  
4. For full details and submission of online applications please see website i.e.: [www.moes.gov.in](http://www.moes.gov.in) or <https://vacancies.incois.gov.in/jobs/moes0324/home.jsp>  
Sd/-  
(Mheena Gopinath)  
CBC 12101/11/0004/2425 Under Secretary to the Government of India

**DELHI CANTONMENT BOARD**  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
Delhi Cantonment Board invites tenders from the Govt. approved contractors in appropriate category through e-tendering for the following works as detailed below;  
Date of release of tender through e- procurement : 11.09.2024 at 1700 hrs  
Last date & time for downloading of tender documents : 03.10.2024 upto 1300 hrs  
Last date and time submission of e-tenders : 03.10.2024 upto 1300 hrs  
Date and time for opening of e-tenders : 04.10.2024 at 1330 hrs  
**Details of work**  
Sl. No. Name of work Amount of Contract Earnest Money Deposit Amount  
1. Improvement, repair /maintenance of footpaths at Peeru Vihar, Tigris Road, Sanyat line, lorry road and in front of KV-1 including road widening (where specified) at Delhi Cantonment Rs.5,48,00,000/- Rs.5,99,000/-  
2. Improvement, repair /maintenance of footpaths at Sanjay Vihar, DID Lines, Karan Vihar and road from NH-8 upto Jharera road including road widening (where specified) at Delhi Cantonment Rs.7,17,00,000/- Rs.6,83,500/-  
3. Improvement/addition/alteration to Cantt. Board School for accommodating Science Lab, Drawing Lab, IT Labs, Class rooms at Shastri Bazar, Delhi Cantonment Rs.2,45,00,000/- Rs.3,20,000/-  
4. Providing protective dwarf MS grill along main roads Sadar Bazar road, Thimayya Marg, Church road, Station road, Kotwali road, Gen D'souza marg, Cavalary road, Tigris road for protection and landscape areas, green strips Rs. 5,75,00,000/- Rs.6,12,500/-  
The bidder may download the "Tender Document" and other terms and conditions as applicable including detailed NIT, terms & conditions, particular specifications, special conditions, signing of Integrity Pact, adherence to GFR 2017 provisions, applicability of Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India), Order 2017 etc as provided in the technical bid from web site of <http://defproc.gov.in> & [www.delhi.cantt.gov.in](http://www.delhi.cantt.gov.in).  
Please note that any amendment, clarification, errata to tender documents shall be uploaded on website <http://defproc.gov.in> & Cantt Board website [www.delhi.cantt.gov.in](http://www.delhi.cantt.gov.in). All intending bidders are required to visit aforementioned websites to check for amendments, clarifications, errata etc prior to quoting their rates & no compensation whatsoever shall be admissible to the bidders for failure to register the same.  
Telephone No.25695450  
No. DCB/8/C-1/TN/2024-25/6  
OFFICE OF THE CANTONMENT BOARD  
Website: [www.delhi.cantt.gov.in](http://www.delhi.cantt.gov.in)  
Sd/-  
Chief Executive Officer  
Delhi Cantonment

**F. No. NCTE-Estt015/1/2023-Esst Section-HQ** Dated: 31.07.2024  
**VACANCY CIRCULAR**  
The National Council for Teacher Education, a statutory body established under the NCTE Act 1993 under the Ministry of Education, Department of School Education & Literacy, Govt. of India invites application from eligible officers/officials of Central/ State Governments/ Universities/ Recognized Research Institutions/Public Sector Undertakings / Statutory, Semi Govt., Autonomous or other organizations for filling up the following posts at its Hqrs. and Regional Committees at New Delhi on deputation basis for a period of three years, which is further extendable as per prescribed guidelines issued by DoP&T vide their OM dated 17.06.2010, amended from time to time:-  
Sl. No. Name of post No of vacancies Band Pay and Pay Matrix Level under 7th CPC  
1. Deputy Secretary/ Regional Director 01\* Level -12 in the pay matrix (Rs 78800- to 209200 as per 7thCPC)  
2. Under Secretary/ Research Officer 01\* Level - 11 in the pay matrix (Rs 67700- 208700 as per 7th CPC)  
3. Section Officer / Programme Officer 01\* Level - 07 in the pay matrix (Rs 44900-142400 as per 7th CPC)  
**\*Tentative vacancies. The number of vacancies may increase as per requirement.**  
2. NCTE reserves the right to change the number of posts or not to fill the posts advertised, if the circumstances so warrant.  
3. The details regarding eligibility, service, experience and procedure for submission of application may be downloaded from NCTE Website [www.ncte.gov.in/jobportal](http://www.ncte.gov.in/jobportal)  
4. The closing date for receipt of complete applications shall be 30 days from the date of publication of advertisement in Employment News.  
Sd/- (Mukesh Kumar)  
Under Secretary (Admin.I)  
CBC 21334/12/0003/2425

**2 Assam gang-rape accused surrender:** Two of the three suspects in the gang rape of a 14-year-old on Aug 22 in Assam's Nagaon district have surrendered after 15 days on the run, reports Mukut Das. One suspect was apprehended the day after the crime and died while trying to flee custody.

### Maoist carrying ₹14L bounty held

Madhya Pradesh police have arrested a 'most wanted' Maoist commander who carried a bounty of Rs 14 lakh and was so important to the insurgent outfit that Maoists attacked a Hawk Force team in Balaghat to free her from their custody. Police identified her as Sajanti, 32, of Nainpura village in Gadchiroli, Maharashtra. She was a member of Khatia Mocha Area Committee of Maoists' Kanha-Bhoramw Division and was involved in several violent incidents, including murder, say police. **TNN**

### S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER

**E-Tender Notice No. : SER-PSI-MURIRNC-TORI-2x25 KV, dated 06.09.2024.**  
e-Tender is invited by Chief Electrical Engineer (Project), S.E.Railway for & on behalf of the President of India for the following work : **Name of Work and its location :** Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 132 KV Traction Substation, Sectioning post (SPs) and Sub Sectioning Post (SSPs) in 2x25KV System on Muri-Ranchi-Tori section of Kharagpur Division of South Eastern Railway to meet 3000MT loading target on EPC mode.  
**Approximate cost of the work :** ₹ 126,68,18,936.33. **Bid security :** ₹ 64,84,100/- . **Cost of Tender Documents :** NIL. **Completion period of the work :** 720 days from appointed date. **Last date of receiving queries :** 25.09.2024. **Pre-Bid Meeting :** 27.09.2024 at 12.00 hrs. **Physical Submission of all documents listed in Clause No. 2.11.2 :** 25.10.2024 (15.00 hrs. IST). **Closing date of tender :** 21.10.2024 (14.00 hrs. IST). **Website particular where complete details of tender can be seen:** www.reps.gov.in **Validity of offer :** 180 days from the date of opening of tender. (PR-573)

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
The West Bengal Small Industries Development Corporation Ltd.  
(A Govt. of West Bengal Undertaking)  
"Shilpa Bhawan", 31, Black Burn Lane, Kolkata-700012  
**CORRIGENDUM**  
Ref. NIET 04 of 2024-25 Sl. 01 for Engagement of Transaction Advisor  
(Tender ID: 2024\_MSMET\_731459\_1)  
A corrigendum in connection with extension of date and pre-bid meeting for the above mentioned Notice Inviting Electronic Tender (NIET) has been published for information of the intending bidders. Video call link for Pre-Bid Meeting dated 12.09.2024 at 2.00 p.m. <https://meet.google.com/eou-why-1j2> For details, log on to <https://www.bidsindia.gov.in> & <https://www.wbidsil.in> Sd/- Executive Director-II. ICA: T15964(1)2024

### EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

**TENDER NOTICE**  
No. GS-DNR-SnT-2024-06 Danapur, dtd. 05.09.2024  
Sr. Divl. Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Gati Shakti, East Central Railway, Danapur Division, for and on behalf of President of India invites tenders on web portal [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) for the following work:-  
**1. Name of work with its location:** Provision of Telecom facilities on 05 Nos. terminal Platform at Harding Park area near Patna in Danapur Division of E.C. Railway.  
**2. Approximate cost of work :** Rs. 2113139.65. **3. Earnest Money:** Rs. 255700.00. **4. Last Date & Time of Submission:** Up to 15.00 hrs. on 30.09.2024. **5. Opening of tender:** 15.30 hrs. on 30.09.2024. **6. Website Particulars where detail of the work and criteria can be seen:** www.reps.gov.in.  
**7. Address of the office from where detail information can be obtained:** Sr. Divl. Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Gati Shakti, East Central Railway, Danapur.  
**Note:** Any Corrigendum if required will be uploaded on above website before 14 days from the date of opening of tender.  
Sr. Div. Sig. & Telecom Engineer(GS) East Central Railway, Danapur  
PR/01075/DNRGS/SAT/T24-25/36

**कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता**  
दक्षिणोत्तर विद्युत वितरण निगम लिमिटेड  
विद्युत माध्यमिक कार्य मण्डल  
लाल डिग्री, अलीगढ़  
ई-निविदा सूचना  
ई-निविदा संख्या एवं ई-निविदा का संक्षिप्त विवरण निम्नवत् है:- (1) निम्नो विद्युतमाध्यमिक-04/2024-25 : 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र स्थापना की अतिभाषिता दूर करने हेतु 5-10 से 8-10 एम्पर, क्षमतावृद्धि किये जाने का कार्य। (समी-उर्न-को आधार पर)। (2) निम्नो विद्युतमाध्यमिक-05/2024-25 : 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र गल्ला मण्डी की अतिभाषिता दूर करने हेतु 5-10-10 से 8-10-10 एम्पर क्षमतावृद्धि किये जाने का कार्य। (समी-उर्न-को आधार पर)। (3) निम्नो विद्युतमाध्यमिक-06/2024-25 : 33/11 केवी विद्युत उपकेंद्र गल्ला मण्डी की 33 केवीपी जर्जर लाइन के 400 क्वड्रन्ट को वेधक-क्वड्रन्ट से बदलने का कार्य। (समी-उर्न-को आधार पर)। ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारी 3090 शासन की ई-प्राधिकारित वेबसाइट [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) एवं [www.upnigam.org](http://www.upnigam.org) पर उपलब्ध है। (अर्जत कुमार) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता। राष्ट्रपति में विजिली ब्रचय। पत्रांक 251 / वि.म.का.म. / अली. / विज्ञापन दिनांक 06.09.2024

### EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
(Signal & Telecom. Department)  
E-tender Notice No. SG-664-05-Tele-2024-25, Dhanbad, Date: 03.09.2024  
E-tender is invited on behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work.  
**1. Name of the work:** Provision of Tunnel Radio Communication System for Tunnels in falling under GC section over Dhanbad Division as per RDSO specification.  
**2. Approx. Cost of the work:** Rs. 1,87,05,308.91. **3. Earnest Money:** Rs. 2,43,500.00. **4. Date & time for closing of tender:** 23.09.2024 (12:30 Hrs).  
Any E-Tenders which is sent by Post / Courier / FAX or self, Manual proposals although the letter is on forms letter pad or received in time will not be accepted. The above E-Tenders, E-Tendering document alongwith full information is available on website i.e. <http://www.reps.gov.in>  
**Note:** Tenderers are requested to visit the website <http://www.reps.gov.in> at least 10 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum / corrections etc in response to this E-tender.  
For Sr. D. S.T.E. East Central Railway, Dhanbad  
PR/01061/DHNS&T/T24-25/36

### WESTERN RAILWAY - AHMEDABAD DIVISION

**SIGNALLING WORKS**  
INVITING TENDER NO. EPC ADI WR SNT 06R DRM/S and T acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No EPC ADI WR SNT 06R closing date 25.09.2024. 15:00 Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. (1) Name of Work : Provision of EI & MSDAC based Automatic signalling along with provision of EI & other signalling systems in Sanand Samakhiali (219.09 route km, 23 stations) section of Ahmedabad Division of Western Railway (Re-invite). (2) Estimated Cost of Work : ₹3,29,09,31,790.01/- (Rs Three Hundred Twenty Nine Crore Nine Lakh Ninety One Thousands Seven Hundred Ninety Rupees and One paisa only) (3) Earnest Deposit Money : ₹1,64,54,700/- (Rs One Crore Sixty Four Lakh Fifty Four Thousands Seven Hundred only) (4) Date and time of Pre-Bid meeting : 11:00 hrs of 06.09.2024. At DRM office Ahmedabad. (5) Date and time of closing : Not later than 15:00 hrs of 25.09.2024 (6) Physical Submission of documents : Not later than 18:00 hrs of 01.10.2024 (7) Date and time of Opening of Technical Bids : Opening on 03.10.2024 at 15.30 hrs. (8) Web site of E-Tendering : [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in)  
168  
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# 15 on way back from funeral killed in crash

## 4 Kids Among The Victims; 14 Injured

Mohammad.Dilshad  
@timesofindia.com

Agra: Fifteen people, including four children, four women, and seven men, were killed, and 14 others were injured in a head-on collision between a pick-up vehicle and a Uttar Pradesh roadways bus near Kapura intersection in Hathras on Agra-Aligarh national highway around 7.30pm on Friday.

The victims were returning from a funeral. Police and emergency services transported the injured to a district hospital.

Victims, residents of Semera village in Khandauli block of Agra, were returning home after attend-



The tragedy occurred when a UP roadways bus collided head-on with a pick-up vehicle in Hathras on Agra-Aligarh NH on Friday

ing last rites when the pick-up vehicle, carrying around 30-35 people, collided with a bus from Aligarh depot.

An eyewitness, Rakesh Gupta, said, "The pick-up was attempting to overtake another vehicle when it crashed into the bus coming from opposite direction."

Hathras district magistrate Ashish Patel said,

"The injured have been treated in the hospital, and bodies of the deceased have been sent for postmortem. Further investigation is underway."

SP Nipun Agarwal further added, "Fifteen people died in the accident, and rescue operations are on. We are investigating the cause of the crash."

# SG: Accused can't direct how probe has to be conducted

Continued from P 1

For the ex-principal, senior advocate Meenakshi Arora said her client was prejudiced by HC observation indicating a nexus between the offence (rape-murder) on Aug 9 and the alleged medical scam. CJI said, "That (nexus) is itself a matter of investigation."

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta and additional solicitor general S V Raju said the alleged nexus was the precise matter for investigation by CBI. Arora vociferously argued that probe into financial irregularity and rape-murder case should be done separately and criticised HC for drawing a nexus between the two cases.

Both Mehta and Raju said an accused could not decide or direct how the investigation was to be conducted by CBI and could never be permitted to put fetters on the probe. CJI Chandrachud agreed and said even courts could not direct a particular course of investigation. "We (SC) have also asked CBI to file status reports before us. CBI will apprise us of what



NO RESPIRE: Sandeep Ghosh

emerges during investigation," the CJI said.

Arora tried to narrate why students, who have been agitating against the rape-murder of their colleague, were inimical towards Ghosh. She said Ghosh joined as principal in 2021 and had stopped the Covid-period practice of promoting students without examination.

She said that this had led to a students' agitation which was called off after the HC's intervention.

On financial irregularities in the hospital as alleged by the PIL, Arora said the plea was filed by former deputy superintendent of RG Kar Hospital, Akhtar Hussain, as a counter to

the show cause notices he was served for several lapses leading to his transfer to Murshidabad.

The bench said it was not giving Hussain a clean chit. Arora said similar petitions alleging financial irregularities in disposal of biomedical waste had been dismissed earlier by the HC and argued that it could not continue to entertain petition after petition without being restrained by the principle of 'res judicata' (a matter that has been finally decided).

"There are cases and cases. These are not matters which we can dispose of on a technicality. Three PILs were dismissed by HC. But now it has entrusted the probe to CBI. At this stage, you do not have locus at all," the CJI said.

Arora responded, "When the PIL only alleged irregularities in biomedical waste, and did not draw any nexus with the Aug 9 offence, could HC pass an order terminating there is apparent nexus?" The CJI-led bench said, "The issue of biomedical waste is a trigger. HC wishes that the entire matter is pursued to its logical conclusion."

# MP quits BJD, joins BJP; 2nd neta to do so in less than 2 mths

Bhubaneswar: Less than two months after BJD's Mamata Mohanta quit Rajya Sabha and the party and joined BJP, the Naveen Patnaik-led party suffered another blow with another RS MP Sujet Kumar resigning from the Upper House and BJD on Friday, reports Ashok Pradhan. Later, he joined BJP, boosting the party's prospects of increasing its tally in RS.

Sujet, who joined BJP at an event in Delhi in the presence of Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan, said he was fed up with corruption within BJD and the leadership's reluctance to listen when he tried to bring it to their notice. Sujet's resignation letter from RS, 18 months ahead of his six-year term which is supposed to end on Apr 2, 2026, did not provide any specific reason for his decision to step down.

On whether he was promised re-nomination to Rajya Sabha, the lawyer-turned-politician said, "I am ready for whatever responsibility is offered to me."

# Maha woman dies in home septic tank, shock kills hubby

Navi Mumbai: A 48-year-old Sewri resident died after slipping into the septic tank of her home in a Malvan village, reports Umesh K Parida. Her husband, a 51-year-old who had undergone an angioplasty some time ago, died of a heart attack on finding her dead.

The couple was on a visit to their ancestral village, Masure, for the Ganesh festival. The man's 75-year-old mother and two children of his relatives accompanied them, while the couple's son stayed back in Mumbai.

The couple had bought a house there four years ago and were planning to perform a puja during this visit. The incident took place around 3pm on Thursday.

Malvan police inspector Pravin Kolhe said, "Relatives of the couple took the bodies to Mumbai for the last rites. An accidental death report has been filed."

# Trial court to decide terms & conditions of Singal release

Continued from P 1

Senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Singal, said he had been in custody for about 16 months and there had been non-compliance with SC ruling in Pan-kaj Bansal case.

The bench, however, refrained from observing whether Singal could be re-arrested. "I don't know whether you can re-arrest him. I am not sure on that. I will not like to pronounce on that," Justice Khanna said.

The court directed that Singal be released on terms and conditions to be imposed by the trial court in addition to surrendering his passport and not leaving the country. Singal had appealed against the Jan 8 order of Delhi HC which dismissed his bail plea and petition challenging his arrest by ED.

SC had said on Oct 3, 2023, "To give true meaning and purpose to the constitutional and statutory mandate of Section 19(1) of PMLA of informing arrested person of grounds of arrest, we hold that it would be necessary, henceforth, that a copy of such written grounds of arrest is furnished to the arrested person as a matter of course & without exception."

# Parents go to thana with girl's rape plaint, beaten by woman cop

Selvaraj.A@timesofindia.com

Chennai: A couple who complained that their 10-year-old daughter had been raped repeatedly by a neighbour was beaten by an inspector of Anna Nagar's all-women police station and made to stay at the station till the early hours of Aug 31. The survivor, a Class VI student of a govt school, stood witness to the ill-treatment of her parents in presence of the accused, Sathish, a water can supplier in the neighbourhood. He is yet to be arrested though the FIR was filed on Aug 31. The girl's father is a construction worker and her mother a cook.

Though the incident came to light on Aug 29 and the case filed on Aug 31, the child is yet to get the mandatory counselling by a district child protection officer or anyone from child welfare committee.

On Aug 29, the girl's mother returned from work in the evening and found her writhing with pain in the stomach.

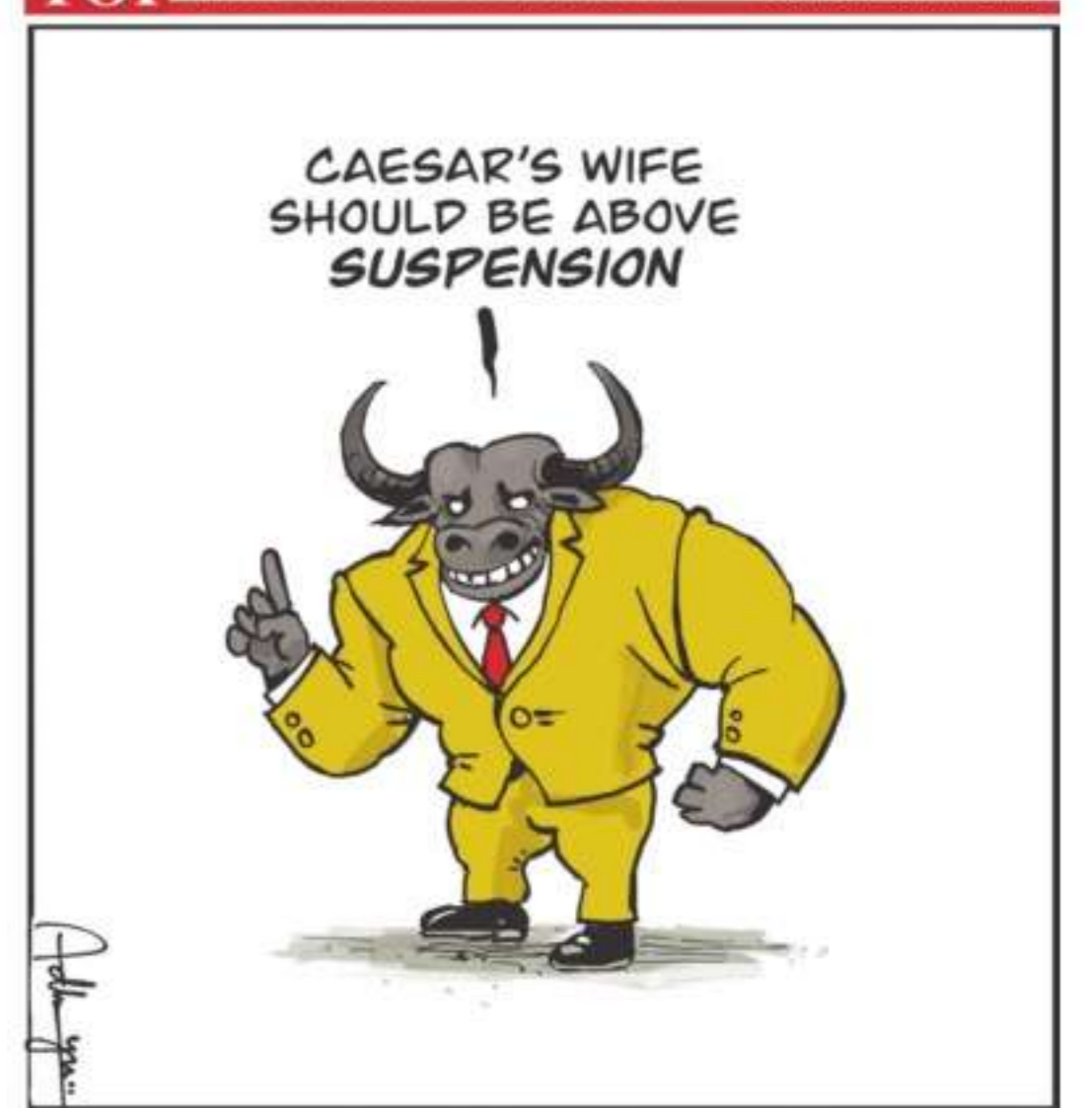
She took her to a private clinic where a doctor said she had been raped. The girl was referred to Kilpauk Medical College and Hospital (KMCH) where doctors said she had been sexually assaulted repeatedly. Informed by KMCH, an Anna Nagar all-women police team visited the hospital. Contrary to rules, the inspector asked the mother to bring her Aadhaar and other particulars to the station and held an 'inquiry' with the child.

The inspector is heard repeatedly asking the girl why she mentioned Sathish's name and the girl says she did it by mistake. She also tells police her cousin had sexually assaulted her in 2022. The survivor told her mother later that she didn't mention Sathish's name to police because he had threatened to kill her parents and younger sister.

When TOI contacted the inspector of the police station, she said, "You should not ask about Pocco cases to the investigation officer."

# PAC set to decide on calling Buch for Sebi review

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL SANDEEP ADHWARYU



Continued from P 1

This is an outright case of corruption that invokes conflict of interest violating Sections 4, 7 and 8 of Sebi's 2008 Code on Conflict of Interests for members of the board, Kherra said.

"Was her appointment cleared on the condition that she could maintain her previous financial relationships, provided she acted in line with the wishes of the PM and his close associates?" he asked while seeking to drag govt into the row.

He said unlike some of her predecessors, Buch, the first woman to lead Sebi and

first chairperson from the private sector, had "merely transferred her investments to her spouse, which raises concerns about credibility".

M Damodaran, who became Sebi chairman, sold 50 shares of SBI when he took his previous appointment as CMD of UTI in 2001. Similarly, after he took over as Sebi chief, C B Bhavre recused himself from all matters involving National Securities Depository, where he was formerly chairman, Kherra said.

The public accounts committee of Parliament is set to take a decision on summoning Buch as part of a review of the market regulator.

# Govt nod to 6-mth therapy for drug-resistant TB

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New Delhi: Health ministry on Friday approved introduction of BPaLM regimen — a novel treatment for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) — under its National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP). While traditional MDR-TB treatments can last up to 20 months with severe side effects, BPaLM regimen can cure the drug-resistant TB in just six months with high treatment success rate.

India has close to 75,000 drug-resistant TB patients. The ministry said patients will now be able to avail benefit of this shorter regimen. "With the other advantages, there will be an overall saving

in cost," it said. BPaLM regimen includes a new anti-TB drug, namely Pretomanid, in combination with Bedaquiline and Linezolid (with/without Moxifloxacin).

Pretomanid has earlier been approved and licenced for use in India by CDSCO. Govt sources said the drug combination was proven to be safe, more effective and a quicker treatment option than the previous MDR-TB treatment procedure.

An official said a country-wide time-bound roll out plan of BPaLM regimen is being prepared by central TB division in consultation with states/UTs, which includes rigorous capacity building of health professionals for safe administration of the new regimen.

### RAMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

BANGALORE 560080  
**CORRIGENDUM**  
Advt - 1/2024 - dated 13 July 2024  
The due date for submission of application with reference to our Advertisement No.1/2024 dated 13/07/2024 for the posts of Professor II (Pay level 14) and Professor I (Pay level 13A) has been extended till 13/11/2024.  
sd/-  
Administrative Officer

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1	HPGL	E-NET NO 2024_HRC_394003_1	CORRIGENDUM NO-2 DATE CHANGE START DATE 24.07.2024 CLOSING DATE 18.09.2024 & CORRIGENDUM 3 RESPONSE TO BIDDERS QUERIES IS AVAILABLE AT WEBSITE OF HPGL & ETENDER HARYANA	<a href="http://www.hppl.org.in">www.hppl.org.in</a>	0172-5022416 8@hppl.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) OR 291710

### Girl kills self at Visva-Bharati hostel

A third-year student of Visva-Bharati's Silpa Sadana allegedly died by suicide on Thursday, reports S Borah. The student from Varanasi was found in a critical condition in her hostel room in the evening. She was rushed to the varsity hospital and later shifted to Bolpur subdivisional hospital, where doctors declared her dead. Additional police superintendent Rana Mukherjee said police have sealed the room "so that evidence can't be tampered with".

# Bharaich villagers hold havan at Shiva temple to ward off wolves

Lucknow: Continually hounded by killer wolves, many villages in UP's Bahraich have now pinned their hopes on divine intervention. Villagers of Kishanganj in Mahsi subdivision have begun a special ritual at a Shiva temple — a relay havan where chanting of hymns and mantras is underway as villagers gather in large numbers to seek "Shiva's blessings to keep them protected", reports Pathrikrit Chakraborty.

Since July 17, over 50 villages in Mahsi tehsil are living in fear of wolf attacks. Despite efforts by authorities, these attacks and fatalities have continued to

rise, leaving villagers disheartened with the administration's response and turning to prayer for safety.

On Thursday, a special prayer ceremony was held at the Shiva temple. Neighbouring village, Kisaanganj, also organised a mass ritual on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, in two separate incidents, three persons were injured in animal attacks in Jadavpur village under Mahsi tehsil of Bahraich on Sept 5-6.

Early on Friday, a series of animal attacks in Piyarepur village in Ahirauli area of UP's Ambedkarnagar district, left three injured.

## Sena mantri stirs fresh row, calls Ajit's finance dept 'most worthless'

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Mumbai: Frictions are growing between key constituents of Mahayuti govt as state water supply minister Gulabrao Patil, who belongs to Shiv Sena led by CM Eknath Shinde, targeted finance department headed by deputy CM Ajit Pawar on Friday, saying it was "most worthless department in the govt".

### It's Shinde-Fadnavis camp vs Ajit group for Ladki Bahin credit

Disquiet in Mahayuti over credit for 'Mukhyamantri Mazhi Ladki Bahin Yojana' is out in the open, reports Anurag Bende. Days after NCP's ad promoting it as 'Ajtada Ladki Bahin' scheme, posters with BJP symbol emerged in his Baramati bastion with CM Eknath Shinde and deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis' photos. There was no photo or mention of Ajit Pawar.



A political debate flared up in Mahayuti which was discussed in the cabinet meet where Shiv Sena minister Shambhuj Desai objected to NCP's advertisement that had no mention of 'Mukhyamantri' from scheme's name. "Every advertisement of our party has both deputy CMs photos along with the CM's. NCP, which is in our alliance, removed the word 'Mukhyamantri' from their advertisement when retaining it should not be a problem," Desai said. NCP spokesperson Umesh Patil said a day after state budget was presented posters praising Shinde were displayed across state. Patil added, "It shows Shiv Sena had already planned to promote Shinde over budget allocations. We did not object. However, when we are promoting the scheme and shortening its name for convenience, why should our alliance partner object?" Fadnavis said, "We have proposed an sop to bring uniformity in all ads promoting govt schemes."

the party feeling that bringing him into Mahayuti alliance cost them seats in Lok Sabha polls.

Speaking at a function in Jalgaon, Patil said: "Finance department is the most worthless in the govt. I had sent a file to the department, and it was returned 10 times. Only negative remarks were given. But I did not give up and kept following up," he said. The minister, who is known for being combative and outspoken, later said there were no differences within the cabinet.

It's not clear whether Patil was targeting finance department officials who are red-flagging cash-strapped state's pre-election sops, including the Rs 46,000 crore Mukhya Mantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana, or Pawar. When Shinde toppled Maha Vikas Aghadi govt, one of the key grouses raised in his rebellion was that departments led by Shiv Sena were being denied funds by finance department controlled by Pawar.

Last week, Pawar found himself under attack from another Shiv Sena leader, state public health minister Tanaji Sawant. He said he had opposed Congress and NCP all his life. "I sit next to them in the cabinet, but after coming out, I vomit," he had said on Aug 29.

Within BJP too, there are rumblings of discontent against Pawar, with many in

## Record ₹700cr R&D funding for IIT-B, up from ₹576cr in 2022-23

### To Aid Projects Like Maha Drone Mission

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@timesofindia.com



IIT-B has made concerted efforts to align its R&D focus with the national goal of achieving technological self-reliance

Mumbai: IIT Bombay (IIT-B) has recorded the largest-ever annual grant for research and development — Rs 700 crore. This is a huge fillip from the previous years when it attracted Rs 576 crore in 2022-23 and Rs 502 crore in 2021-22.

The R&D funds are a combination of those received from govt and private industry, domestic and foreign. While funding from govt agencies makes up the lion's share, about 35% grant is from private sources. This year's grant comes close to overall yearly aid received

from central govt for IIT-B, about Rs 800 crore. While annual tuition fee contributes around Rs 105 crore, the R&D grant now is the second-largest contributor to the institute's finances. "IIT-B has made concerted efforts to align its R&D focus with national goal of achieving technological self-reliance," said

the institute's spokesperson. "It has set up multidisciplinary research centres to address complex problems in a holistic way involving researchers from different academic units. Students and faculty members of the institute conduct research in all areas of science, engineering, design, management and humanities."

The institute achieved this, said institute officials, by adopting a three-pronged strategy — increasing industry outreach, participating in research missions floated by govt, and through natural growth by increasing faculty numbers which in turn brought more projects. New R&D projects, both short-term consulting and long-term sponsored research, are initiated every year in all areas of science, engineering, management, design

and social sciences. The duration of the projects typically ranges from 2 to 5 years.

Among some main projects that IIT-B will undertake as a part of this grant include Maharashtra Drone Mission by technical education department, which has funded a project with an outlay of Rs 151.8 crores (over five years) to foster indigenous technology development and establish Maharashtra as a global leader in drone technology. Another project includes developing hydrogen pressure vessel manufacturing using textile-based composites TeCoPV India by the ministry of textiles, which has funded this project. The project will establish a platform for indigenous, cost-effective, and safe gaseous hydrogen storage potential, risk assessment and life cycle analysis.

## Only doctors find place in sub-groups for hospital safety

**Rema.Nagarajan**  
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Ignoring representations from nurses and patients to be included in deliberations on safety inside hospitals, National Task Force dominated by senior doctors has created four sub-groups that have only doctors and bureaucrats as members. While the 14-member task force had 11 senior doctors and three bureaucrats, the sub-groups have added eight more doctors, all from central govt-funded hospitals in Delhi and from the office of directorate

to patients and attendants. It is shocking that they have been excluded completely," said Dr George, adding, "There are so many senior nurses who could have been included. But if nurses are included they will definitely bring up the issue of sexual harassment within the health system and that could be the reason why doctors would not be keen to have them."

On Thursday, health ministry announced 4 sub-groups were constituted to address concerns and areas suggested by the top court.

The four areas include strengthening infrastructure of medical institutions, strengthening security systems in medical institutions, revamping working conditions of health care professionals and strengthening legal framework across all states.

The terms of reference (TOR) states sub-groups are to make "effective recommendations to remedy issues of concern pertaining to safety, working conditions and well being of medical professionals and other related matters". It explains that the phrase medical professionals encompasses every medical professional, including doctors, medical students undergoing internship as part of the MBBS course, resident doctors and nurses, including nursing interns.

### TASK FORCE ROW

general of health services in Union health ministry.

Trained Nurses Association of India, one of the oldest unions of nurses, has filed an intervention petition in SC seeking representation in the task force. Patients have also filed an intervention application seeking the same.

"Since the task force and health ministry have ignored our representation to be included, we are forced to approach the court," said Dr Roy K George, president of TNAI.

"Nurses are the largest segment in the workforce and over 90% of nurses are women. They face harassment from doctors and co-workers

## Flight to Germany lands in Turkiye after bomb threat

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai/New Delhi: A Mumbai to Frankfurt Vistara flight was forced to divert to eastern Turkiye after a bomb threat Friday. As per sources, a message 'Bomb on airplane' was discovered on a tissue paper in lavatory of the Vistara Boeing.

A Vistara spokesperson confirmed that flight UK27 that left Mumbai was diverted due to security concerns. The airline said the security issue was noted by the crew onboard. The aircraft with 247 people on board, including 11 crew, landed safely in Turkiye. "The aircraft land-

ed at Erzurum airport. As per protocol, authorities were immediately alerted and we are fully cooperating with the security agencies to complete the mandatory security checks," the airline spokesperson added.

If post-security checks, the threats are found to be a hoax, the aircraft will proceed to its destination. "Handwriting check should be done to find out who wrote this. Such diversions cause a lot of inconvenience to passengers and cost airlines a lot of money, apart from disrupting the schedule that aircraft is to operate," said a senior pilot.

## Japan names new envoy before PM's likely visit

New Delhi: Japan appointed senior diplomat Keiichi Ono as new ambassador to India. Ono has served as senior deputy minister for foreign affairs and as Japan's G7 sherpa, playing an important role in ensuring success of 2013 G7 summit in Hiroshima.

Ono, who is an expert on Japan-US relations, will take place of Hiroshi Suzuki who was appointed ambassador to the UK. India and Japan had last month held another round of 2+2 dialogue that saw the two sides reach an understanding to revise their

landmark 2008 agreement for security cooperation.

The document, which will reflect contemporary priorities and be responsive to the current security challenges, will be adopted during PM Modi's expected visit to Japan later this year. Modi is likely to meet the outgoing Japan PM Fumio Kishida later this month, on the margins of the UN general assembly in New York. Kishida will step down as PM late Sept as he's withdrawn from LDP presidential election that will be held this month. **TNN**

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Sd/-  
Managing Director, AMSC.

Janasanyog/CF/1377/247-Sep-24

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2802/2024

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Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) is inviting firms/agencies for Demand Assessment for upcoming Industrial Areas in Prayagraj, Banda, and Ballia districts in Uttar Pradesh.

UPSIDA is developing 175 acres of land in Meja Tehsil, Prayagraj; 90 acres of land in Village MawaiBijurg, Banda district; and 57 acres of land in Rasra Tehsil, Ballia district, Uttar Pradesh.

UPSIDA intends to develop Industrial Areas as part of its ongoing initiatives in these aforementioned areas. For the same, UPSIDA intends to gauge interest from various players to set up Industrial, Warehousing, Logistics, Commercial units.

The EOI document will be available online on our website [www.onlineupsida.com](http://www.onlineupsida.com) 07.09.2024 onwards. Interested firms / agencies are requested to send their responses on or before 7.10.2024 by 16:00 hrs at email address as mentioned in the EOI document.

**Chief Executive Officer**  
Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority, (UPSIDA)

**NORTHERN RAILWAY PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARING OF ACCUSED PERSON**

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Suraj Suman** S/o Krishan Kumar, R/o H.No. 516/06, Shivlal Chowk, Govindpuri, Kalkaji, Delhi-110019 has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case CC No. 2094/23 u/s 143(1) R. Act. P.S. New Delhi Railway Station which is punishable and a Warrant of arrest issued there upon has been returned unexecuted stating that the said accused **Suraj Suman** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Suraj Suman** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said Warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Suraj Suman** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complain on or before 27.09.2024.

By Order  
**SHRI JITENDER**  
Special Railway Magistrate  
Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi

2804/2024

**YOUR NEXT INVESTMENT?**

Have you bought Red Gold?  
55% return guaranteed hai.

Achchhe rate dilwa doonga main.

55% rate of return. Voh bhi tax-free!

Who said tax-free? No, it's not.

Jiju ko bolo, invest now!

**IN WITH THE NEWS, OUT WITH THE NOISE.**

**THE TIMES OF INDIA**

Scan to know the truth about Red Gold.

CHANGE Begins Here.

VML 5745 2024

**ADVISORY ON WATER-BORNE DISEASES**

Water borne diseases spread due to consumption of contaminated water/ice or contaminated food.

During the summer and rainy season there is increased risk of water-borne diseases, such as Diarrhea, Dysentery, Viral Hepatitis A and E, Typhoid, Cholera etc.

These diseases commonly present with diarrhoea, vomiting, fever, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, jaundice (yellow discolouration of eyes and skin).

**PREVENTION IS THE KEY**

**Do's**

- Drink clean potable water.
- Eat home cooked fresh food.
- Wash hands with soap & water after toilet and before eating meals.
- Thoroughly wash raw food items such as vegetables, fruits etc.
- Maintain good personal hygiene.
- Exclusively breastfeed the baby for first six months.
- Use oral rehydration salt (ORS) solution to prevent dehydration.
- Consult a health facility in case of vomiting, diarrhoea, jaundice, fever etc.

**Don'ts**

- Do not consume outside drinks (sold as loose items) such as cane sugar juice, lassi, fruit juices, shakes, ice candies etc.
- Do not consume outside uncooked food (such as cut fruits, golgappas etc).
- Do not defecate/ urinate in open to prevent contamination of water sources.

Make your family/ friends/ neighbours/ others aware about preventive measures for water & food borne diseases.

DIP/Shabdarth/Display/0018/24-25

Directorate General of Health Services  
Government of NCT of Delhi

**PH-IV**

**NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION**  
Jansamman Bharo

**A thought for today**

Napa cabbage is very beautiful, all those long, pale leaves with ruffled edges

NOBU MATSUHISA, celebrity chef

## Kimchi Bites

Climate change is turning the heat on comfort foods

Kimchi for many Indians is now their favourite aachaar. Its local incarnations are often made with local patta gobi. But over in its homeland, they associate kimchi with the distinctive napa cabbage that really thrives in South Korea's cooler, mountainous region. But climate change now threatens this tradition. This year the country saw its highest ever average summertime temperature, since records began. As one Kimchi Master puts it, this means the heart of the cabbage goes bad, the root becomes mushy. As if suffering tonnes of extreme weather wasn't bad enough by itself, even our comfort foods are now becoming endangered.

As rising temperatures force some farmers to leave grapes behind, Bordeaux winemakers are worried about the future of Merlot. In Maine, where lobstering is twined tight into the local culture, fisherfolk to restaurants to the tourism industry as a whole, everyone is anxious about the delectable creature going further and further away in search of cooler waters. If you celebrate a festival centring on one food, you need to read the tea leaves extra closely. US Thanksgiving, for example, is about the turkey, but this gorgeous creature gets stressed out by high temperatures and then its growth gets stunted.

One clear takeaway is that farming and the food industry need to get greener, do their part to mitigate climate change. Ditto for restaurants – from simple things like reducing food wastage to tough ones like carbon-neutrality, they need to up their game. But the apocalypse criers also need to calm down. Food history is full of adaptation and invention. Once upon a time, idli was made of only dal, then chawal got added, likely to make it cheaper and more accessible. For aeons kimchi was made in large, clay drums, but modern-day Koreans have got themselves specialised kimchi fridges. It's progress and still tasty.



## Republic Of Independents

To make a dent, if not to win, is their raison d'être

Ten days to J&K's first phase, there are 92 Independents contesting on 24 seats, many quietly tagged 'friendly with BJP'. These party-unaffiliated fighters are always the most interesting, fighting for a variety of reasons – as proxies and party rebels, as revenge nominees or just on personal fads, the legions of 'dharti pakads'. Regardless what motivates their dive into impossible contests, they pack a punch, although their winnability's whittled since LS polls 1952, when 37 of 533 Independents won. Voters sent to Parliament this LS election seven Independents of 542 such contestants, three of whom were shock wins. All three – two from Punjab and one from Kashmir – are strong political brands all their own, a politics that makes establishment parties queasy.

Making parties and their candidates squirm, fret and sweat has been Independents' primary role. Take, for instance, the current rebellion in Haryana BJP – several threatening to contest as Independents, miffed over the party's first list. Or the 1996 case when 1,033 Independents, almost all angry farmers, contested on a single TN assembly seat in protest. All but three lost their deposit, 88 didn't land a single vote. As a deterrent, EC hiked deposit fees to ₹25k from the paltry ₹500 for an LS contest, and to ₹10k for an assembly fight. Not that today's Independents balk at "entry fees". Three of the richest 10 in J&K phase 1 are Independents, all crorepatis, while the poorest two are also Independents, assets ₹5k and ₹10k. How free are the Independents, though, will be known only on Oct 8.



## A Rainbow Is Always 84 Degrees Across

How trigonometry explains the natural & built worlds

Turns out, triangles unlock the most important bits of knowledge discovered by humans. **Love Triangle: How Trigonometry Shapes the World** by Matt Parker, shows how this geometry underlies so much of what we take for granted.

Triangles are easy to decode with partial information. Say you only know the length of the lines, or just a length and two angles – you can figure out the rest. They're like "nature's sudoku", says the book. For instance, trigonometry can help you figure out exactly how high a balloon is drifting, from just one photograph of it.

Straight roads, centuries of accurate maps depend on this shape. Using a shadow to measure the height of a tower? That's an old trick with triangles too, used right from the days of Thales of Miletus in 500 BCE. The Egyptians needed maths to measure and divide plots of land, after the Nile's periodic flooding. Triangles were used to calculate where we are situated in space, to measure the size of Earth. In the 1700s, two French mathematicians mapped a chain of 115 giant triangles from Dunkirk to Spain, measuring the angles to figure out exact latitude, then deduce what percentage of Earth's circumference they had covered, and scale up their calculations to estimate the size of the planet.

Look around, you see angles everywhere in nature and the built world. The wake behind a duck in a pond is always 39 degrees, which tells us something about waves. A rainbow is always 84 degrees across. Pool players use the principle of triangles, imagining a phantom pocket, to plot and play their shots. If you pour different substances out on a table in piles, they form

different angles depending on the friction between their particles. Wheat flour or chalk dust will give you an angle of 45 degrees, dry sand 34 degrees.

Everyone remembers the Pythagoras theorem from school, and all civilisations seem to have arrived on the same idea sooner or later. The book shows how the theorem was used to correct NBA distance statistics, for instance.

Triangles are essential to construction. Civil engineers love them because they don't skew – a rectangle flops into a parallelogram unless it has a diagonal to keep it firm, but a triangle stays rigid.

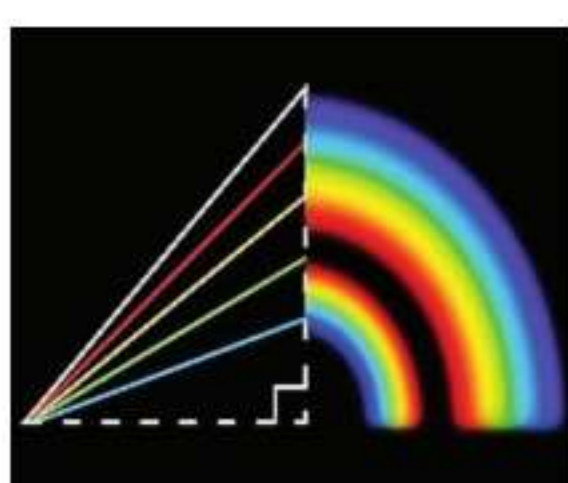
A bunch of contiguous triangles is a mesh. Much architecture is based on these repeated shapes or lattices – the British Museum roof, for example. Today, 3D modelling and printing use triangle meshes, as do computer games.

Any signal can be built up from sine waves. Sine waves are one of the most iconic shapes in mathematics, and they depend as much on circles as triangles. If you take a circle and pull it out into an spiral or helix, the projection of that helix is a sine wave from one direction, and a cosine wave from the other. A vibrating guitar string is a sine wave.

Fourier wave analysis helped us understand light waves and physics, transmitting audio signals, exploring crystal structures, helping crack the nature of DNA. GPS and modern data applications could not exist without trigonometry, measuring the distance and time-distortion between us and the satellites.

How to divide a sandwich? How to estimate a basketball shot or the impact of an asteroid hit or understand how a motorbike flips and falls? Triangles are everything and everything is triangles, says the book.

**mindfield**  
SHORT TAKES ON BIG IDEAS



# LAW MUST NOT SILENCE

A case in Delhi HC reminds us why courts must carve out exceptions to defamation to protect women's right to dignity & equality

Mihira Sood



In a recent interview with Indian shooter and Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker, a news platform came into controversy because of the nature of some of the questions posed by the interviewer. These questions focused not on her efforts or achievements, but her appearance, calling her "a beautiful, attractive female" and asking if there was any possibility of a romance with fellow Olympian Neeraj Chopra.

Several social media users described the questions as sexist, and were sued for defamation by the interviewer, who also sought that the posts be taken down during the pendency of the suit. Delhi HC passed a circumspect order, opining that the plaintiff was justified in his request and ordered the removal of the posts. Reportedly, the court was persuaded by the fact that Bhaker herself did not express any discomfort with the interview. But is this correct?

The first question is whether it is relevant that Bhaker did not claim that the questions were offensive. It is not. For one, the issue was not the impact of the questions on the interviewee, but the nature of the questions, which is open to anyone to discuss. Secondly, sexism is not a private harm, but a public one, and all members of society have a legitimate interest in rooting it out from our public discourse.

Part of the problem is that verbal comments, stereotyping, inappropriate compliments are seen as innocuous, and therefore falling in the category of personal issues rather than requiring serious public attention. This needs to be corrected.

Stereotyping is the ascribing of certain general characteristics to individuals based on their membership of a particular group, and gender stereotyping is particularly pernicious and difficult to address, as it starts from birth and is often justified with superficial references to biology even where it is clear that socialisation has a much greater role to play. Women are not genetically drawn to kitchens just as men are not naturally incapable of picking up after themselves.

One may think this is nothing more than harmless

banter, fodder for stand-up comedians to get a few laughs about things many of us recognise in our lives. But it's important to remember that it's a very short and slippery slope from a joke to an assumption, and an assumption to an expectation. The perfect wife or mother is nothing but a stereotype, held up as an ideal, and used to punish women who don't meet it in very real ways – whether through social condemnation, domestic

Male athletes would not generally be subjected to questions about their looks or relationships. Doing so with female athletes pigeonholes them and limits the way in which we see women. It sends the message that no matter what a woman achieves, she will only be interesting and valued as a pretty face or as someone's girlfriend.

Gender stereotyping hurts both men and women, but it can be especially harmful to women who are already in an unequal social position. Perceptions of women's interests, abilities, goals, natural behaviour, and preferences are all rooted in sexist stereotypes that are used to justify and reinforce gender discrimination and inequality, and this is very much a matter of public interest.

Some commentators have questioned the movement against sexist discourse as curtailing free speech. This is deeply flawed. Being able to express an opinion on journalistic output that is in the public domain is a basic element of the right to free speech.

It is squarely covered by the "fair comment" defence to the law of defamation, being an honest criticism based on accurate information. The statements referring to the questions as "sexist" were based in fact, in public interest, and made in good faith. Moreover, the interviewer made the comments in his capacity as a public personality, and cannot expect to be shielded from public opinion.

Moreover, the defendants are not restricting anyone's speech simply by opining on it. The restriction is the other way around, with the growing weaponisation of defamation law to clamp down on voices for women's equality. The chilling effect of this trend cannot be overstated, that too in an area where more and not less voices are needed. In *MJ Akbar vs Priya Ramani*, the court recognised this issue and held that the right to reputation cannot be protected at the cost of women's right to dignity and equality.

This needs to be appreciated by all courts, and we need clear exceptions to defamation law in this regard, if not from the legislature then as a judicial norm, otherwise no woman would ever be able to speak freely about their lives or call out discriminatory behaviour.

The writer is a lawyer and scholar in the field of women's rights



**Sexism is not a private harm, but a public one, and all members of society have a legitimate interest in rooting it out from our public discourse**

abuse, or in custody and matrimonial disputes. The old joke – that the difference between being aggressive and assertive is your gender – is based on a stereotype, one that has penalised countless women in the workplace. Victim-blaming is again rooted in stereotypes that have serious consequences for survivors in trials.

## Saving Those Who Save Us From Epidemics

Writing on International Vulture Awareness Day, Union environment minister argues GOI's conservation efforts can increase the population of these critically endangered birds

Bhupender Yadav



In Ramayan, the mighty vulture king Jatayu rises as a symbol of sacrifice and courage. When Ravana abducts Sita, it was Jatayu who soared gallantly to rescue her. Despite his defeat, his effort remains etched in our cultural memory, a testament to the nobility of vultures. Before Jatayu succumbs to the wounds inflicted by Ravan, he tells Ram and Lakshman where Ravan had taken Sita.

Yet, today, the descendants of this noble bird face a dire reality. The very species that once inspired tales of bravery and selflessness is now on the brink of extinction. On International Vulture Awareness Day – celebrated annually on the first Saturday of Sep – there are more reasons than one to ensure that vultures continue to soar across our skies.

Vultures play a critical role in the ecosystem as nature's most efficient scavengers, skillfully cleansing the landscape of decaying carcasses. In doing so, vultures clean the ecosystem of dead animal matter and reduce the spread of disease.

Their unique ability to digest even the most toxic of pathogens like rabies and anthrax, shields our entire ecosystem from outbreak of epidemics. In the absence of these scavengers, our natural world would be susceptible to the spread of dangerous pathogens.

A total of nine species of vultures are found across India. Each of the nine species, from the widespread white-rumped vulture to the forest-dwelling

red-headed vulture, has a unique place in the ecosystem. Other species such as the Himalayan griffon and the bearded vulture are typically found at higher elevations in the Himalayas, while the Egyptian vulture is found nearly all across the country. The slender-billed vulture lives in the northern plains and Assam valley, while its close relative the Indian vulture is distributed across central and peninsular regions of India. Two other species, the cinereous and the Eurasian griffon, are winter visitors to our land.

In the 1990s, three of the vulture species – white-rumped, slender-billed and Indian – that were once a common sight across many parts of the country, started to rapidly decline. By 2003, the situation had escalated to a major crisis with their population dropping by more than 90% across their range. The red-headed vulture followed suit to become critically endangered like the other three.

After much research, this alarming decline was attributed to the veterinary use of diclofenac, an anti-inflammatory drug that was commonly administered to livestock across the country. Vultures feeding on the livestock carcasses treated with diclofenac suffered from kidney failure, leading to their death.

In response to this crisis, an alternative, meloxicam, a drug found safe for vultures, began to be promoted. With vultures becoming the centre of conservation focus, it later became

clear that diclofenac was just one of the many threats. Other veterinary drugs such as ketoprofen and aceclofenac were also found to be lethal to vultures. Recognising this, the two drugs were banned.

Today, with the support of govts, conservation NGOs and research institutions, vulture conservation is happening at Vulture Conservation Breeding Centres in Pinjore, Haryana, Rajbhatkhawa in Bengal, and Rani in Assam. Additionally, conservation centres were subsequently developed by Central Zoo Authority in collaboration with various state zoos, including Van Vihar in Bhopal, Nandankanan Zoo in Bhubaneswar, Nehru Zoological Park in Hyderabad, Muta Zoo in Ranchi, and Sakkarbaug Zoo in Junagadh.

The breeding programmes have shown promise, and as of 2023, the centres in India collectively house over 811 vultures, comprising 376 white-rumped, 315 Indian and 120 slender-billed vultures.

The reintroduction of captive-bred vultures into the wild, however, required the creation of vulture-safe zones (VSZs) – areas where use of vulture-toxic drugs is strictly controlled. Currently, there are nine provisional VSZs across India in MP, UP, Assam, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Bengal, Haryana, Tamil Nadu and

Kerala. This is where the captive-bred vultures were proposed to be released first.

Over the last few years, captive-bred vultures have begun to be released into the VSZs at Pinjore, Buxa Tiger Reserve and Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve. Few of these birds have successfully paired with their wild counterparts.

The Modi-led govt is diligently working for vulture conservation. All species of vultures have been listed in the Schedules of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The vial size of diclofenac has been restricted to 3ml to prevent its use in livestock. Safety testing of various veterinary non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory drugs to identify their toxicity to vultures is being carried out. And govt has established vulture safe zones in different parts of the country.

Plus, ministry-sponsored films *The Last Flight* and *Vanishing Vultures* are frequently telecast in order to create awareness on vulture conservation. These actions have now begun to gradually yield positive results with the foremost being stabilising the decline of vulture populations.

Today, at select sites across India, annual counts of the remnant vulture populations are undertaken. Recently, MoEFCC has also launched a pan-India assessment of vulture populations, and this is currently underway.

As we look to the future, it's clear that the story of India's vultures is one of resilience and hope. Through continued conservation efforts, we can ensure that vultures continue to soar across our skies, safeguarding our ecosystems as they have done for millennia.

## Calvin & Hobbes



## Ganesh, Vighn Vinayak, Is An Embodiment Of Wisdom

Swami Sivananda

Ganesh is the elephant-headed God. He is worshipped first. His names are repeated first before any auspicious work is begun, before beginning any kind of worship.

He is the lord of power and wisdom. He is the eldest son of Shiv, and the elder brother of Kartikeya. He is the energy of Shiv, and so He is called the son of Sankar and Uma. By worshipping Lord Ganesh, mothers hope to earn for their sons the sterling virtues of Ganesh.

The following story is narrated about Ganesh's birth and His having the head of an elephant. Once upon a time, at bathing time, the Goddess Gauri, the spouse of Rudra, created Ganapati as a Suddh, or pure white being, out of the mud of Her body, and placed Him at the entrance of the house.

She told Him not to allow anybody inside and went for a bath. Shiv Himself returned home quite thirsty and was stopped by Ganesh at the gate. Shiv got angry and cut off Ganesh's head, taking Him for an outsider. Gauri came to know of this and grieved much. Shiv ordered His servants to bring the head of any creature that might be sleeping with its head northwards. The servants made a thorough search and found only an elephant in that position...

Shiv made Ganapati worthy of worship by men at the beginning of all their undertakings – marriages, journey, expedition, study, etc. He ordained that the annual worship of Ganesh should take place on the fourth day of the bright half of Bhadrapad (Aug-Sep).

Ganesh is an embodiment of wisdom and bliss. He is the Lord of brahmacharins. He is the foremost among brahmacharins or celibates.

He rides on the vahan, the small mouse. He is the presiding deity of the Muladhara Chakra. He is the Lord who removes all obstacles in the spiritual path and brings worldly success. So, He is called Vighn Vinayak. His Bijakshar is Gang. He is the Lord of harmony and peace.

Ganesh represents OM, Pranava... Nothing can be done without uttering it. Hence the practice of invoking Ganesh before beginning any rite or work. The two feet are His Jnan Shakti and Kriya Shakti. Ganesh has the elephant-head as that is the one figure in nature which is of the form of Pranava.



THE SPEAKING TREE

## Sacredspace

Letting go gives us freedom, and freedom is the only condition for happiness.

If, in our heart, we still cling to anything – anger, anxiety, or possessions – we cannot be free.

Thich Nhat Hanh

D-St On Edge, Sensex Logs Worst Week In 3 Weeks

The Sensex & Nifty both declined over 1% during the week, snapping a three-week winning streak and easing off record high levels hit on Monday after latest US economic data raised fears that the Fed has perhaps waited too long to lower rates

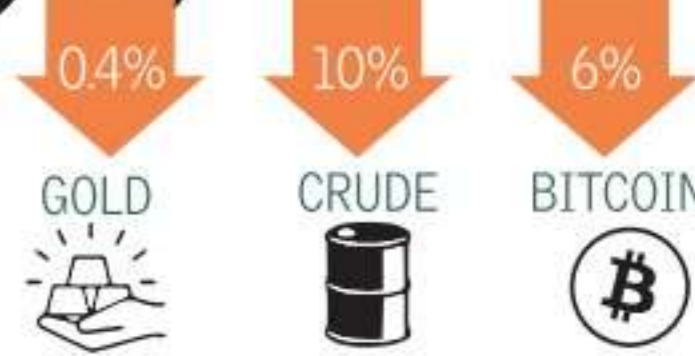


Sensex Gainers

Asian Paints	4.7%
Bajaj Finserv	4.2%
Titan	3.7%

Losers

Tata Motors	-5.6%
NTPC	-5.1%
SBI	-4.1%



\$279bn

All darling Nvidia tumbled 10% on Tuesday in the deepest ever single-day decline in market value for a company, as investors softened their optimism about AI

Source: Refinitiv, ETIG, Reuters

Forex reserves rise by \$2.3bn to record \$684bn

Mumbai: India's foreign exchange reserves rose for a third straight week to a record high of \$684 billion as of Aug 30, RBI data showed on Friday. The reserves rose by \$2.3 billion in the reporting week, after having risen by a total of \$11.6 billion in the prior two weeks. RBI intervenes in the forex market to prevent undue volatility in the rupee. Over the last month, RBI likely bought and sold dollars. This led to the rupee holding a narrow range for extended periods. During the week, the rupee logged marginal weekly gains against the dollar. REUTERS

## Sensex plunges over 1,000 pts on fears of US eco weakness

Investors Take ₹5.5L Cr Hit, Markets Await Fed Rate Move

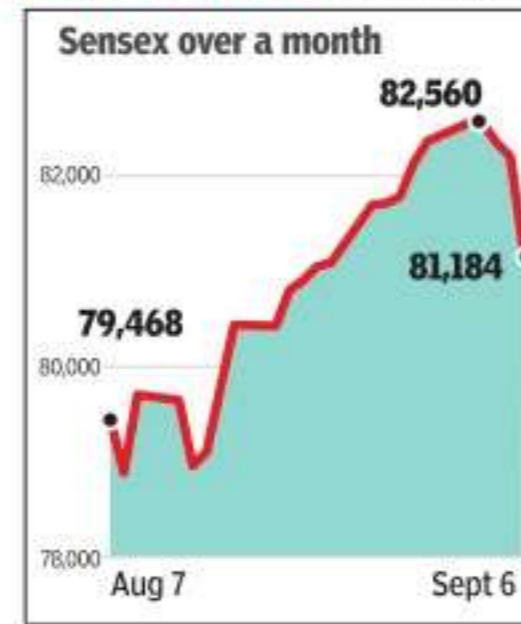
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Fears of a sharp slide in the US economic growth rate in the coming months kept investors globally on the edge on Friday, which impacted sentiment on Dalal Street. As a result, the Sensex lost 1,017 points or 1.2% to close at 81,184 points while Nifty closed at 24,852 points, down 293 points or 1.2%.

Investor sentiment on the street was also hit by defence minister Rajnath Singh's caution to forces to be ready for any unexpected events, market players said. The day's session left investors poorer by Rs 5.5 lakh crore with BSE's market capitalisation now at Rs 473 lakh crore. With the markets at record high, investors are also looking for opportunities to book profits, they said.

According to Joseph Thomas of Emkay Wealth Management, overheated segments have seen some profit-

BREATHER AFTER RECORD RALLY



How US Jobs Data Impacts D-St

- Friday's below-estimate US jobs data is being interpreted as an indication of a recession in the world's largest economy. This could weigh on the Indian economy
- A US recession could force global investors to look for less-risky assets at the cost of risky assets like emerging market stocks including from India

booking and this may be an indicator that earnings would incrementally dictate price movements. "From a global perspective the focus is now on the economic data coming from the US to gauge the direction and the quantum of Fed rate movement in the upcoming FOMC meeting."

For the last two days, investors globally awaited a crucial US jobs report due Friday

S&P 500, Dow and Nasdaq — were deep in the red.

In Friday's session in the domestic market, selling was across the board with every sectoral index on the BSE closing in the red but at varying degrees. The telecom index lost the most, followed by oil & gas and energy.

During Friday's session there were rumours in the market that some foreign funds that were unwilling to meet Sebi's new rule of parting with disclosure of ultimate beneficial owners of their funds, were selling aggressively. End-of-the-session data, however, showed a net outflow of Rs 621 crore that did not justify the rumours.

During the day, Vodafone Idea's stock on the BSE tanked 11.5% on the back of a Goldman Sachs report that estimated it could fall by as much as 83% to Rs 2.5. On Friday, the stock closed at Rs 13.4.

## Buyers may not gain from lower insurance GST

States Fear Insurers May Not Pass On Cover Benefits

Sidhartha@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: States are expected to move ahead with resolving the complaint of high GST on health and life insurance but fear that insurers may not pass on the benefit of lower levy to consumers in the absence of an anti-profiteering body.

The issue of lower levies on life insurance is more or less settled as most state finance ministers don't have too many concerns on this. But the real concern is on health insurance, which goes beyond revenue loss. "Officials have come up with multiple options and we will try to decide on something that is in the interest of consumers, but the fear is that companies may not share the benefit with those who purchase medical insurance," a state finance minister told TOI.

Another minister said given the public mood, ministers would try to come up with a formula that lowers the burden on consumers and also ensures that the benefit is not pocketed by companies, which have significantly jacked up premium ever since Covid, citing higher claims. While Covid-related claims have come down, insurers have not offered any concession to customers, citing adverse claims ratio, and claiming that they lose money on underwriting health covers.

Until recently, the anti-profiteering provisions in the law allowed govt to step in to ensure that the benefit of lower GST was passed on to consumers. But with rate changes becoming less fre-

No Anti-Profiteering Body

- States point to the absence of an anti-profiteering body
- They feel insurance companies may pocket benefit of lower GST on health and life covers
- Insurers have significantly raised premium since Covid-19 outbreak, citing higher claims
- Insurers have not offered any concession to customers, although Covid-related claims have come down

quent, the need for retaining the agency has come down, resulting in the GST Council making the provisions inactive. At the same time, there is a growing recognition in govt circles that tax burden on health insurance should be lowered, which is sought to be pushed and the 18% tax is seen to be a major stumbling block.

While officials have suggested that policies with annual premiums of Rs 50,000-60,000 should be given the benefit, the move will not aid a large section of the middle class. A four-member family, including two children, often ends up paying a premium of Rs 50,000 or more for a health cover of Rs 15 lakh, which is often inadequate in case of serious ailments. For seniors, the premium works out to be much higher, given the risk profile. Besides, arbitrary cut-offs are seen to be complicating the GST architecture, something that the designers had carefully sought to avoid but the bureaucracy seems to be keen to bring back.

Among other approved projects, Skoda Auto Volkswagen India will set up a unit in Pune with an integrated approach, investing Rs 12,000 crore and creating 1,000 jobs. The project will focus on manufacturing electric vehicles with usage of advanced technology. Additionally, Toyota Kirloskar Motor Company will set up an e-vehicle manufacturing project in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar under the state's Electric Vehicle Promotion Policy, with a total investment of Rs 21,273 crore and potential to create 12,000 jobs.

## Adani ties up with Israel co for ₹84k cr chip plant

Clara.Lewis@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: The Maharashtra Cabinet sub-committee on industry, chaired by chief minister Eknath Shinde, has given the green light to four high-tech industrial projects with a combined investment of Rs 1.2 lakh crore. These projects, to be set up in Marathwada, Vidarbha, Pune, and Panvel, are expected to generate over 29,000 jobs.

One of the approved projects is a semiconductor manufacturing unit, a joint venture between Israel's Tower Semiconductor and Adani Group, which will be located at Taloja MIDC in Panvel. The project will be implemented in two phases, with a total investment of Rs 83,947 crore, focusing on the production of analog/mixed signals. "The manufacturing capacity will be 40,000 wafers per month in phase I and 80,000 wafers after phase II and employing more than 5,000 personnel," said an official.

In a meeting held on July 30, the cabinet sub-committee had already approved RRP Electronics' semiconductor manufacturing project, along with other projects worth Rs 80,000 crore. With the latest approvals, the total value of projects approved in the last two months has reached Rs 2 lakh crore, with a potential to create 35,000 jobs.

Among other approved projects, Skoda Auto Volkswagen India will set up a unit in Pune with an integrated approach, investing Rs 12,000 crore and creating 1,000 jobs. The project will focus on manufacturing electric vehicles with usage of advanced technology. Additionally, Toyota Kirloskar Motor Company will set up an e-vehicle manufacturing project in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar under the state's Electric Vehicle Promotion Policy, with a total investment of Rs 21,273 crore and potential to create 12,000 jobs.



SpiceJet lessor to convert dues to equity

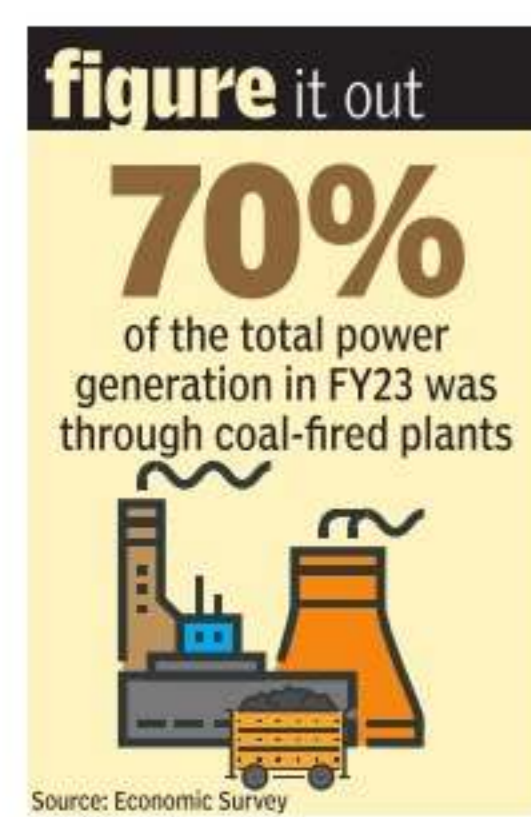
New Delhi: In a relief to SpiceJet, one of its biggest lessors Carlyle has agreed to convert up to \$50 million of dues into equity. SpiceJet and Carlyle will restructure obligations at Rs 100 per share of SpiceJet — 63% premium over closing price of Rs 61.5 on BSE on Friday. TNN

US hiring lower than expected in Aug

US hiring fell short of forecasts in Aug after downward revisions to the prior two months, a development likely to fuel ongoing debate over how much the Fed should cut rates. Wall Street's main indices fell to their lowest in 3 weeks on Friday. BLOOMBERG

Favourable macros boosted stocks: Govt

New Delhi: With India overtaking China in the MSCI Emerging Markets Investable Index, govt said while China's markets struggled due to economic headwinds, India's markets gained from favourable macroeconomic conditions. TNN



## Chandra takes home ₹135cr in FY24, up 20%

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Mumbai: Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran took home Rs 135 crore in FY24, up 20% against the previous fiscal's compensation, to retain his position as the highest-paid professional chief of an Indian company.

Tata Sons CFO Saurabh Agrawal earned Rs 30 crore in FY24, making him the second-highest paid executive within Tata Group — India's largest conglomerate. His earnings were higher than the FY24 compensation of the chiefs of the group's operating

companies such as TCS, Tata Steel, and IHCL (which runs Taj hotels). Agrawal's earnings increased by about 8% over his FY23 compensation.

TCS CEO K Krithivasan, IHCL head Puneet Chhatwal and Tata Steel chief T V Narendran, had a remuneration of Rs 25 crore, Rs 19 crore and Rs 17 crore in FY24, respectively. Krithivasan's remuneration included compensation for his role as TCS' global head of BFSI from April 1, 2023 to May 31, 2023 and as its CEO from June 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024. Krithivasan occupied the corner office at TCS — the biggest contributor to Tata Sons' inco-

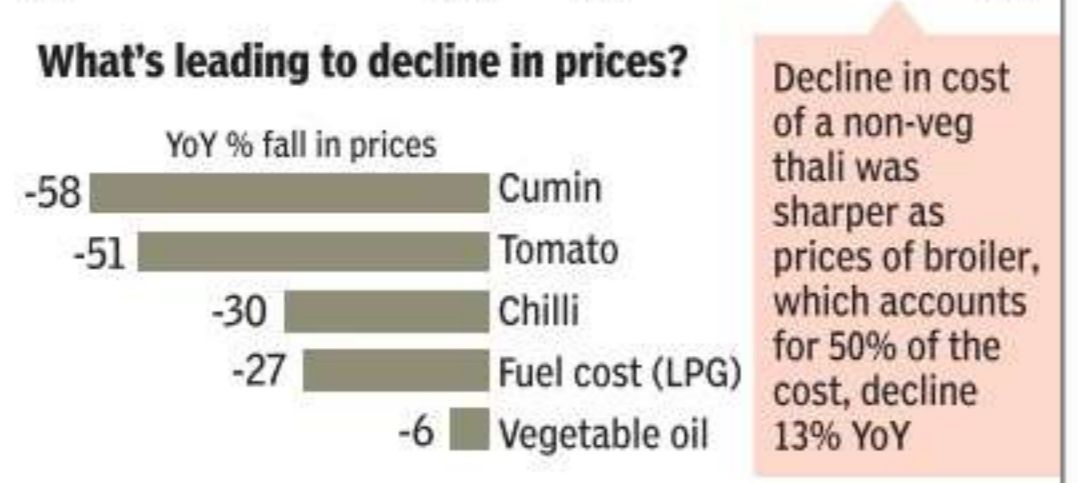
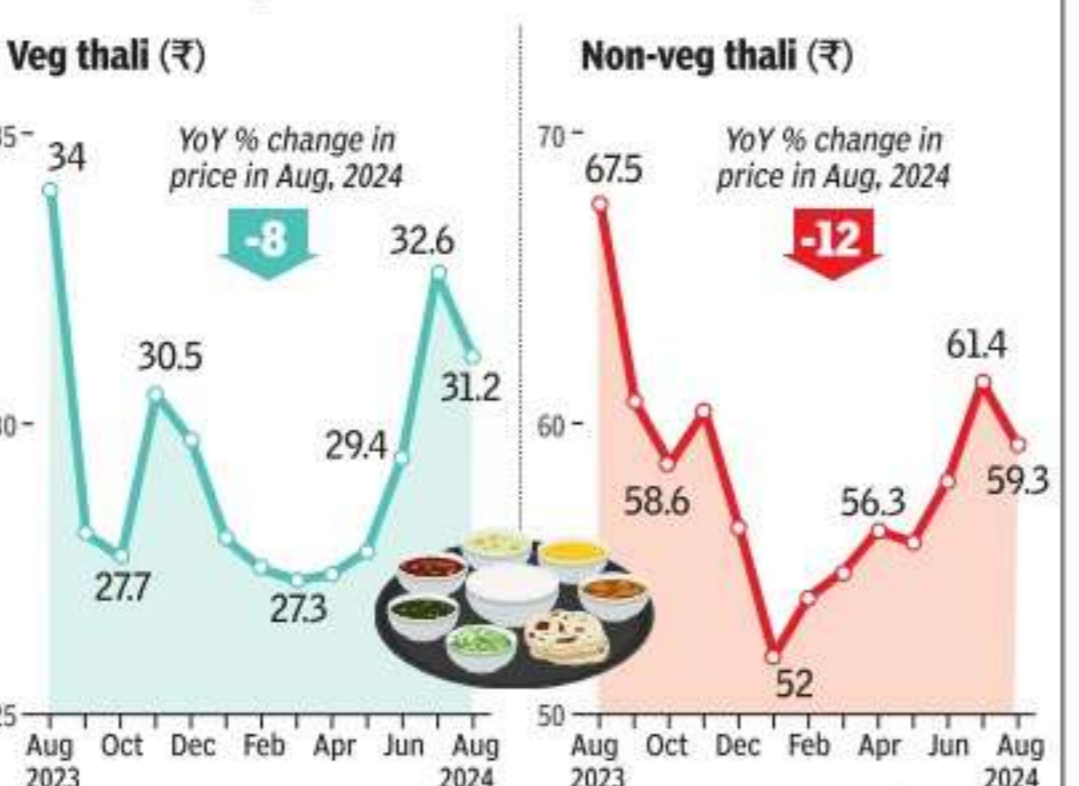
me in the form of dividend and brand subscription fee — following the abrupt exit of Rajesh Gopinathan.

Other Tata Group firms' CEOs — Praveer Sinha of Tata Power and Sunil D'Souza of Tata Consumer Products earned Rs 10 crore each in FY24, while R Mukundan of Tata Chemicals received Rs 8 crore during the same period. Several CEOs also own shares of the Tata companies they run.

Chandrasekaran's FY24 compensation at Tata Sons included Rs 122 crore as commission earned on the profits of the company and the balance Rs 13 crore as salary and perquisites. Former Wipro CEO Thierry Delaporte earned Rs

167 crore in FY24 but a significant amount of his compensation comprised severance payment and the vesting cost of stock options. Delaporte, Wipro's seventh chief, resigned without completing his five-year term at the company. In FY23, the French executive's compensation in Wipro was Rs 83 crore. Chandrasekaran's FY23 compensation was Rs 113 crore. Chandrasekaran also received sitting fees of Rs 17 lakh from six listed operating companies — TCS, IHCL, Tata Steel, Tata Power, Tata Consumer and Tata Chemicals — as their non-executive director in FY24 and holds shares worth Rs 168 crore of these companies.

## THALI COSTS EASE AS PRICES OF TOMATO, BROILER FALL: SURVEY



Note: A veg thali comprises roti, vegetables (onion, tomato and potato), rice, dal, curd and salad. A non-veg thali has the same elements, except for dal, which is replaced by chicken (broiler); broiler prices for Aug 2024 are estimated figures; weightages of ingredients do not vary based on volatility in commodity prices. Source: Crisil

## Spin-off? HUL panel to review its ice cream biz

Mumbai: HUL has set up a committee of independent directors to evaluate the way forward for the company's ice cream business following parent Unilever's decision to separate its ice cream unit across markets, the FMCG giant said in a filing on Friday.

HUL's ice cream portfolio, which includes brands like Kwality Wall's, Magnum and Cornetto, contributes about 3% to its revenues. In the ice-cream category, HUL competes with homegrown brands like Amul, Mother Dairy, Vadilal, and Naturals as well as global ones like Baskin-Robbins.

India's ice cream market is expected to surpass \$5 billion by FY25, a report by retail consulting firm Wazir Advisors said. Consumer consultant Akshay D'souza said that it would make sense for HUL to sell the ice cream business as it's an asset heavy category and does not complement its other businesses. TNN

## Pluxee moves beyond meal coupons to include wellness, childcare benefits

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Mumbai: Employee benefits player Pluxee, formerly known as Sodexo Benefits & Rewards, has moved beyond its traditional meal coupons to include wellness programmes, childcare and ESG vouchers. The French multinational company aims to introduce in India services that are available in other markets, reflecting a broader shift in employee benefits towards more diverse and socially responsible options.

"Today in India, Pluxee is offering 20 different benefits with meal benefits at the centre of the offer. We see new needs from our clients and their employees, so we have seen a clear acceleration of this multi-benefit trend, which started earlier in other countries," Pluxee CEO Aurelien Sonet told TOI in an interview.

Sonet said that in Europe, in countries like Belgium, the company offers Pluxee Eco

"In India, Pluxee is offering 20 different benefits with meal benefits at the centre of the offer. We see new needs from our clients and their employees, so we have seen a clear acceleration of this multi-benefit trend, which started earlier in other countries. Aurelien Sonet | CEO, PLUXEE

"French employee benefits player Pluxee was earlier known as Sodexo Benefits & Rewards

that can be used only for purchases that support sustainable development and consumption that is environmentally responsible. Sodexo, spun off its employee benefits business, which was renamed as Pluxee in 2023. According to Sonet, India is among the top 10 markets for Pluxee globally and is likely to move into the top five soon.

"There are many tailwinds. The importance of employees for organisations is getting bigger. Because of the competition for talent, companies are looking to retain employees by protecting their purchasing power and look after their health and well-being," said Sonet. Globally, Pluxee has 500,000 clients, 36 million consumers and 1.7 million merchants. In India alone, the company has over 3.5 million consumers across 1,800 towns.

Pluxee has invested in UK HR tech company The Happiness Index and uses its services to augment its core business. "According to the Happiness Index Survey during and after Covid, employees were highly engaged but surprisingly there as a 'big resignation' trend. Employees were unhappy and suffering a sense of disconnect," said Sonet.

He added that the key insight was that high engagement did not necessarily translate to employee benefits.

"The needs of employees are getting more and more individual and from a benefits provider standpoint, we need to personalise more and more offers to our consumers to be relevant to them. In that sense, our investments in data and artificial intelligence are critical," said Sonet. According to Sonet, globally the trend is return-to-office. "What we see again in all geographies is that people are more and more back to the office, and they enjoy having lunch together. It's so important for humanity," said Sonet.

In India, besides widening the range of products, Pluxee is targeting small & medium enterprises in addition to large scale organisations. The company is leveraging digital tools and platforms to efficiently onboard both merchants and the SME employers.

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# CONFIDENT SABALENKA READY FOR ANOTHER CRACK AT TITLE

## Second Seed Belarusian To Take On American Pegula In Women's Final

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Aryna Sabalenka was caught in a whirlpool of emotion in the US Open final twelve months ago. She was up against the popular American Coco Gauff and an over-the-top full house. Sabalenka drowned in the noise.

The No. 2 seed, a fearsome striker of the ball, transgressed into similar territory on Arthur Ashe in the semifinal against American Emma Navarro late on Thursday. Her eyes were moist and her expression was riotous. Sabalenka led 5-3 and served for the match in the ninth game, but Navarro, sparked by the home crowd, broke back and pushed the set to tie-break where Sabalenka trailed 0-2.

The crowd was on the edge of their seats and the script was looking familiar. That deja vu feeling. Then at 2-2 in the tie-break, the 26-year-old finished a 18-ball rally with a winning volley and suddenly the storm was overtaken by an impenetrable calm.

"Last year was a very tough lesson. Today in the match, I was, like, 'no, no, no, Aryna, it's not going to happen again'. You have to control your emotions. You have to focus on yourself," the statuesque Belarusian said, adding, "There were people supporting me. I was trying to focus on them. There is your team. There is your family."

Sabalenka, a two-time Australian Open champion, found the Ashe crowd on Thursday more respectful than the crowd in the final twelve months ago. "Last year they were super loud, even during the point. It was so loud, it was blocking my ears," she said. "The mistake was I was focusing on myself, I didn't think that she (Gauff) was also on the same court, feeling the same loudness from the crowd. Yeah they were cheering for her, but how can they help her to win the match? Only if I let them get into my head."

Sabalenka, pulling herself together against Navarro, was a theatre unfiltered. The world No. 2 scored a 6-3, 7-6 (2) win over the 13th seed to make her second successive final at Flushing Meadows.

Sabalenka has worked on the mental aspect of match play and has learned to stay calm in crucial moments.

Sabalenka will have another chance to fight for the title come Saturday, against another American, the sixth seed Jessica Pegula, who outsmarted the crafty Karolina Muchova 1-6, 6-4, 6-2. The 30-year-old trailed 1-6, 0-2 and was a point away from 0-3, before she started turning the semi-final around.

The match-up in the title round is a repeat of the Cincinnati final of a few weeks ago which the world No. 2 won in straight sets.



### HEAD-TO-HEAD

Total matches	Sabalenka win	Pegula win
7	5	2

ARYNA SABALENKA

JESSICA PEGULA

## SPRAY THAT CAUSED WORLD NO. 1 SINNER'S FAILED DRUG TESTS HAS 'DOPING' WARNING

Rome: The word "DOPING" is printed in capital letters inside a red circle with a slash through it on the box containing the over-the-counter spray sold in Italy that caused No. 1-ranked tennis player Jannik Sinner to fail two drug tests in March.

Sinner was cleared last month and was scheduled to play Jack Draper in the US Open semifinals on Friday.

Trofodermin, which contains the banned anabolic steroid Clostebol, is available without a prescription in Sinner's home country — and that's where the 23-year-old's physical trainer bought the



JANNIK SINNER

medication that led to a trace amount of Clostebol showing up in his test results.

A small can of Trofodermin was purchased for 14.50 euros (\$16) at a Rome pharmacy this week by an AP reporter.

The product is meant for treating cuts and scrapes and contains an underlined warning in Italian on the medication guide that comes inside the box: "For those taking part in sports: use of the drug without therapeutic needs constitutes doping and can result in positive anti-doping tests."

Giovanni Fontana, an Italian lawyer who represents athletes facing doping charges, has worked on about 100 such cases over

30 years. Ten of his cases resulted from positive tests for Clostebol that were traced to Trofodermin; nine of those resulted in bans, Fontana said on Thursday.

"When an athlete tests positive for Clostebol, the first thing I ask them is if they used Trofodermin," Fontana said. "And if they haven't, I tell them to go check if a family member or partner has, because it's transmitted so easily."

Sinner was not suspended for his positive tests after it was determined the Clostebol entered his system unintentionally through a massage from his physiotherapist, Giacomo Naldi. Sinner said his fitness trainer, Umberto Ferrara, purchased Trofodermin in Italy and gave it to Naldi for a cut on Naldi's finger. Naldi then treated Sinner while not wearing gloves. AP

## WHEN CHEERING CROWD HELPED PEGULA FIGHT BACK IN SEMIS

New York: The cheering home crowd at the Arthur Ashe Stadium filled Jessica Pegula with adrenaline as she fought back from a first-set loss to beat Karolina Muchova in the U.S. Open semifinals on Thursday, the American sixth seed said.

Pegula was trailing 2-0 in the second set before she snatched the momentum to win 1-6, 6-4, 6-2. "I think the crowd really helped me get some adrenaline into me... I think I was just very, very flat. I wasn't even nervous," Pegula said.

"At the end of the first set she was playing some extremely high level so I just had no rhythm... holding that game, I was able to just find some adrenaline and get my legs under me. You know, just try and chase down every single ball that I could."

The 30-year-old said she was more nervous before facing world No. 1 Iga Swiatek in the quarterfinals, a match she won in straight sets. "Today I was just, like, whatever: Maybe that was bad, because I clearly came out super flat," Pegula joked. "I was trying to think that maybe it was good that I felt really loose, but clearly I was a little too loose."

New York-born Pegula said she had fulfilled a childhood dream by reaching the US Open final, and winning the title would mean the world to her.

"If you would have told me at the beginning of the year I'd be in the finals of the US Open, I would have laughed so hard," she said. "To be able to overcome all those challenges and say that I get a chance at the title Saturday is what we play for as players, let alone being able to do that in my home country here, in my home slam. It's perfect, really." AGENCIES

## RESULTS

**Women's semifinals**  
Jessica Pegula (USA x6) bt Karolina Muchova (CZE) 1-6, 6-4, 6-2; Aryna Sabalenka (BLR x2) bt Emma Navarro (USA x13) 6-3, 7-6 (7/5)

**Mixed doubles final**  
Sara Errani/Andrea Vavassori (ITA/ITA x3) bt Taylor Townsend/Donald Young (USA/USA) 7-6 (7/0), 7-5.

## 3RD TEST: ENGLAND VS LANKA



GOING STRONG: Captain Ollie Pope plays a shot on Day 1 of the Oval Test on Friday

## Pope scores ton as Eng make Sri Lanka struggle at the Oval

London: Ollie Pope returned to form on his Oval home ground with a first hundred as England captain on Friday's opening day of the third Test against Sri Lanka. Pope had managed a mere 30 runs in four previous innings since succeeding the injured Ben Stokes as skipper at the start of this series.

But when bad light ended play for the day, Pope was a run-a-ball 103 not out, with England well-placed on 221-3. Sri Lanka, already 2-0 down in this three-match series, failed to make the most of overcast conditions and a green-tinted pitch after captain Dhananajaya de Silva won the toss. And England should arguably have had two century-makers on Friday with open Ben Duckett, not for the first time, giving his wicket away after making 86.

A rare bright spot for struggling Sri Lanka was the dismissal of Joe Root for 13 shortly before tea. Root was fresh from two hundreds in a 190-run win at Lord's where he set a new England record of 34 Test centuries.

England, who swept the West Indies 3-0 earlier this season are chasing their first home Test campaign clean sweep since 2004, when Michael Vaughan oversaw seven successive wins. Duckett was soon into his stride, with the left-hander cover-driving fours off successive Milan Rathnayake deliveries.

It was a different story for makeshift opener Dan Lawrence, a middle-order batsman by trade. Lawrence was forced to face the new ball this series in the absence of the injured Zak Crawley. He had made just five when he got in a tangle against a short-pitched Lahiru Kumara delivery and top-edged a simple catch to gully.

No. 3 Pope got off the mark in style by cutting a loose ball from fast bowler Rathnayake for four and he also hooked a six off Lahiru Kumara. The 29-year-old Duckett completed a speedy fifty off just 48 balls, including seven fours.

Even with the floodlights on, the umpires decided it was too dangerous to continue and stopped play for bad light, with England 76-1 off 15 overs. It was not long before Duckett ramped Kumara for six over fine leg and up-erpercut him high over third ma, with all of Sri Lanka's four-man pace attack struggling to maintain a challenging line and length.

**BRIEF SCORES:** England 221/3 (O Pope 103\*, B Duckett 86; Kumara 2/81). AFP

## GALLERY

### Chopra qualifies for Diamond League season finale

New Delhi: Two-time Olympic medal-winning javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra has qualified for this month's season finale of the prestigious Diamond League after finishing fourth in the overall standings at the end of its 14 series meetings across the world. The season finale will be a two-day affair on September 13 and 14 in Brussels. Chopra accumulated 14 points from his two second-place finishes in the one-day meets held in Doha and Lausanne. He skipped the last series meet in Zurich on Thursday.

**Australia fire swim coach who supported a South Korean athlete at Olympics:** Swimming Australia has fired coach Michael Palfrey over comments made at the Paris Olympics where he said he hoped a South Korean would beat Australian swimmers. Palfrey told South Korean television he hoped Kim Woo-min would win the men's 400-m freestyle, an event that featured Sam Short and Elijah Winnington.

**Bertha fancied**  
New Delhi: Bertha should claim the upper division of Star Supreme Trophy at the Chennai races on Saturday. **Selections:** 1st race: Ugly Truth 1, Presto Power 2, Summer Song 3. 3rd race: Bertha 1, Raffinatio 2, Spirit of The Rose 3. **Time favoured**  
Time And Tide should win the Akkasaheb Maharaj Trophy at the Pune races.

## ACTION TODAY

**CRICKET:** England vs Sri Lanka, 3rd Test, Day 2, 3.30 pm (Sony Sports); Scotland vs Australia, 3rd T20I, 6.30 pm (Fancode); **FOOTBALL:** Nations League, Faroe Islands vs North Macedonia, 6.30 pm; Ireland vs England, 9.30 pm; Germany vs Hungary; Netherlands vs Bosnia and Herzegovina, 12.30 am Sunday (Sony Sports); **TENNIS:** US Open, Men's doubles final, 9.30 pm; women's singles final, 1.30 am Sunday (Sony Sports); **PARALYMPICS:** 12 pm onwards (Jiocinema)

## NATIONS LEAGUE: Ronaldo scores his 900th career goal; Euro winners Spain held; San Marino claim historic first win

Madrid: With his 900th career goal, Cristiano Ronaldo got the best of Luka Modric in the duel of veterans in the Nations League on Thursday.

The 39-year-old Ronaldo became the first man to reach the 900-goal milestone in official matches for club and country by scoring in Portugal's 2-1 win over Modric's Croatia. "It means a lot," Ronaldo said. "It was a milestone I wanted to reach for a long time. I knew I would reach this number, because as I continue to play, it would happen naturally."

Spain were held by Serbia in their first game since winning Euro 2024. Eight of Spain's starting line-up in their Euro 2024 final victory over England almost two months ago were on the field at kick-off against Serbia in Belgrade.

Among them was Lamine Yamal, with the Barcelona prodigy just one of the Spain players to be denied by home goalkeeper Predrag Rajkovic.

Luis de la Fuente's team are also the reigning Nations League champions having won the most recent edition of the tournament last year.

They will now hope to register their first victory in League A, Group 4 when they travel to face Switzerland in Geneva on Sunday. The Swiss lost 2-0 to Denmark on Thursday, with Patrick Dorgu and captain Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg scoring late goals for the home side in Copenhagen.

Switzerland finished the match with nine men as both Nico Elvedi and Granit Xhaka were sent off in the second half.

In Lisbon, Ronaldo's 900th career goal proved to be the winner as 2019 Nations League champions Portugal edged Croatia 2-1 in Group A1.

Ronaldo, 39, turned in a Nuno Mendes cross in the 34th minute at the Estadio da Luz to reach the landmark. He appeared emotional as he celebrated the goal, his 131st in a Portugal shirt. Diogo Dalot's goal had put Portugal in front early on before Ronaldo netted, with a Dalot own-goal reducing the deficit before the break.

Portugal next host Scotland, who lost 3-2 to Poland at Hampden Park, with the visitors grabbing the victory thanks to a 97th-minute Nicola Zalewski penalty.

Elsewhere, there were wins for Slovakia and Northern Ireland in League C, while Sweden — now being coached by Jon Dahl Tomasson — beat Azerbaijan 3-1 away in Baku with Newcastle United's Alexander Isak netting twice.

History was made in League D as San Marino, the world's worst team according to the FIFA rankings, beat Liechtenstein 1-0 to claim their first ever competitive win.

San Marino pounced on a defensive error to grab the winner in the 53rd minute through Nicko Sensoli. Aged 19, he had not been born when the team who sit 210th and last in the world rankings last won a game. San Marino had not won a single game in 141 previous competitive matches.

San Marino will chase more victories in its next two games against Gibraltar, followed by a visit to Liechtenstein in November. First, though, there's a visit to Moldova on Tuesday for a friendly.

## Raising the bar



### ARGENTINA CRUISE PAST CHILE; BOLIVIA REAP 'HEIGHT' BENEFIT

Buenos Aires: Alexis Mac Allister, Julian Alvarez and Paulo Dybala were on target as Argentina tightened their grip on South America's 2026 World Cup qualifying tournament with a 3-0 win over Chile on Thursday.

Liverpool midfielder Mac Allister swept in a low finish after half-time to break the deadlock at the Estadio Monumental in Buenos Aires against a defensive Chile side. Former Manchester City striker Alvarez doubled the lead in

**LATAM WC QUALIFIERS**  
The 84th minute before substitute Dybala put the seal on the victory with a late strike in stoppage time.

It was another clinical victory for the reigning world champions. The top six teams in the final standings qualify automatically for the 2026 finals in North America with the seventh-placed team advancing to a playoff.

In Thursday's other qualifier, Bolivia reignited their campaign with a 4-0 drubbing over Venezuela in a game played more than 4,000m (13,100 feet) above sea level. Goals from Ramiro Vaca, Carmelo Algaranz, Miguel Terceros and Enzo Monteiro handed Bolivia only their second win of qualifying. The result was a vindication of Bolivia's move to play the game in El Alto — Spanish for "The Heights" — rather than at their usual home venue in neighboring La Paz. AFP



## MOUNT 900

Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 900th career goal in Portugal's Nations League match against Serbia

### CR7'S SPREADSHEET

Club/Country	Goals
Al-Nassr	68
Juventus	101
Man United	145
Portugal	131
Real Madrid	450
Sporting CP	15
<b>Total:</b>	<b>900</b>

Left foot	Right foot	Head	Other
173	573	152	2

**66** HAT-TRICKS

**164** Ronaldo has scored 164 from penalties and 64 from free-kicks

**768** He has scored 768 from inside the box and 132 from outside the box

Unofficial statisticians RSSSF say Pele got 778 goals, while Romario scored 785. Lionel Messi has scored 867 career goals to date

## Japan 'humiliate' China 7-0

Tokyo: Japan defeated China 7-0 on Thursday in a World Cup qualifier in Saitama, a brutal loss that came against one of China's biggest sports and geopolitical rivals in Asia. It was China's most lopsided loss against Japan, and a historic loss in World Cup qualifying.

China's national team coach Branko Ivankovic of Croatia called it a "most difficult night," as quoted in English by the official Xinhua news agency, which termed the loss "humiliating." Wataru Endo and Kaoru Mitoma scored in the first half on a night of Asian World Cup qualifiers.

Takumi Minamino scored twice in the second half with others from Daizen Maeda, Junya Ito and Takefusa Kubo.

Reaction in China, ranked 87th, was muted on state media. The China Sports Daily had a

very short story titled: "China lost to Japan in World Cup qualifier" with few details.

Australia fell to a shock 1-0 loss to Bahrain at home in the opening game of the third round of Asian World Cup qualifying. Meanwhile, South Korea was held to 0-0 by the Palestinians in Seoul. Despite losing all six previous games against Australia, Bahrain won thanks to an own goal from Harry Souttar with a minute remaining on the Gold Coast.

Abdulla Al-Khalasi's cross from the left side of the area hit the defender and flew past goalkeeper Mat Ryan.

Australia dominated the game but was reduced to 10 men when Kusini Yengi was red-carded after 77 minutes for a reckless tackle.

"It's not the way that we want to start our campaign, a loss at home, but we have to go away and improve," Australia winger Craig Goodwin said. "We have to look at the positives. This is the first game, there are nine games to go." AGENCIES

## Syria get the better of Mauritius 2-0

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Hyderabad: Mohammad Al Mawas' strike in the 70th minute and an own goal from Louis Brendon Citorah helped Syria defeat Mauritius 2-0 in the Intercontinental Cup match at the Gachibowli Stadium on Friday. The victory puts Syria in pole position for the title as they only need a draw against India in the last match of the tournament

on Monday. It will be a must-win match for India if they are to retain the title.

Mustafa Abdul Latif's brilliant work near the post helped Syria secure the lead in the 32nd minute. After receiving a good ball from Pablo David Sabbag in the box, Latif struck it hard into the net. The ball brushed past Mauritian midfielder Brendon on its way to the goal.

Striker Mohammed Al Mawas, who looked menacing right through the game, latched on to a loose clearance from Mauritian midfielder Louis Citorah and pushed it to Pablo, who found an unmarked Latif.

This was the first goal of the tournament as the first match between India and

## India upset Lebanon to make QFs in Asia Cup

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Nagpur: It took eight long years for Indian cagers to end the play-off drought, and the boys in blue did it in style when they upset U-18 Asia Cup favourites Lebanon 64-62 to confirm their last eight berth at the Prince Hamza Hall in Jordan on Friday.

Just two days after defeating Kuwait and snapping a six-year winless streak in the biennial tournament, India advanced to face 2022 semifinalists Lebanon in their first knockout game.

Determined to secure a position among Asia's elite eight teams, India executed their game plan perfectly, starting with a strong defensive effort that made it difficult for Lebanon to score. They then shifted gears offensively in the middle quarters, building a 15-point lead by the start of the fourth period.

## U-18 BASKETBALL

Despite two of India's top performers fouling out in the final quarter, Lebanon mounted a spirited comeback, but their efforts were thwarted by a sensible play of 5-foot-9 point guard Ankush from Haryana.

Ankush scored a game-high 14 points on 47.6-percent shooting to take control of the proceedings after India's tallest cager Mohammad Ishan and skipper Lavish left the court one after the other for committing five personal fouls.

Before being fouled out, Ishan and Lavish played crucial roles in India's impressive performance in the second and third quarters, which ultimately propelled the team to a 55-40 lead at the start of the final period.

Mauritius was a barren encounter. Mauritius will consider themselves as unlucky as Alex Jason Ferre's goal was disallowed in the 32nd minute. In fact referee Harish Kundu, who signalled a goal, changed the verdict after his assistant signalled a foul. Replays cleared showed that the ball has crossed the line but the ball had rolled over Ferre's left hand.

Mauritius were again unlucky when a powerful strike from Jeremy Robert Villeneuve crashed into the bar in the 51st minute.

Mauritius launched a series of attacks and looked like finding the equaliser. But Al Mawas ended all hopes of a revival with the second goal for Syria in the 71st minute.



**EXPECTING SECOND CHILD, US STAR ALEX MORGAN RETIRES FROM PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL**

**NATIONS LEAGUE: IRELAND MANAGER HALLGRIMSSON AIMS TO REPEAT UPSET AGAINST ENGLAND**



## TAKING FLIGHT

**High Jumper Praveen Kumar Secures India's 6th Gold With A Sensational Effort of 2.08m**

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Praveen Kumar set an Asian record with a career-best jump of 2.08m in the men's high jump T64 event at the Paris Paralympics to finish on top of the podium in the six-man field. In Tokyo 2020, Praveen had finished second with his then personal best jump of 2.07m.

"Praveen had met with an injury three months back during his practice period, which made it very difficult for him. But with hard work and determination, he could make this history," his coach Satyapal Singh said.

Praveen became the third high jumper to medal at Paris after Sharad Kumar's silver and Mariyappan Thagavelu's bronze in the men's high jump T63 event.

Praveen's heroic effort gave India its sixth gold at the Paris Games, with the country surpassing its Tokyo gold tally of five. India has so far won 26 medals — six gold, nine silver and 11 bronze — and jumped to the 14th spot in medals tally.

Praveen had opted to start from 1.89m and after clearing his seven jumps, including the medal-winning 2.08m, he raised the bar to 2.10m. Both Praveen and Derek went for the mark but failed to clear it. "It's a great feeling standing on the podium with the national anthem being played. I am happy with my performance. I dedicate my gold medal to my coach, my parents, and my country. I was looking to clear the 2.10m mark because my coaches had told me to go for it. It would have been great if I had succeeded," Praveen said after his win.

"At the World para-athletics championships, I hurt my take-off

**"It's a great feeling standing on the podium with the national anthem being played. I am happy with my performance. I dedicate my gold medal to my coach, my parents, and my country."**

—Praveen Kumar

leg and was unable to move properly. We got the MRI done and scans weren't promising. Competing in Paris was looking difficult then. I would like to credit my coaches, family and govt for supporting me in my hour of crisis," he added.

Praveen, born with a short leg, initially struggled with feeling of inferiority compared to his peers. To combat his insecurity, he turned to sports and discovered a passion for volleyball. However, his life took a pivotal turn when he participated in a high jump event at an able-bodied athletics competition, which exposed him to the possibilities available for athletes with disabilities.

Cochin Singh recognised Praveen's potential, and he shifted his ward's focus to high jump. This decision proved fruitful, as he achieved remarkable success on the international stage, notably becoming the youngest para-athlete to win a medal in Tokyo 2020.

Later, he went on to win gold at the Hangzhou Para Asian Games, breaking the Asian record with a jump of 2.05m.

His other accolades include a silver at the World para-athletics junior championship in 2019 in Nottingham and gold with an Asian record at the World para-athletics FAZZA Grand Prix in 2021 in Dubai. Most recently, he won the bronze medal at the Worlds.

**ON A HIGH:** Praveen Kumar conquered both his disability and a nagging injury at the Stade de France in Paris



Getty Images

## 'Take early lead, finish match in straight sets'

**Harvinder's Success Mantra: Hit Shots With Precision, Try To Avoid Tiebreakers**

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Coming to Paris Paralympics, Harvinder Singh was told by his South Korean coach Baek Woong Ki that if he wanted to change the colour of his medal from Tokyo 2020's bronze to gold, he should focus on taking early lead over his opponents and finishing matches off in straight sets.

The coach knew that Harvinder had shaped up well for Paris in terms of fitness, game awareness and technique and the gold looked very much in sight. All his ward needed to do was to follow his advice and approach his matches without any fuss.

Harvinder, 33, did just that and became the first-ever Indian archer in the Paralympics history to claim gold. He had become the first Indian para archer to win a Paralympics medal in Tokyo.

"I was working on a few technical aspects. I wanted to go to Korea about 3-4 months ago but the coach was called here at SAI Sonapat centre. My coach told me that if I wanted to win gold, I needed to establish early lead over my opponents to put them under pressure. It would also give me confidence and help me focus better. I was also told that I had to finish my matches in straight sets... no need to take them

to tiebreakers because then it would be anybody's game. For me, it was about hitting each of my targets with precision and scoring as many perfect 10s as possible. One bad shot can change the result of the match. I am happy that I was able to execute what my coach taught me during training," Harvinder said from Paris on Friday.

Harvinder, who has a disability in his legs following a medical mishap in his childhood, said he was mentally prepared to tackle the pressure at the Paralympics and hoped that his feat will inspire differently-abled athletes to take up para archery.

"I had handled the pressure before, of the semifinals and of the podium. I had it in my mind that I have to win gold. The challenge was to bring it out in terms of performance and we were successful in doing that," he said. "The next challenge for me is to maintain this performance. I got a lot of phone calls and messages after winning the medal in Tokyo. This medal will contribute to the growth of para archery and archery in India."

Talking about his preparations for Paris, Harvinder said, "We came to France 15 days before the event and I was shooting well. I was confident about my chances. All I needed was to implement what I had learnt in training on my competition days. Every athlete dreams of winning the gold, watching the country's flag go high and listening to the national anthem standing on top of the podium. All that happened here and I would hope to replicate it in the competitions such as the World Championships," he said.

Getty Images



Harvinder Singh celebrates after becoming the first-ever Indian archer to win a Paralympics gold

## Simran makes final of 200m T12 event

Sabi.Hussain@timesofindia.com

Reigning world champion Simran Sharma kept her medal hopes alive by qualifying for the final of the women's 200m T12 event with a timing of 25.03 seconds on Friday.

Simran topped her heat after running a brilliant race in her semifinal 3. Earlier, she had qualified for the semis with a timing of 25.41s. On Thursday, she missed out on a medal, finishing fourth in the women's 100m T12 final after clocking 12.31s in the four-player field. The T12 is for athletes with

visual impairments. Simran is expected to face a tough challenge from Cuban Omara Durand Elias, who had comfortably won the gold with a timing of 11.81s in the 100m T12 final. Durand would start favourite in the 200m T12 event too.

At the Worlds in Japan's Kobe, the 26-year-old won in 24.95s, an improvement from her previous personal best time of 25.16s. Simran was born prematurely and spent the next 10 weeks in an incubator where it was discovered that she was visually impaired.

Born to medical practitioner Manoj Kumar and Savita Shar-



SIMRAN SHARMA

ma, Simran always knew that it was challenging to think of becoming a sportsperson.

The Tokyo 2020 Paralympian's tryst with the track began in her hometown Modinagar in Ghaziabad. A meeting with her eventual husband Gajendra Singh at MM College grounds in Modinagar in 2015 helped her take up running. Gajendra worked on building her muscle strength and stamina before concentrating

on her technique. There were times when they would request the Modinagar stadium to be available late in the night after he returned from work.

**Canoe sprinters qualify for semis**  
Prachi Yadav and Yash Kumar qualified for the semifinals of women's VL2 200m and men's KL1 200m after finishing fourth and sixth in their respective heats on Friday.

While Prachi and Pooja Ojha clocked 1:06.83 and 1:16.09 in women's va single 200m VL2 heat 1 and KL1 200m heat 2 respectively, Yash came up with a timing of 1:03.27 in men's KL 200m heat. The semi-finals will take place on Saturday KLI classification is for athletes with no or extremely limited trunk function and no function in the legs, while VL2 is for those with

partial leg and trunk function, able to sit up straight in the kayak but may require a high-backed seat.

**Dipesh finishes last in javelin throw F54 final**

Dipesh Kumar finished last in the final of the men's javelin throw F54 event after finishing at the bottom in a seven-men field with a best throw of 26.11. Dipesh, who won gold in the Khelo India Para Games at New Delhi in Dec 2023, was the last athlete to throw in his event and needed above 30 to be in contention for a podium. However, he finished well short of that mark. Athletes classified in the F54 category compete in field events from a seated position. Different disability groups compete in this class, including people with spinal cord injuries.

## HARVINDER, PREETHI TO BE FLAGBEARERS AT CLOSING CEREMONY

Harvinder and sprinter Preethi Pal, who made history by becoming the first-ever Indian woman track athlete to win two medals at one edition of the Paralympics, will be the country's flagbearers at the closing ceremony of the Paris Games on Sunday. "Winning gold for India has been a dream come true, and now leading our nation as a flag-bearer at the closing ceremony is the highest honour I could imagine. This victory

is for everyone who believed in me, and I hope to inspire many more to pursue their dreams," said Harvinder.

Preethi, 23, who clinched bronze medals in women's T35 100m and 200m competitions with personal best timings of 14.21 and 30.01 seconds respectively, said she was thrilled with the news. "It is a huge honour. This moment is not just about me; it's about all para-athletes who have pushed their limits to make our nation proud. I am thrilled to be leading our incredible team at the closing ceremony." **TNN**



PREETHI PAL

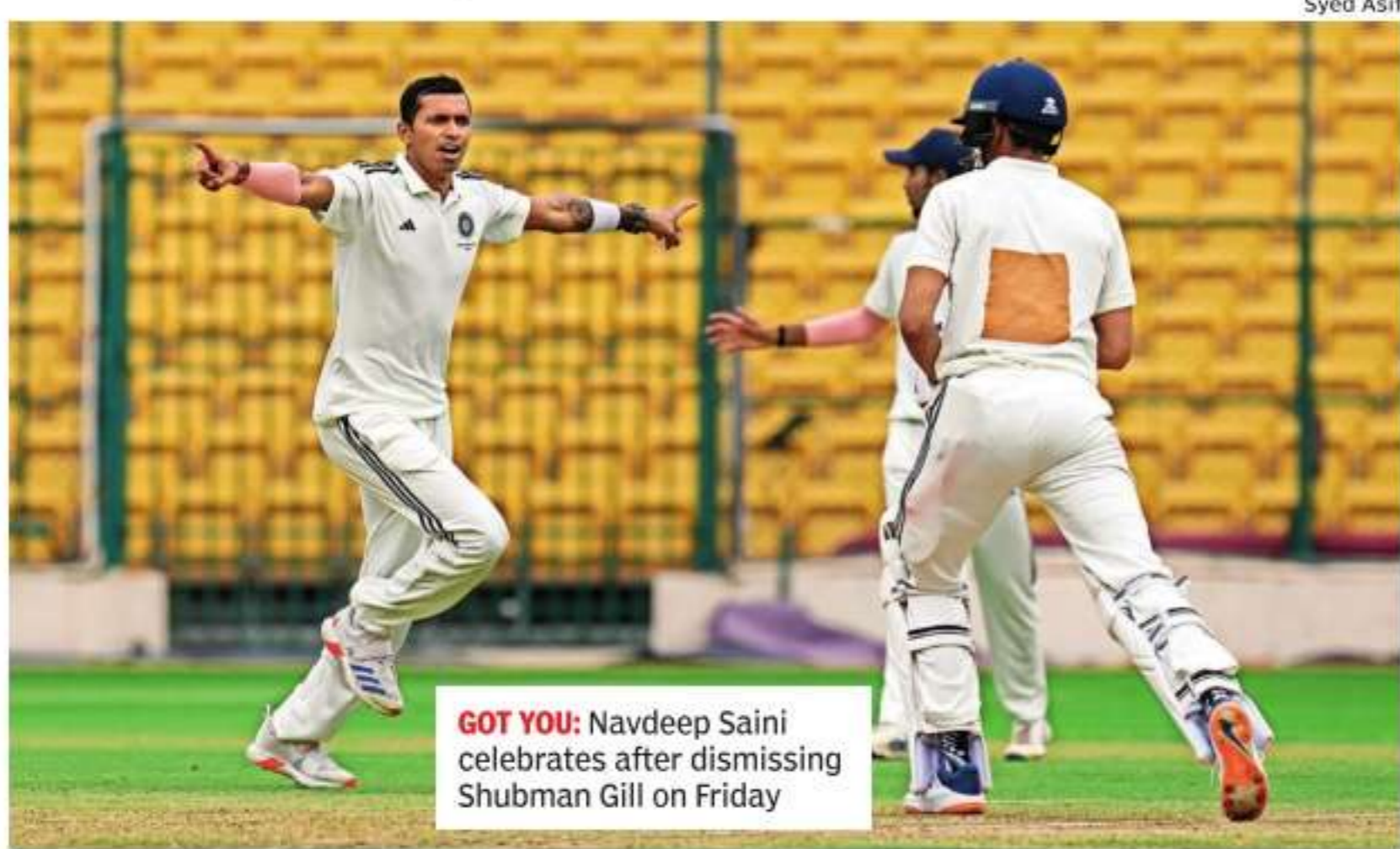
## 'A' class Musheer, Saini lead India B charge

Manuja.Veerappa @timesofindia.com

**Bengaluru:** For eight hours and four minutes across a little over three sessions, Musheer Khan (181; 373b; 16x4; 5x6) blended potential with application and game awareness, rendering a knock that was game changing for India B against India A.

Only in his third domestic season, the teenager displayed an array of strokes, complementing sweetly-timed drives with attractive cut shots. While the opening day of the fixture was all about Mumbai's Karan Musheer, Day 2 also saw seasoned pacer Navdeep Saini (56 & 2/36) sharing the spotlight with his all-round performance at the M Chinnaswamy stadium on Friday.

After eventually bowling out India B for 321, India A closed the day on a comfortable 134-2 in 35 overs. While openers Mayank Agarwal (36) and Shubman Gill (25) failed to convert starts, Riyan Parag (batting on 27) and KL Rahul (batting on 23) will look to wipe out the 187-run deficit on Day 3.



Syed Asif

**GOT YOU:** Navdeep Saini celebrates after dismissing Shubman Gill on Friday

Rahul, returning to red-ball cricket after eight months, appeared rusty and was offered a lifeline by Nitish Kumar Reddy, who put him down at second slip off Mukesh when he was on three. For much of his 80-ball stay thereafter, it was all about block, pad and leave. The new-ball pair of Mukesh Kumar and Yash Dayal

tested the India A top order with good length deliveries but weren't incisive enough under helpful overcast conditions.

Saini accounted for the openers, sending Gill back with a delivery that swung in. Gill read the line wrong, leaving the ball only for it to crash into his off stump. Agarwal, on the other hand, offered a faint edge

to wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant.

### Record 8th-wicket stand

Earlier, the first session belonged to Musheer, who missed out on a well-deserved double century. The combination of Musheer and Saini frustrated the India A bowlers. Musheer, who began the day on 105, easily picked the bad balls while

Saini was far less adventurous and ground it out as the duo put on 88 runs before lunch.

During their 205-run association, they bettered the record for the eighth-wicket partnership in the competition, going past the 197 compiled by Abhishek Nayar and Ramesh Powar for West Zone in 2010.

Kuldeep Yadav finally ended the partnership in the second over after lunch. Two deliveries after he went down on his knees to

launch Kuldeep into the stands **DULEEP TROPHY** over mid-on, Musheer was lured by a tossed-up delivery which he top-edged to Parag at deep square-leg.

Saini, who until then was happy to play second fiddle, survived a LBW call when he was on 42. He made the reprieve count by bringing up his second first-class half-century with a boundary off Kuldeep, but could not extend his stay. Akash Deep cleaned up the last two wickets to finish with a four-wicket haul.

**Brief scores:** India B 321 (Musheer 181, Saini 56; Khaleel 2-54, Akash Deep 4-60, Avesh

## Padikkal, Iyer take India D's lead to 202

**Anantapur:** Fluent fifties from skipper Shreyas Iyer and southpaw Devdutt Padikkal saw India D stretch their lead to 202 runs against India C on the second day of their Duleep Trophy match here on Friday.

Seeking to make an India comeback, Iyer struck 54 off 44 balls and laced his innings with nine fours and a six, while Padikkal com-

pleted a 56-run knock off 70 balls, hitting eight boundaries during his stay in the middle. At stumps, India D were 206/8 in their second innings with Axar Patel (11 off 37 balls) and Harshit Rana at the crease.

Rana was yet to open his account, and he will look to support the experienced Axar in the first session of the third day as India C look to extend their lead and put pressure on their opponents.

Young left-arm spinner Manav Suthar was the star of the day for India C, re-

turning excellent figures of 5/30 in 15 overs, including picking the wickets of a well-set Padikkal and Ricky Bhui, who was trapped in front of the wicket for a vital 91-ball 44.

But it was the 53-run partnership between Iyer and Padikkal that steadied the India D innings after they lost their openers Atharva Taide and Yash Dubey with 40 runs on the board.

Earlier, resuming their first innings at overnight 91/4, India C were bowled out for 168 runs, largely due to a brilliant bowling display from Harshit Rana, who took 4/33, and Axar, who chipped in with 2/46. The seasoned Baba Indrajith top-scored for India C with 72 off 149 balls, while Abhishek Porel contribute 34 in 61 deliveries. **TNN**

**Brief scores:** India D 164 and 206 for 8 (Padikkal 56, Iyer 54, Suthar 5-30) lead India C 168 (Indrajith 72, Rana 4-33, Saransh 2-16) by 202 runs

## DRAVID JOINS RAJASTHAN ROYALS ON MULTI-YEAR CONTRACT

**Mumbai:** Former India captain Rahul Dravid was on Friday announced as the head coach of the Indian Premier League team Rajasthan Royals on a multi-year contract.

Dravid's tenure as India's head coach ended in June with the team winning the T20 World Cup for the second time.

"The former Royals' captain and coach spent five seasons with the franchise from 2011 to 2015, and will commence with the team immediately, working with Royals' director of cricket Kumar Sangakkara to implement the franchise's overall cricketing strategy," the franchise said in a statement.

Dravid has coached Rajasthan Royals in 2014 and has held different roles with the India U-19 team as well as at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru.

"His exceptional coaching capabilities are evident with the transformation he's driven in Indian cricket. He also has a deep connection to the franchise, and we've seen that passion come through in all our conversations," Jake Lush McCrum, CEO of the Royals Sports Group said.

"Rahul has already got to work with Kumar (Sangakkara) and the rest of the team, as we prepare for this exciting new period for the franchise starting with IPL retention and the auction just around the corner," he said. **TNN**

## 10-wkt haul hero Ajaz 'hungry' for more success in subcontinent

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**Greater Noida:** Only three bowlers in the history of cricket have taken 10 wickets in an innings of a Test match — Jim Laker in 1956, Anil Kumble in 1999 and New Zealand left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel in 2021. Patel's feat came against India at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, although it didn't stop India from winning the Test by a massive 372 runs.

However, since that Mumbai Test, Patel has played just five Tests for New Zealand, his last coming 9 months back against Bangladesh in Mirpur, Dhaka. Patel had match figures of 8/111 in the Test and

helped New Zealand win by 4 wickets to draw the series 1-1.

Despite his heroics, Patel has largely been a subcontinent-centric personnel for New Zealand. In fact, he has played just three of his 16 Tests back home in New Zealand. Surely, there is frustration?

"If you ask all New Zealand spinners, it is difficult. Obviously, you don't get as many opportunities at home because of our home conditions," Patel said at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathak Cricket Stadium ahead of New Zealand's one-off Test against Afghanistan.

"But it breeds more hunger when you do come to conditions like

this (in the subcontinent), and you know conditions that are spin friendly and you're quite hungry to get out there and play and put your best foot forward and perform. But it's really important that you do prepare accordingly," he said.

For Patel, the 10-wicket haul is still fresh in his mind "as if it has happened just yesterday", but the 35-year-old yearns to keep growing in the Test arena. He has also "somewhat remodelled" his run-up in order to get more success.

"We're in a professional environment and for us it's really important to just go out there and continue to work on our game and keep improv-



AJAZ PATEL

ing and keep growing. I guess after the 10 wickets, obviously, you're a little bit disappointed when you don't get as many opportunities. Since then, I've somewhat remodelled my run-up and look to grow myself and get better. It's always about improving and making sure

### Rathour, Herath added to NZ coaching staff

Former India batting coach Vikram Rathour and Sri Lanka spin great Ranga Herath were on Friday added to New Zealand's coaching staff ahead of Tests against Afghanistan and Sri Lanka. The Kiwis are also due to play a three-Test series against India in Oct-Nov. **TNN**

that you're ready whenever that next opportunity comes," Patel said.

In the next two months, Patel has

the chance to play six Tests in the subcontinent. Besides the one-off Test against Afghanistan, New Zealand fly to Sri Lanka for two Tests and then return to India for three more. According to ICC's Future Tours Programme, New Zealand's next trip to Asia for Tests is in Feb 2027. Patel, therefore, wants to make full use of the upcoming six Tests.

"It always depends on conditions, and it depends on form and you making sure that you play well," Patel said of the possibility of playing all six Tests. "It's a great opportunity as a spinner. It's something that I'm looking forward to and pretty excited about."

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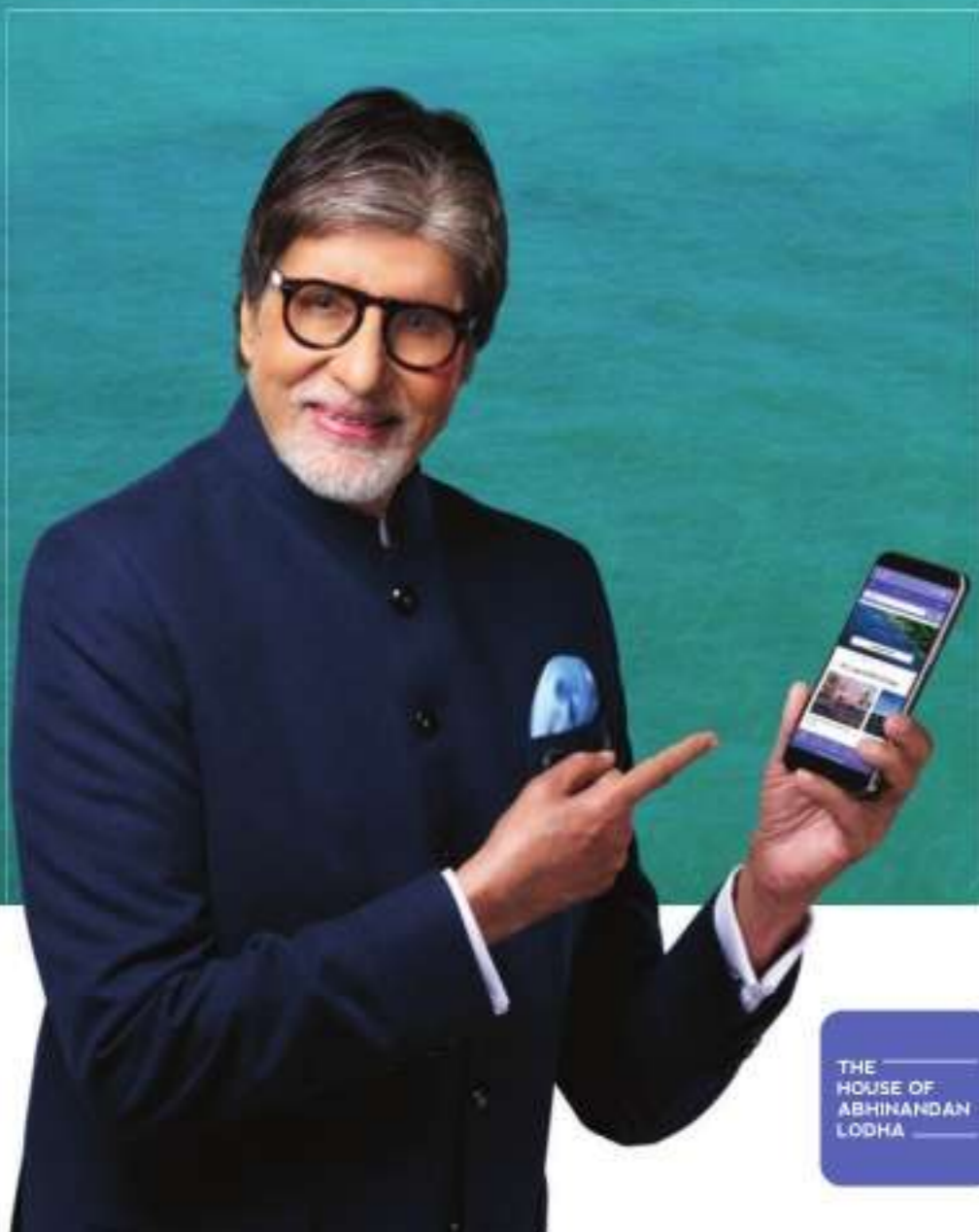
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Portugal's Ronaldo (39) on target in 2-1 win over Croatia, becomes 1st man to score 900 career goals in official matches, P 24

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Trump's sentencing on charges stemming from hush money paid to a porn star delayed until after Nov 5 prez election, **INSIDE JACKET**



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**EMILY ARMSTRONG ANNOUNCED AS LINKIN PARK'S NEW LEAD VOCALIST, 7 YEARS AFTER CHESTER BENNINGTON'S SUICIDE**

NOT ALL THOSE WHO WANDER ARE LOST  
— J. R. R. TOLKIEN



**JOAQUIN PHOENIX ENCOURAGED LADY GAGA 'TO SING POORLY' IN JOKER 2; SINGER SAYS WORKED HARD TO UNDO ALL HER TECHNIQUE**

## US judge delays Trump hush money sentencing until after Nov election

New York: A judge agreed Friday to postpone Donald Trump's sentencing in his hush money case until after the Nov election, granting him a hard-won reprieve as he navigates the aftermath of his criminal conviction and the homestretch of his presidential campaign.

Manhattan judge Juan M. Merchan, who is also weighing a defence request to overturn the verdict on immunity grounds, delayed Trump's sentencing until Nov 26, three weeks after the final votes are cast in the presidential election. It had been scheduled for Sept. 18, about seven weeks before Election Day. The new date is the Tuesday before Thanksgiving.

Merchan said he was postponing the sentencing "to avoid any appearance that the proceeding has been affected by or seeks to affect the approaching prez election in which the defendant is a candidate." "The court is a fair, impartial, and apolitical institution," he said.

The ex-prez's lawyers had pushed for the delay arguing that punishing the Republican nominee in the thick of his campaign to retake the White House would amount to election interference. His lawyers argued that delaying his sentencing until after the election would also allow him time to weigh next steps after Merchan rules on the defence's request



Attorney Alina Habba with Trump at a press conference in New York City

## Hunter Biden pleads guilty to avoid tax trial

Hunter Biden on Thursday pleaded guilty to federal tax charges in a surprise move that spares Prez Joe Biden another likely embarrassing criminal trial of his son. Hunter's decision to plead guilty to misdemeanor and felony charges without the benefits of a deal with prosecutors came hours after jury selection was supposed to begin in the case accusing him of failing to pay at least \$1.4 million in taxes. Sentencing is set for Dec 16. AP

to reverse his conviction and dismiss the case because of the US Supreme Court's July presidential immunity ruling. In his order Friday, Merchan delayed a decision on that until Nov 12.

Trump was convicted in May on 34 counts of falsifying business records to conceal a \$130,000 hush money payment to porn star Stormy Daniels just before the 2016 polls. Trump calls the case a "witch hunt". AP

## At \$361m, Kamala's cash haul for Aug thrice that of Trump's

Ex-Prez Raises Only \$130m, But Still Enjoys More Visibility In Media

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Indicative of continued enthusiasm for her candidacy despite some polls showing a slowing momentum, Kamala Harris raised \$361 million in Aug for her presidential election campaign, her aides announced on Thursday, boasting of political contributions almost three times the \$130 million Donald Trump raised in the month.

Overall, the Harris campaign has raised a staggering \$615 million since she became the Democratic nominee, with \$404m still on hand compared to Trump's \$295 million, already making it a billion-dollar presidential campaign with more to come.

The money spigot for Harris, backed by both retail contributors and the wealthy elites of California and New York, shows no sign of petering out even as Trump is ratcheting up his description of her as a communist. Wealthy contributors to the Harris campaign include LinkedIn's Reid Hoffman, Disney Studio's Jeffrey Katzenberg and investor George Soros.

While Trump has his own set of fat-cats bankrolling his campaign, including Elon Musk, the world's wealthiest



**MONEY TALK:** The Harris campaign has raised a staggering \$615m since she became the Democratic nominee, with \$404m still on hand compared to Trump's \$295m. Trump has also been raising money hawk merchandise, from gold-colour sneakers to trading cards to even pieces of the suit he wore for his debate with Prez Joe Biden

man, and banking fortune heir Timothy Mellon, both sides are also milking rank and file voters, claiming greater grassroots support.

The Harris campaign said the Aug contributions came from nearly 3 million donors, including 1.3 million voters who gave for the first time this cycle. More than 605 of Aug donors were women and almost one-fifth of donors were registered Republicans or independents, the campaign revealed.

Among the new donors, 3 in 4 hadn't given to Biden's campaign during the 2020 prez race. On its part, the Trump campaign said 98% of the \$130 million it raised in Aug came in the

apocalyptic picture of America under "Comrade Kamala". In Pennsylvania, whose 19 electoral votes is expected to be crucial to reach the 270 needed to win the White House, the Harris campaign has already spent more than \$50 million at a burn rate of \$10million a week, according to local reports. The Harris campaign also boasts of a superior ground game with more offices, personnel, and volunteers compared to the more organic support Trump has in middle America.

Despite this, Trump is enjoying more visibility in the media by virtue of more public appearances, even though most of his speeches are characteristically unhinged, replete with falsehoods and meaningless blather. His appearance before the Economic Club of New York on Thursday featuring a laughably meaningless response to a question on childcare became the butt of jokes spawning scores of memes and cartoons.

Such speeches characterised as "dumper fires" by critics who see more spectacle than substance in them, nevertheless keep him in the news cycle, giving him millions of dollars of free mileage which his adorning MAGA base laps up.

## US-Turkish citizen is killed in anti-settler protest in West Bank

Turkish Ministry Blames Israeli Soldiers For Death

Ramallah (West Bank): A dual US-Turkish citizen taking part in a protest against settlement expansion in the Israeli-occupied West Bank died of her wounds on Friday after being shot in the head by Israeli troops, the official Palestinian news agency Wafa reported. Both the US state department and Turkey's foreign ministry confirmed the death of Aysenur Ezgi Eygi. The Turkish ministry said she was killed by Israeli soldiers and described the incident as a "murder carried out by the Netanyahu government". The Israeli military said it was looking into the report.

"We are aware of the tragic death of an American citizen, Aysenur Eygi, today in the West Bank. We offer our deepest condolences to her family and loved ones," US state department spokesperson Matthew Miller said. "We are urgently gathering more information about the circumstances of her death, and will have more to say as we learn more," Miller said.

Fouad Nafaa, the head of the Rafidia Hospital in Nablus, told Reuters the woman



A demonstrator protests for release of hostages in Tel Aviv

arrived at the hospital in a very critical condition, with a serious head injury. "We tried to perform a resuscitation operation on her, but unfortunately she died," he said.

Wafa said the incident occurred during a regular protest march by activists in Beita, a town near the city of Nablus that has seen repeated attacks by nationalist Jewish settlers. "Israel is trying to intimidate all those who come to the aid of the Palestinian people and who fight peacefully against the genocide. This policy of violence will not work," the Turkish foreign ministry said in its statement.

A rise in violent attacks by Israeli settlers on Palestinian villages in the West Bank has caused growing anger among Western allies of Israel, including US, which has imposed sanctions on a number of individuals. REUTERS

## Georgia teen's dad charged with enabling shooter to obtain rifle used in killing

Atlanta: The Georgia teenager charged as an adult with killing four people at his high school made his first court appearance on Friday, and his father later appeared before the same judge on charges of enabling his son to obtain the rifle used in the shooting.

Suspected Georgia high school shooter Colt Gray, 14, faces murder charges stemming from Wednesday's rampage, which killed four people and wounded nine others. Gray did not enter a plea in front of Barrow county Superior Court Judge Currie Mingledorff. He was being held without bond at a detention center. Mingledorff told Gray that he was charged with four counts of felony murder and that he could face life in prison if convicted by a jury. Gray was shackled as he sat next to his attorney.

His father, Colin Gray, came before Mingledorff about 40 minutes after his son left the court. He has been charged with four counts of involuntary manslaughter, two counts



Students pay tribute at a makeshift memorial in Winder

of second-degree murder and eight counts of cruelty to children. The 54-year-old was shackled and wearing a jail striped shirt and pants. The judge said the elder Gray faces up to 180 years in prison.

It's the latest example of prosecutors holding parents responsible for their children's actions in shootings. In April, Michigan parents Jennifer and James Crumbley were the first convicted in a US mass school shooting. They were sentenced to at least 10 years in prison for not securing a firearm at home and acting indifferently to their son's deteriorating mental health before he killed four students in 2021. AGENCIES

## Kenya school dorm fire kills at least 17 children, 70 missing

Endarasha (Kenya): At least 17 young children were killed and 70 missing after a fire ripped through a primary school dormitory in central Kenya overnight, officials said on Friday, leaving relatives desperate for news. The blaze at the Hillside Endarasha Academy in Nyeri county began around midnight, engulfing rooms where more than 150 children were sleeping. Police said the average age of the victims was around nine.

"We still have 70 kids that are unaccounted — that does not mean they are perished or they are injured... the word is that they are unaccounted for," deputy President Rigathi Gachagua told reporters at the scene. He said 27 children were in hospital.

The cause of the fire was not yet known but Kenya's National Gender and Equality Commission said initial reports indicated the dorm was "overcrowded, in violation of safety standards" and called for an immediate inquiry. AFP

## Sikhs in UK protest 'new Islamophobia definition'

Naomi Canton

London: British Sikhs say they will strongly resist a new definition of Islamophobia which they say distorts history and prevents them from discussing their faith.

The Network of Sikh Organisations (NSO) has written to UK deputy PM Angela Rayner saying it has "serious concerns about the APPG (All Party Parliamentary Group) 'Islamophobia' definition", which bans saying "Muslims spread Islam by the sword".

Sikhs revere martyred gurus and their kin who were executed by Mughal emperors for refusing to convert to Islam or died fighting them, it said. "Images of Sikh martyrs are displayed in some gurdwaras across the UK. Many of these would be deemed 'Islamophobic'... and potentially subject to criminal complaint," the letter said.

When Labour was in opposition, with Jeremy Corbyn as leader, the party had adopted the APPG's definition, which states: "Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness." This definition is part of Labour Party's code of conduct but it is not yet law though it could be included in a new race equality act.

A govt spokesman said, "We are committed to tackling all forms of division, including unacceptable rise in anti-Muslim and anti-Sikh hatred. Any new definition must be given careful consideration, so it comprehensively covers multiple perspectives and considers potential implications for different communities."

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## Google blasted by UK watchdog for 'anti-competitive' acts via digital ads

London: Google was slammed on Friday by UK regulators who say it's taking advantage of its dominance in digital advertising to thwart competition in Britain, ratcheting up pressure that the tech giant is facing on both sides of the Atlantic over its "ad tech" business practices.

Britain's Competition and Markets Authority said the US company gives preference to its own services to the detriment of online publishers and advertisers in Britain's £1.8 billion (\$2.4 billion) digital ad market. "We've provisionally found that Google is using its market power to hinder competition when it comes to the ads people see on websites," the watchdog's interim executive director of enforcement, Juliette Enser, said.



The UK watchdog has the power to impose a fine worth up to 10% of the company's annual global revenue

The charges arrive two years after it opened its investigation. The CMA said that Google's "anti-competitive" conduct is ongoing, but the company disputed the allegations, saying "the core of this case rests on flawed interpretations of the ad tech sector." "We disagree with the CMA's view and we will respond accordingly."

The UK watchdog alleged Google has been exploiting its

dominance since 2015 to strengthen the market position of its own AdX ad exchange. AdX is where Google charges the highest fees in the ad tech system, taking about 20% of the amount from bids, the CMA said. The accusations include charges that Google manipulates advertiser bids so they have higher value when they go into AdX auctions than rival exchanges. AdX also gets to bid first in auctions run by Google's publisher ad server, potentially shutting out rivals, it said.

The CMA said it's considering what is needed to make sure Google ceases the anti-competitive practices. It has the power to impose a fine worth up to 10% of a company's annual worldwide revenue or issue a legally binding order to stop violations of competition law. AP

## After Cathay engine fire, Europe regulator orders checks on Airbus A350-1000 engines

Europe's air safety regulator on Thursday ordered inspections on engines of Airbus A350-1000 jets after a "serious incident" of an engine fire during the flight of a Cathay Pacific jetliner. The European Union Aviation Safety Agency said it was acting to prevent similar events after consulting regulators and accident investigators in Hong Kong, where Cathay is based, as well as Airbus and engine supplier Rolls-Royce. "This action is a precautionary step," EASA executive director Florian Guillermet said.

A "serious incident" is an investigative term in aviation that means there was a high probability of an accident. The move affects the larger of two models of twin-engine A350, the A350-1000, which represents 15% of the A350 fleet or 86

## Malaysia Airlines finds 'potential issue' with A350-900 engine

Malaysia Airlines said on Friday it had found a "potential issue" with the engine of an Airbus A350-900 aircraft in its fleet but added that it had been resolved. Malaysia Airlines' fleet of A350-900 planes "recently underwent a precautionary inspection, during which a potential issue with high-pressure fuel hoses on one aircraft was identified," the carrier said. The checks were prompted by an "in-flight engine fire" on one of Hong Kong-based Cathay Pacific's Zurich-bound flights. The Cathay incident prompted other airlines in the region to carry out similar checks on their A350-900 and A350-1000 models. AFP

jets. The smaller and widely sold A350-900 is not affected. The A350-1000 and its XWB-97 engines have been under the spotlight since a Zurich-bound jet was forced to return to Hong Kong Monday after the engine problem, later traced to a fuel leak.

Initial investigations have revealed that a hose between a manifold and a fuel injection nozzle was pierced, sources said, and the Hong Kong-led probe must now determine if this was the cause or a consequence of the incident.

In its emergency directive, EASA gave airlines between 3 and 30 days to carry out visual checks and measurements on fuel hoses but did not call for parts to be removed for the work, unless they were found to be damaged. It excluded engines already inspected by Cathay. REUTERS

## Telegram CEO defends himself against French charges in first public comments

Paris: Telegram founder and CEO Pavel Durov promised to step up efforts to fight criminality on the messaging app, his first public comments since French authorities handed him preliminary charges for allegedly allowing the platform's use for criminal activity.

In a Telegram post late Thursday Durov defended himself against the French judicial investigation, suggesting that he shouldn't have been targeted personally. "Using laws from the pre-smartphone era to charge a CEO with crimes committed by third parties on the platform he manages is a misguided approach," the post said. "Building technology is hard enough as it is. No innovator will ever build new tools if they know they can be personally held responsible for potential abuse of those tools."

While insisting that Telegram is not "some sort of anarchic paradise," Durov said surging numbers of Telegram users "caused growing pains that made it easier for criminals to abuse our platform." "That's why I made it my personal



In a Telegram post on Thursday, Durov said, 'Using laws from the pre-smartphone era to charge a CEO with crimes committed by third parties on the platform he manages is a misguided approach'

goal to ensure we significantly improve things in this regard. We've already started that process internally, and I will share more details on our progress with you very soon," he said.

French investigators detained Durov at Le Bourget airport outside Paris in late Aug and questioned him for four days as part of a sweeping probe opened earlier this year. Released on €bail, Durov has to report to a police station twice a week. Russia-born, he has amassed multiple citizenships, including French. Allegations against Durov include that Telegram is used for child sexual abuse material and drug trafficking, and that the platform refused to share information or documents with investigators when required by law.

In his post, Durov said that while in police detention, "I was told I may be personally responsible for other people's illegal use of Telegram, because the French authorities didn't receive responses from Telegram." "This was surprising for several reasons," he added.

He said Telegram has an official representative in the European Union who replies to EU requests, with a public email address. Durov said "French authorities had numerous ways to reach me to request assistance." He said he also had previously worked with them for a hotline to deal with the threat of terrorism. "If a country is unhappy with an internet service, the established practice is to start a legal action against the service itself." AP

## China stops foreign adoptions, a mainstay during its one-child policy

Hong Kong: For three decades, China sent tens of thousands of babies overseas for adoption as it enforced a strict one-child policy that forced many families to abandon their children. Now the govt will no longer allow most foreign adoptions, a move that it said was in line with global trends. The ban raises questions for many of the hundreds of families in the US who were in the process of adoption.

Few details have been offered about the new policy, except to say that exceptions would be

made only for foreigners adopting stepchildren and children of blood relatives in China.

Before the pandemic, China was a top country of origin for international adoption, having sent more than 1,600,000 children overseas since the early 1990s. But its programme had been tainted by past allegations of corruption and by its association with China's harshly enforced birth restrictions. Many families left their babies in alleyways or at the doors of police stations or social welfare institutions, to



Before the pandemic, China was a top country of origin for adoption, having sent over 1,600,000 children overseas since the early 1990s. Today, its population is shrinking as the country grapples with one of the lowest birth rates in the world

avoid severe penalties for violating the one-child policy.

Unable to pay for the care of these children, many orphanages turned to international adoption to help fund their services, and in 1992, China officially opened its doors to international adoptions. "This is, in a way, the end of an era and the closing of one of the most shameful chapters of the three and a half decades of social engineering known as one-child policy," said Wang Feng, a professor of sociology at the University of Cali-

ifornia at Irvine who specializes in China's demographics. "The Chinese govt created the problem and then they couldn't deal with the financial constraints and that is why they allowed foreign adoption as a last resort."

Today, China's population is shrinking as the country grapples with one of the lowest birth rates in the world. It maintains a nominal policy of limiting families to three children, and it has been trying to encourage births. Nearly all foreign adoptions involve children with

disabilities, according to Chinese govt. Adoptees have largely been girls, along with some boys with birth defects and special needs, said an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Michigan. Other countries have started to wind down or stop foreign adoptions in recent years, including Ethiopia, Russia and Kazakhstan. Some European overseas adoption agencies have also stopped their operations amid national concerns about abuse, falsified documents and accountability. NYT

## DAILY PLANET



**TOWERING TRIBUTE:** A massive red lobster sculpture welcomed visitors to Seokchon lake in Seoul on Friday, marking 10th anniversary of the 555-m-tall Lotte World Mall, South Korea's tallest building

## Paris mayor says Oly rings to stay on Eiffel Tower until '28

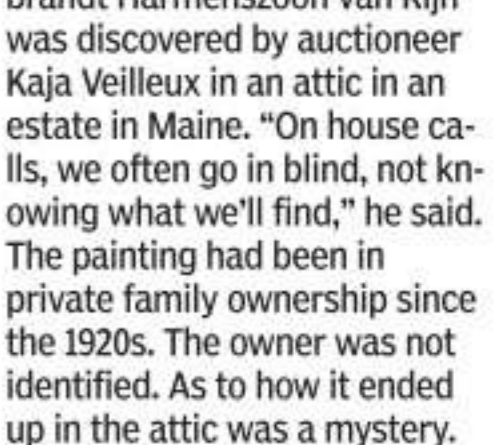


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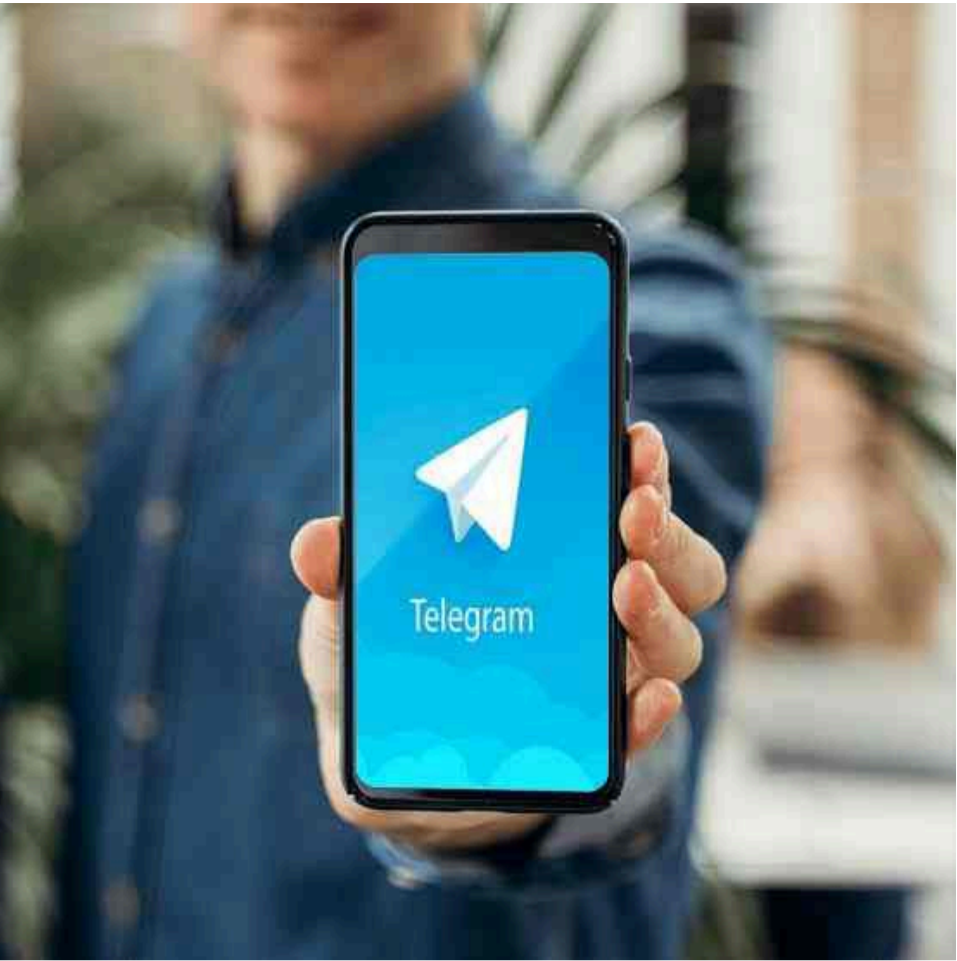
Paris' mayor said Friday that she intended to keep the Olympic rings on the Eiffel Tower until at least 2028 despite criticism of the idea from some residents and lawmakers. The logo of five interlocking rings was erected on the beloved monument before the July 28-Aug 11 Olympics in Paris and has become a popular backdrop for selfies by visitors. Anne Hidalgo, the Socialist mayor in power since 2014, caused widespread surprise last weekend by saying she intended to retain the symbol. The descendants of the tower's designer, Gustave Eiffel, issued a statement saying that it "does not seem appropriate to us that

the Eiffel Tower, which has become the symbol of Paris and the whole of France since its construction 135 years ago, has the symbol of an outside organisation added to it". Critics have slammed the decision as a personal initiative taken without consulting the city's council, or the residents.

**From attic to auction: \$1.4m** A Rembrandt discovered in an attic sold for \$1.4 million. The 17th century painting, "Portrait of a Girl," by Dutch artist Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn was discovered by auctioneer Kaja Velleux in an attic in an estate in Maine. "On house calls, we often go in blind, not knowing what we'll find," he said. The painting had been in private family ownership since the 1920s. The owner was not identified. As to how it ended up in the attic was a mystery.



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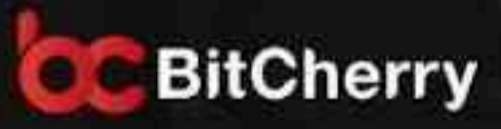
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