



Day's not far when nobody in J&K will possess weapons, ending the need to deploy forces there, Shah tells students from UT, P 20

# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**KRISTEN BELL REPRISER ROLE OF 'GOSSIP GIRL' NARRATOR TO DISH ON CELEBS AT SAG AWARDS ALONG WITH CO-STAR LEIGHTON MEESTER**

**JANE FONDA URGES H'WOOD TO FIGHT TRUMP WITH EMPATHY: 'WOKE JUST MEANS YOU GIVE A DAMN ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'**



## Germany's election winner Merz plans pivot from US

**Questions Nato In 'Current Form', Calls For Boosting Europe Defence**



Never the favourite of his party CDU's professional advisers, Friedrich Merz was twice rejected as Angela Merkel's successor as party leader, in 2018 & 2021, before his doggedness won out in 2022

Berlin: Germany's mainstream conservatives led by Friedrich Merz won the country's national election, ensuring Ukraine has an even stronger supporter in the EU's largest country and creating hopes for renewal in an economic powerhouse that has been badly battered in recent years. Merz, who is promising to unite Europe in the face of challenges from both Russia and the US, is expected to become the country's next leader. "My absolute priority will be to strengthen Europe as quickly as possible so that, step by step, we can really achieve independence from the USA," he said. He, however, vowed to do everything in his power to continue a good transatlantic relationship with the US, even if the Trump administration

appears to have waning interest in Europe.

"If those who really do not just make 'America First,' but almost 'America Alone' their motto prevail, then it will be difficult," he told reporters on Monday in his first post-election news conference. "But I remain hopeful that we will succeed in maintaining the transatlantic relationship." He warned if the good relationship "is destroyed, it will not only be to the detriment of Europe, but also to the detriment of America."

**AfD gets strongest showing for far-right party since WWII, now eyes top position**

German far-right leader Alice Weidel said Monday she was aiming for her Alternative for Germany (AfD) to become the strongest party in the country after its best ever result. The AfD finished in second place with just under 21%, behind only the conservative CDU-CSU which came first on 28.6%. It was the strongest showing for a far-right party since WWII. Weidel, the AfD's candidate to be chancellor, said she believed the party could "overtake the CDU within the next few years for the next election... to become the strongest force" in Germany. The AfD also came second among voters aged 18 to 24 with a share of support similar to its overall result. Only the far-left Die Linke party did better, with 25 percent. AFP

**'5 Mins To Midnight For EU'**

Referring to a Nato summit scheduled for June, Merz said he was curious to see "whether we will still be talking about Nato in its current form then or whether we will have to establish an independent European defence capability much more quickly". "This really is five minutes to midnight for Europe," he said.

**Coalition Talks With Scholz**

Merz said he wants to immediately begin negotiations with centre-left Social Democrats,

who suffered a stinging defeat after their coalition collapsed.

Merz said on election night he hopes to form a govt by Easter at the latest. For the time being, outgoing Chancellor Olaf Scholz will stay on as head of a caretaker govt.

**Calls For Unison To End AfD**

He ruled out a coalition with AfD said he was "extremely worried" about the far-right party's historic gains. "We've to work together to gradually remove the breeding ground for this party," he said. AGENCIES

## Ukraine's Allies Gather In Kyiv On War's 3rd Anniv, US Absent

**In Washington, Trump Says Putin Will Accept Europe Peacekeepers Plan**



More than a dozen Western leaders attended events in Ukraine on Monday marking the third anniversary of the country's war with Russia, many pledging more military aid in a conspicuous show of support for Kyiv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called Monday for "real, lasting peace" this year as European leaders gathered for a summit in Kyiv on the third anniversary of Russia's invasion. Russia said it would halt the invasion only if a deal could be reached that "suits" its interests, and accused Europe of wanting to prolong the fighting.

Russian President Putin's decision to launch the invasion in Feb 2022 set off the biggest conflict in Europe since WWII. Tens of thousands of soldiers on both sides and Ukrainian civilians have been killed.

"This year should be the year of the beginning of a real, lasting peace," Zelensky told Ukraine's backers in Kyiv. "We have to win peace through strength and wisdom and unity," he said, vowing at a press conference later on Monday that Russia "will not win".

EU Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen also warned that despite opening talks with the US on how to end the conflict, Putin was not about to back down. "Putin is trying harder than ever to win this war on the ground. His goal remains Ukraine's capitulation." But as leaders of Ukraine's

**Europe ready to 'step up' on def spending: Macron**

French President Macron told President Trump Monday that Europe is ready to "step up" defence spending but said he hoped for "strong" US involvement in securing any peace settlement in Ukraine. Macron said he and Trump would discuss "long-lasting peace" in Ukraine but that Kyiv "must be involved" in talks to end the war. He said some European countries would be ready to have peacekeepers in Ukraine as a security guarantee after a peace treaty was signed, although they would not be sent to the front line. AFP

backers lined up to proclaim support and hail Kyiv's resistance, there was one notable absence: the US. Donald Trump's return to the White House has threatened broad Western support for Ukraine as well as vital military and financial aid at a critical juncture.

Speaking in Washington, Trump said Putin would accept European peacekeepers in Ukraine as part of a potential deal to end Russia's war there. Trump made the comments

to reporters at a start of a meeting with French President Macron. "Yeah, he will accept it," Trump said. "I have asked him that question. Look, if we do this deal, he's not looking for World War." Trump also said he was hopeful the US and Ukraine will soon come to terms on a rare earth minerals deal. "It looks like we're getting very close," he said, adding that Zelensky could potentially visit Washington this week or next to sign the deal. AGENCIES

**Europe-backed resolution seeks withdrawal of Russian troops**

Continued from P 1

This was because European countries managed to successfully introduce amendments in the text. India, which maintains it is not neutral but on the side of peace, was expected to vote in favour, but the amendments meant that India too had to abstain.

India was also among the 65 countries that abstained from voting on the Europe-backed resolution that called for just and lasting peace, and also immediate withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukraine. This was in line with its earlier abstentions in the Assembly on resolutions condemning Russia.

India officially maintains it wants both parties to restart the dialogue and diplomacy process to resolve the conflict. Trump administration has been engaging directly with Russia to end the war, keeping both the EU and Ukraine out.

While the defeat in the General Assembly is a setback for the US, it will look to make up for it in the Security Council, hoping France and the UK will not veto it. Both countries have not used their veto power for decades. The voting was expected to take place later in the day.

## Germany's Political Spectrum

Germany's political landscape is shaped by several key parties, each with distinct histories and ideologies. Here's an overview of the major political parties, their historical backgrounds, and the coalitions they've formed over the past two decades

### 1 Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and Christian Social Union (CSU)

Founded in 1945, the CDU is a centre-right party promoting Christian democratic and liberal-conservative policies. It operates nationwide except in Bavaria, where its sister party, the CSU, holds sway. The CSU, also established in 1945, shares similar values but emphasises Bavarian regional interests.

**Performance** | In the Feb 23 polls, the CDU/CSU alliance secured approximately 28.5% of the vote, emerging as the leading bloc.

### 2 Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD)

With roots dating back to 1863, the SPD is one of the world's oldest social-democratic parties. It advocates for social justice, workers' rights, and a welfare state.

**Performance** | The SPD garnered just over 16% of the vote, marking its worst postwar result.

### 3 Alliance 90/The Greens

Established in 1993 through the merger of the Green Party and Alliance 90, this party focuses on environmental issues, social justice, and human rights.

**Performance** | The Greens received about 12% of the vote in this election.

### 4 Free Democratic Party (FDP)

Founded in 1948, the FDP champions individual liberties, free-market economics, and minimal govt intervention.

**Performance** | The FDP failed to cross the 5% threshold in this election, resulting in the loss of its parliamentary representation.

### 5 Alternative for Germany (AfD)

Launched in 2013, the AfD began with a focus on Euroscepticism but has since shifted towards right-wing populism, emphasising anti-immigration policies and national conservatism.

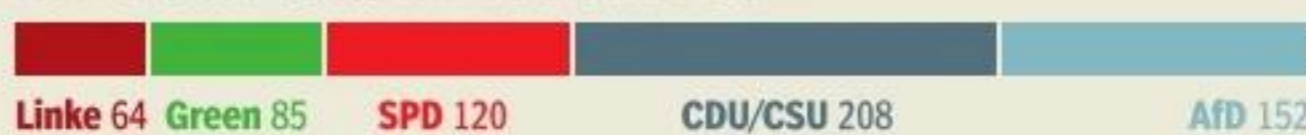
**Performance** | The AfD achieved a historic 20.8% of the vote in this election, becoming the second-largest party in the Bundestag.

### 6 The Left (Die Linke)

Formed in 2007 from the merger of the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS) and the Electoral Alternative for Labor and Social Justice (WASG), The Left advocates for democratic socialism and represents left-wing policies.

**Performance** | The Left secured about 9% of the vote.

### How the 630 seats will be distributed

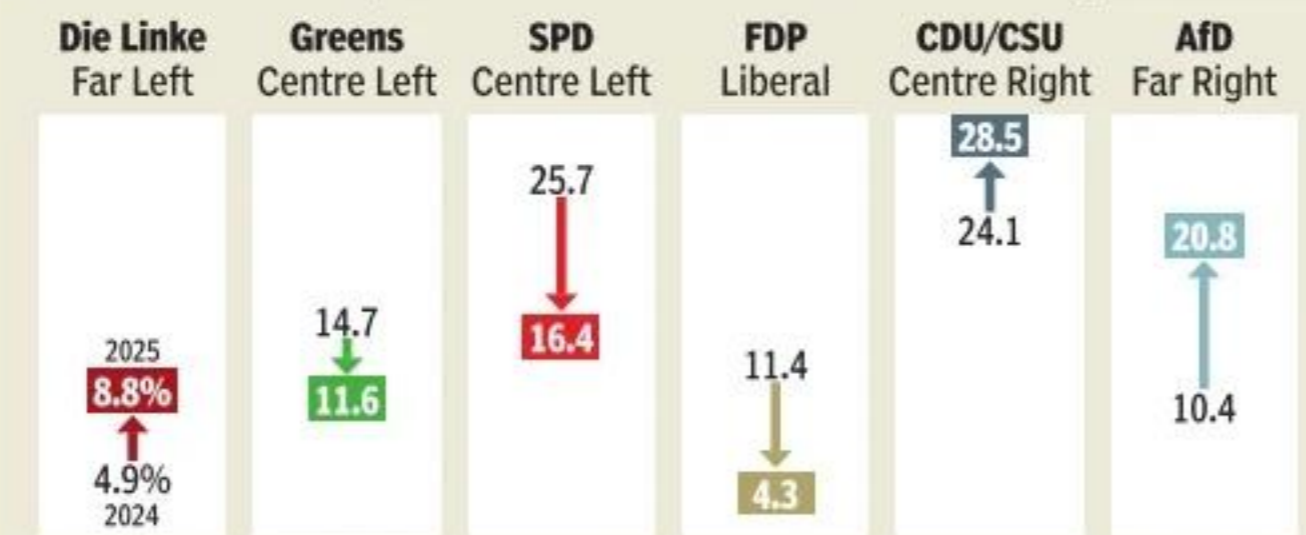


### Provisional results by party

Party	Votes	Pct.	Seats
CDU/CSU	14,158,432	28.5%	208
AfD	10,327,148	20.8	152
SPD	8,148,284	16.4	120
Greens	5,761,476	11.6	85
Die Linke	4,355,382	8.8	64
FDP	2,148,878	4.3	0
Others	4,742,487	9.6	1

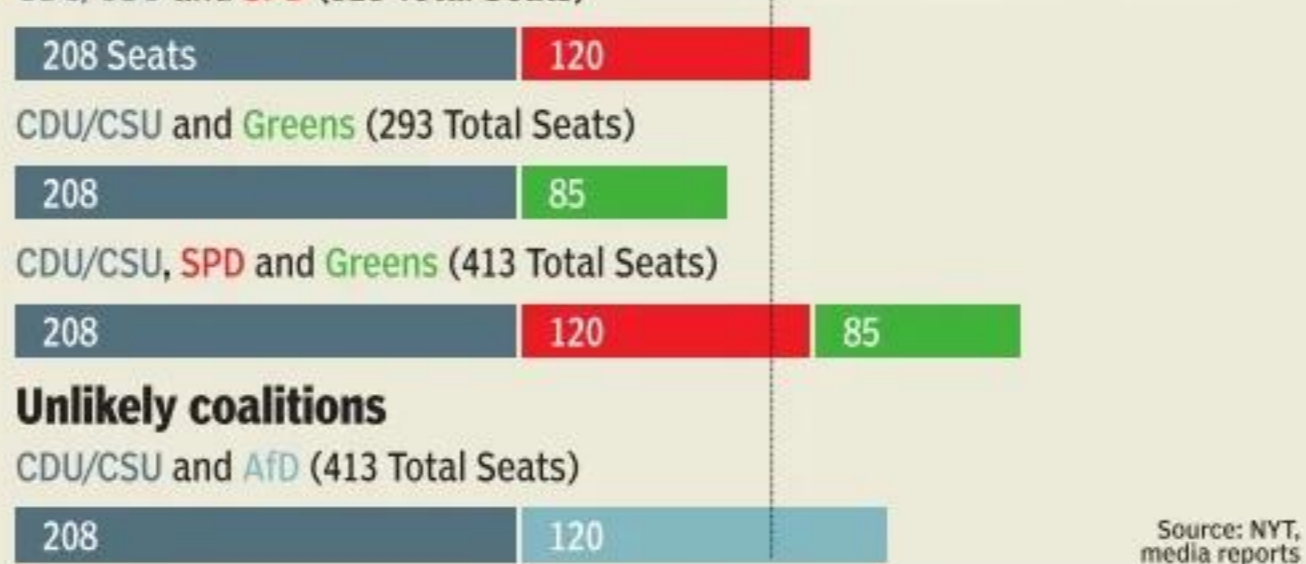
### Change in vote share since 2001

The Christian Democrats, AfD and Die Linke won more votes than in the last general election

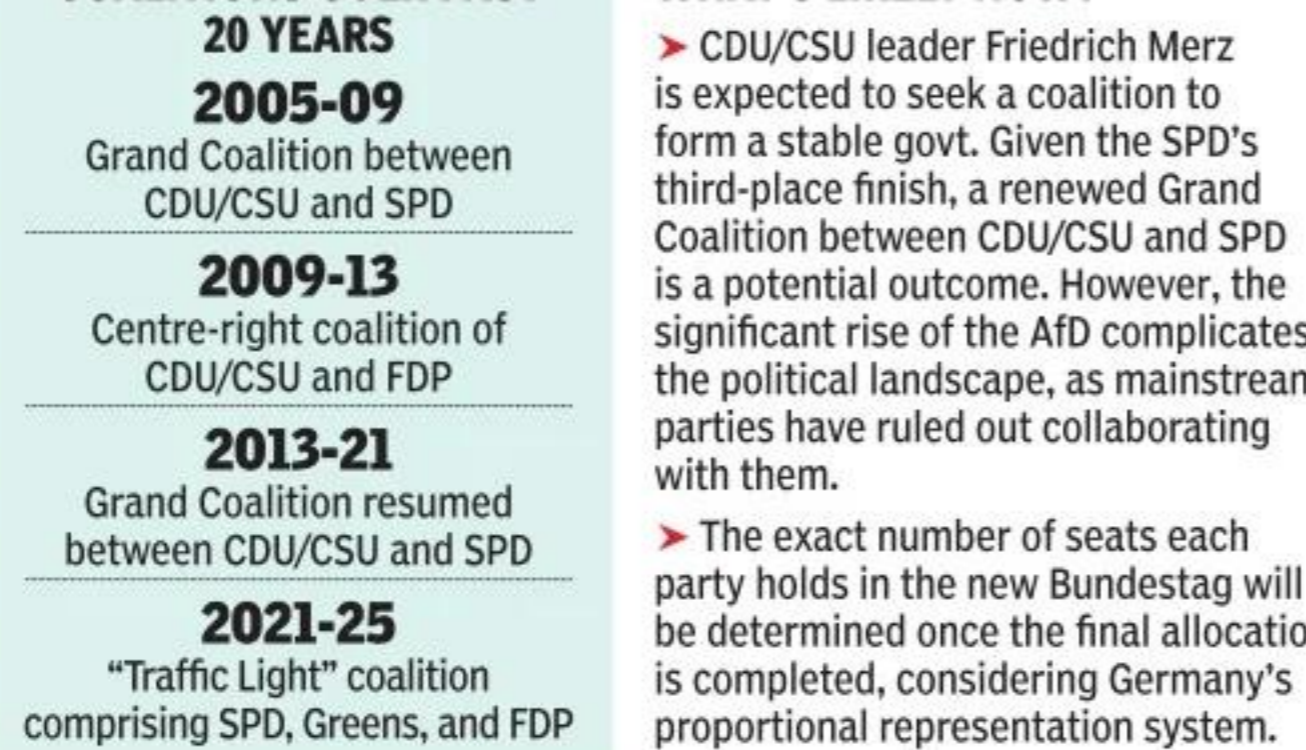


### Possible mainstream coalitions

316 seats needed for majority



### COALITIONS OVER PAST 20 YEARS



### WHAT'S LIKELY NOW?

CDU/CSU leader Friedrich Merz is expected to seek a coalition to form a stable govt. Given the SPD's third-place finish, a renewed Grand Coalition between CDU/CSU and SPD is a potential outcome. However, the significant rise of the AfD complicates the political landscape, as mainstream parties have ruled out collaborating with them. The exact number of seats each party holds in the new Bundestag will be determined once the final allocation is completed, considering Germany's proportional representation system.

## One killed, several hurt as B'desh air force thwarts attack on base

Ahsan Tasnim

Dhaka: One person was killed and several others injured when security personnel thwarted an attack on a Bangladesh Air Force base in the southeastern beach town of Cox's Bazar Monday. The deceased has been identified as 25-year-old Shihab Kabir Nahid.

The defence ministry's Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR) directorate said miscreants launched a sudden attack on the Air Force base around noon. "In order to protect important state installations, blank shots were fired by Air Force personnel in accordance with its 'Rules of Engage-

ment'. No live bullets were fired at the local people," it said, adding that a malicious group is spreading propaganda on social media that the young man was killed in firing by the Air Force, which is not true.

Incidentally, the attack — purportedly by people living in areas close to the Air Force base — occurred hours after home affairs adviser, retired Lieutenant General M Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, in a pre-dawn presser reiterated the Yunus govt's commitment to maintaining law and order.

Chaos started when a local was taken inside the base for questioning from the Air Force check post because he did

not have documents for his motorcycle. More than two hundred locals gathered to protest this. As they started moving towards the base, they were stopped by the Air Force personnel. As the number of protesting locals increased, a clash broke out between the personnel and "some miscreants" within the group. Some people were injured by brickbats thrown by the miscreants, including four members of the Air Force (one officer and three airmen). Nahid, who had been taken to a local hospital in a seriously injured condition, was confirmed brought died by the hospital authorities.

## Israeli tanks enter West Bank for first time in decades as tensions escalate



An Israeli tank enters Jenin camp in West Bank Sunday. Palestinian Authority has said the deployment is a 'dangerous escalation'

Jerusalem: Israel announced Sunday it was expanding its weekslong military operation against armed Palestinian groups in occupied West Bank and had deployed tanks in the territory's north for the first time in two decades.

Adding to the escalating tensions, Israeli defence minister Israel Katz said tens of thousands of Palestinian residents who have left the centres of militancy targeted by the Israeli operation and are displaced within West Bank will not be allowed to return to their homes.

Israel's actions came after bombs exploded on three buses Thursday in different parking depots in the suburbs of Tel Aviv, Israel. At least one other explosive device was discovered and dismantled. Police are still investigating, but they said the devices resembled improvised bombs made in West Bank.

Katz said Sunday that 40,000 Palestinians had left two refugee camp areas in Tulkarem and one in Jenin, adding they were now "empty of residents." He ordered the military to prepare for a long stay over the coming year in the purged camps.

The Palestinian Authority said Sunday it considered Katz's statements, along with the deployment of tanks and what it described as the intimidation of unarmed civilians, to be "a dangerous escalation." NYT

## NYC ends its \$220m sweetheart deal with Pak's Roosevelt Hotel

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: New York City is terminating a \$220m deal with the Pakistan-owned Roosevelt Hotel to house a migrant shelter following a prolonged MAGA meltdown over the use of American taxpayer money to facilitate immigration to the US.

Under pressure from the federal govt and MAGA hardliners, mayor Eric Adams, a Democrat who gravitated to the Trump orbit after facing corruption charges from the Biden administration, announced closure of the site that is said to have housed tens of thousands of migrants in its 1,025 rooms at \$200 a night.

The site opened in May 2023 to serve as both a new arrivals centre and shelter for asylum seekers under a three-year \$220 million deal with govt-run Pakistan International Airlines, which owns the hotel, having bought out a Saudi stake in it for \$36.4 million in 2005.

At peak traffic in 2023 when around 4,000 migrants were arriving in the city each week, the sight of asylum seekers camping outside waiting to be processed triggered MAGA hardliners and even New Yorkers, as Trump and his supporters complained about Democrats housing "illegal immigrants" in "luxury hotels" at the expense of taxpayers.

"A taxpayer-funded hotel for illegal migrants is owned by Pakistani govt, which means NYC taxpayers are effectively paying a foreign govt to house illegals in our own country. This is nuts," MAGA major Vivek Ramaswa-



Under pressure from Trump govt, NYC mayor Eric Adams said the city will shut the hotel, which is said to have housed tens of thousands of migrants in its 1,025 rooms at \$200 a night

my had said. Trump himself, lately exercised over a \$21 million USAID allocation for a voter turnout programme in India, had highlighted the purported scam saying the Biden administration had paid \$59 million to an unspecified hotel in New York City to house illegal immigrants. Standing beside him, Musk had added the city was paying double the normal rate for the room.

Following Trump's victory, his administration cited concerns about criminal activity at the hotel for freezing \$80 million in FEMA funds to the city, by which time Pakistan had already raked in tens of millions of dollars. "FEMA was funding the Roosevelt Hotel that serves as a Tren de Aragua base of operations and was used to house Laken Riley's killer. There will not be a single penny spent that goes against the interest and safety of the American people," homeland security department said, referring to the Venezuelan criminal gang, now declared a foreign terrorist organisation, said to be involved in the murder of an American nursing student. US correspondent for TOI

## TRACKING TRUMP 2.0

### Musk's directive to govt staff opens fissures in admin

Elon Musk's order to US govt workers to justify their jobs opened divisions in Trump's admin, as some agencies told their workers to respond by Monday and others said to ignore him.

President Trump on Monday said Musk's demand was "great" and, without offering evidence, said it was necessary to find workers who are not working.

Leaders of defence, state, and homeland security depts, the FBI and many other agencies told workers not to respond outside their established chain of command. The dept of health and human services told its workers to hold off while it figured out how to "best meet the intent" of Musk's unusual directive, after earlier ordering them to comply.

Federal workers Monday sued Musk, saying he violated the law with his demand. AGENCIES

### 1,600 USAID jobs eliminated in US

Trump's administration said on Sunday it was placing all personnel at USAID, except leaders and critical staff, on paid administrative leave and eliminating 1,600 positions in the US. An email informed staff they would be let go from federal service effective April 24. USAID said on its website just before midnight all direct hires except essential workers will be put on leave and 1,600 staff in the US would be cut.

On Friday, a federal judge cleared the way for the Trump admin to put thousands of USAID workers on leave, a setback for govt employee unions that are suing over what they have called an effort to dismantle it.

Two former senior USAID officials estimated that a majority of some 4,600 USAID personnel, career US civil service and foreign service staffers, would be placed on administrative leave. REUTERS

### Ex-SS agent podcaster becomes FBI dy head

Dan Bongino, a former Secret Service agent who ran unsuccessfully for office and gained fame as a conservative pundit with TV shows and a popular podcast, has been chosen to serve as FBI deputy director. President Trump announced the appointment Sunday, praising Bongino as "a man of incredible love and passion for our country."

Bongino, who will serve under director Kash Patel, will be responsible for FBI's day-to-day law enforcement operations. The position does not require Senate confirmation. But Bongino, like Patel, has never served in the FBI, raising questions about their experience level at a time when the US is facing escalating national security threats. AP

## Report: China vessels used N Korean crews

A fleet of 12 Chinese fishing vessels operating in southwest Indian Ocean used North Korean crews between 2019 and 2024 in violation of UN bans, and many people were subjected to abuses including being trapped at sea, a report by Environmental Justice Foundation said Monday. The use of North Korean crew would be a breach of 2017 UNSC resolutions that required members not to issue work permits to North Koreans and repatriate all remaining North Koreans by end of 2019. AP

## DAILY PLANET

### Roberta Flack, 4-time Grammy winner, dies at 88

Roberta Flack, the silky-voiced Grammy-winning singer whose sultry ballads "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face" and "Killing Me Softly With His Song" topped charts in the 1970s, died Monday at the age of 88. The

classically trained pianist defied genres as she blended jazz, soul, pop and R&B to create a distinctive style and became one of America's most influential singers. Flack revealed in 2022 she had ALS, and could no longer sing. She won four Grammys and was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020. She was the first artist to win two consecutive Record of the Year trophies for 1973's "First Time I Ever Saw Your Face" and 1974's "Killing Me Softly with His Song".



**SWITCHING GEARS:** Egyptians ride a 'Jetcar Kromh' vehicle, a car-shaped vehicle that can move on water, on the river Nile in Cairo. The vehicles have been manufactured by entrepreneur Karim Amin, who sources most parts locally from Egyptians

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**Rachin Ravindra's century helps New Zealand beat Bangladesh by 5 wickets in a Champions Trophy Group A match, sending the Kiwis as well as India into the semifinals and ending Pak and Bangladesh's last 4 hopes, P 17**

**NYC terminates \$220m deal with Pak-owned Roosevelt Hotel to house a migrant shelter following a prolonged MAGA meltdown over use of American taxpayer money to facilitate immigration to the US, PG OPP**

**One person shot dead and several injured as security personnel repulse an attack on a Bangladesh Air Force base in southeastern beach town of Cox's Bazar, PG OPP**

**Trump admin announces dismissal of over 1,600 staff from USAID, with additional staff placed on paid administrative leave, PG OPP**

**PM Modi nominates 10 persons from different walks of life, including J&K CM Omar Abdullah, bizman Anand Mahindra and actor Mohanlal, to help fight obesity, P 12**



## 18 boys held for gang-raping 3 girls, molesting 2

Police have detained 18 minor boys for allegedly raping three girls and molesting two others in Jharkhand's Khunti Friday. The survivors, aged between 13 and 18, were returning from a wedding event when they were waylaid. The victims and suspects are tribals. **P 13**

## NAAC removes 900 reviewers over graft

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has removed nearly 900 assessors — a fifth of its peer reviewers — after allegations of corruption surfaced in the grading process. **P 8**

## Nepal NHRC seeks probe into KIIT death

Nepal's NHRC has urged its Indian counterpart for an early probe into the death of a Nepalese student at KIIT and sought justice for Nepalese students who faced ill-treatment thereafter. **P 10**

## Car chase ends in event mgr's death

An event manager and dancer, 27, lost her life and two of her colleagues were injured when their car overturned following a high-speed chase on NH 2 in Bengal early Monday. **P 8**

## 63-yr delay in GDA land compensation

A court ordered attachment of movable assets of GDA's vice-chairman and secretary for its failure to pay a beneficiary, who died waiting, in a 63-year-old land compensation case. **P 7**

# DTC losses mounted by ₹35k cr in 6 years: CAG

Report, To Be Out Today, Flags Multiple Lapses

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has stated that Delhi Transport Corporation's cumulative losses soared from Rs 25,300 crore in 2015-16 to nearly 60,750 crore in 2021-22 as it was weighed down by dwindling fleet, with 45% of buses being overage and prone to high levels of breakdown, resulting in below-par fleet utilisation.

In the long overdue report, expected to be tabled in assembly by the new BJP govt on Tuesday, the auditor pointed to multiple lapses, including the transport utility's inability to augment its fleet, sources told TOI. This is the first of 14 re-

### '45% OF BUSES OVERAGE IN REDUCED FLEET'

> DTC's cumulative losses rose from ₹25,300cr in 2015-16 to ₹60,750cr in 2021-22, according to CAG report

> As against sanction for 5,500 buses, DTC in March '22 had a fleet of 3,937, of which 1,770 (45%) were overage

> DTC was unable to recover operational cost on any of its routes, suffered total loss of ₹14,199cr on operations during 2015-22, says CAG

> Auditor flags 'deficient route planning', says DTC operated only 468 routes (57%) out of a total of 814



ports that the AAP govt had refused to share in the assembly. The primary reason for the losses was DTC fares remaining unchanged since 2009, sources said, with the Delhi govt refusing to pay heed to multiple requests. The burden further went up as women were given free bus rides. The auditor also pointed to the absence of any business plan and there was no roadmap to check the

bleeding and to ensure its financial viability, said sources who have seen the report.

The skeletal DTC fleet, with broken down buses part of commuters' daily experience, turned into a political issue, with BJP and Congress repeatedly talking up AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal's 2015 promise to boost the fleet by 10,000.

► Deficient route, P 3

## Rising water, silt stall T'gana tunnel rescue

Hopes of rescuing two engineers and six labourers trapped in the Srisaalam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel in Telangana's Nagarkurnool district were diminishing. More than 48 hours of frenetic efforts to reach the eight came to a standstill on Monday, with rising water levels and shifting silt making the operation riskier by the hour, reports Koride Mahesh. **P 9**

## FTA talks on: UK, India eye social security pact

India and the UK Monday announced the resumption of talks for a "balanced, ambitious and mutually beneficial" free trade agreement. The FTA will also cover social security and investment. New Delhi's demand for a liberal business visa regime, including for students who want to work after completing their education, is likely to be considered favourably. **P 15**

## CPM says Modi govt not fascist; CPI, Cong hit out

A note from CPM to its state units why its draft political resolution for the 24th party congress doesn't say "Modi govt is fascist or neo-fascist" has resulted in CPI and Congress pulling it up, reports Rajeev KR. "Ten years of rule by BJP... is resulting in manifestation of neo-fascist characteristics," CPM said, but "it's too early to brand it a fascist govt." **P 13**

# Can't free Katara case lifer after 20-yr term, Delhi govt tells SC

Might Amount To Contempt: SC

New Delhi: Supreme Court Monday took exception to Delhi govt's stand that a convict, sentenced to life imprisonment with 20 years of jail term without remission, could not be released even after completion of the period, reports Amit Anand Choudhary.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan expressed surprise over the oral submission made by the Delhi govt counsel in the case of convict Sukhdev Yadav alias Pehalwan in the Nitish Katara murder case and asked that it be said on oath in an affidavit. It said the govt's stand might amount to contempt of the court's order, which awarded a 20-year jail term.

► 20-year jail terms, P 6

### IN THE COURTS

> K'taka HC refuses to quash proceedings against shuttler Lakshya Sen, his kin and coach in criminal case against them for age fraud | **P 18**

> SC seeks report from CPCB within a month on efficacy of waste-to-energy plants and their alleged adverse impact | **P 3**

> UP govt tells SC that disputed 'private well' near Sambhal's Jama Masjid situated on public land | **P 12**

> Never gave halal tag for cement & iron bars, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind Halal Trust tells SC, says allegations by govt 'vexatious' | **P 10**

> 3 traffic police officers and auto driver sentenced to 10-yr jail for trying to kill ASP in 2010 for taking on their extortion racket | **P 8**

# 5 kids plan blast to target teacher, injure 9-yr-old

Raipur: In a bizarre crime at a private school in Chhattisgarh, five students of Classes VIII and IX — including three girls — planned a blast inside the school washroom to target a teacher they were annoyed with, police said Monday. They allegedly planted a knob of sodium, bought online, in the cistern. It exploded on contact with water and ended up severely injuring an unintended victim — a nine-year-old girl — last week.

Four of the accused were detained and sent to rehab homes. They will be counselled, Bilaspur SP Rajnesh Singh told TOI. The fifth student,

### UPSET WITH TEACHER

> Accused students were upset with a teacher & decided to teach her a lesson

> They saw a video on social media on how sodium reacts explosively when it comes in contact with water

> One student ordered sodium online from her aunt's a/c, others planted it in a cistern designed to explode the moment it was flushed

who is yet to be taken into custody, is at her relative's place & will soon be produced before Juvenile Justice Board. **TNN**

► CCTV footage, P 13

# Merz set to be next German chancellor



Ex-federal minister Julia Klöckner greets Christian Democratic Union party chief and conservative candidate for chancellor Friedrich Merz in Berlin after his party won the election. **PAGE OPP**

# Kerala youth kills 4 of family, GF over debts

Angry over no one helping him clear his debts, a 23-year-old killed his girlfriend, brother, grandmother, uncle and aunt with a machete and hammer in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday, reports Shankar CG. Affan also attacked his mother, a cancer patient, and she is in ICU. Affan was in the Gulf with his father, but returned after the business ran into losses. **P 8**

# Drunk UP groom garlands bride's bestie, arrested

Bareilly: A drunk groom's misstep at his wedding in UP — in which he mistakenly garlanded his bride's best friend — set off a series of mishaps, ending with his arrest & the bride calling off the marriage, reports Kanwar-deep Singh. Groom Ravindra Kumar, 26, arrived late at his wedding & started mingling with friends over drinks.

► Med report, P 10



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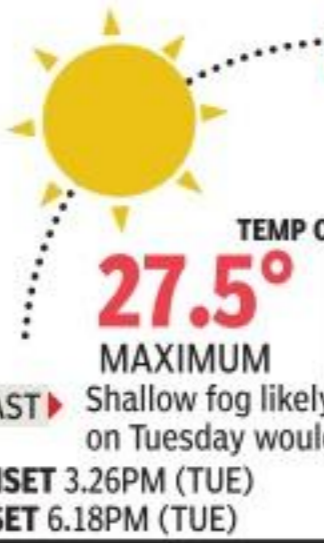


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Yamuna most polluted in Jan in 5 yrs: DPCC report | 4



Wounds of riots still raw, closure long way off | 5



THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025

TEMP ON MONDAY  
27.5° MAXIMUM  
10.7° MINIMUM  
FORECAST: Shallow fog likely. Max and min temperatures on Tuesday would be around 27°C and 11°C  
MOONSET 3.26PM (TUE) MOONRISE 5.44AM (WED)  
SUNSET 6.18PM (TUE) SUNRISE 6.49AM (WED)



Why murders by minors are emerging as major concern | 7

## Why 84% of city's traffic challans remain unpaid in past four years

Ishita Jairath@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** Nearly 84% of all traffic challans, including on-the-spot violations and others captured by cameras, issued in the past four years are stuck in limbo.

From 2021 till 2024, more than three crore challans were issued, but over 2.5 crore remain to be settled. The pendency has increased consistently too. While it was 76.2% in 2021, it stood at 80.3% in 2022, it rose to 85.3% in 2023, and in 2024, it was a staggering 94.3%, when 70.3 lakh of the 74.5 lakh challans weren't paid.

The number of challans issued through cameras are significantly higher than the ones on the spot. From 2021 till 2024, more than 2.3 crore challans were issued via cameras compared to 68 lakh through on-the-spot ones.

In 2024, nearly 65% of the pending challans were camera-generated notices.

There are several factors

contributing to the high pendency. Some people TOI spoke to attributed it to a complicated mechanism for paying fines. Among traffic violations that are digitally detected are signal jumping and speeding infractions. While pending notices can be verified at <https://traffic.delhipolice.gov.in/notice/pay-notice>, the online payment facility is limited to speeding violations. For signal jumping, one can raise a grievance and, after a fortnight, the case is automatically transferred to the virtual court.

Usually, an SMS is sent for any violation and challan. However, asked about the information received about the challan online, a few people said, "Sometimes it comes, sometimes it does not."

In cases of on-the-spot challans, many commuters simply ignore and decline the traffic cops' request for pay-

ment. Some cite lack of funds, others prefer to either settle through online channels while many seek resolution via Lok Adalat.

"The problem is not in paying the challan. The payment link never opens; it keeps redirecting. So, after two-three attempts, people give up and do not pay," a resident said, not wishing to be named.

BS Vohra, who lives in east Delhi, said, "There are cameras at many places and traffic cops at fewer spots, so commuters may feel they will get away easily. Disputes also occur with cameras sometimes, such as the wrong vehicle number being captured. At times, messages don't come, which needs to be improved. The online process is not smooth. Overall, on-the-spot challan is better."

Stressing that clarity on rules and awareness is important, another resident said, "I

### PENDENCY TOUCHED 94% IN 2024



In cases of on-the-spot challans, many commuters decline traffic cops' payment request, citing lack of funds, preferring online settlement, or seeking resolution through Lok Adalat

Challan (On the spot)	Paid	Pending	Total	Pendency rate (%)
2021	6,00,843	7,22,713	13,23,556	76.2
2022	4,40,517	10,29,469	14,69,986	80.3
2023	3,27,609	13,98,901	17,26,510	85.3
2024	1,12,430	21,96,601	23,09,031	94.3

Camera-generated challans are significantly higher than on-the-spot ones, with 65% of pending challans in 2024 being camera-issued

Notice (Camera)	Paid	Pending	Total
2021	12,84,059	53,19,754	66,03,813
2022	10,26,375	49,61,016	59,87,391
2023	7,60,389	48,93,328	56,53,717
2024	3,14,694	48,31,397	51,46,091

### AN EAST DELHI RESIDENT SAYS

There are cameras at many places and traffic cops get away easily. Disputes also occur with cameras sometimes, such as the wrong vehicle number being captured. At times, messages don't come, which needs to be improved. The online process is not smooth

time that the linking of the number of violations with the driving licence is implemented in true spirit. This is followed in developing nations like South Korea," added Velumurugan.

Traffic officials acknowledged that collecting challans was a "difficult" task.

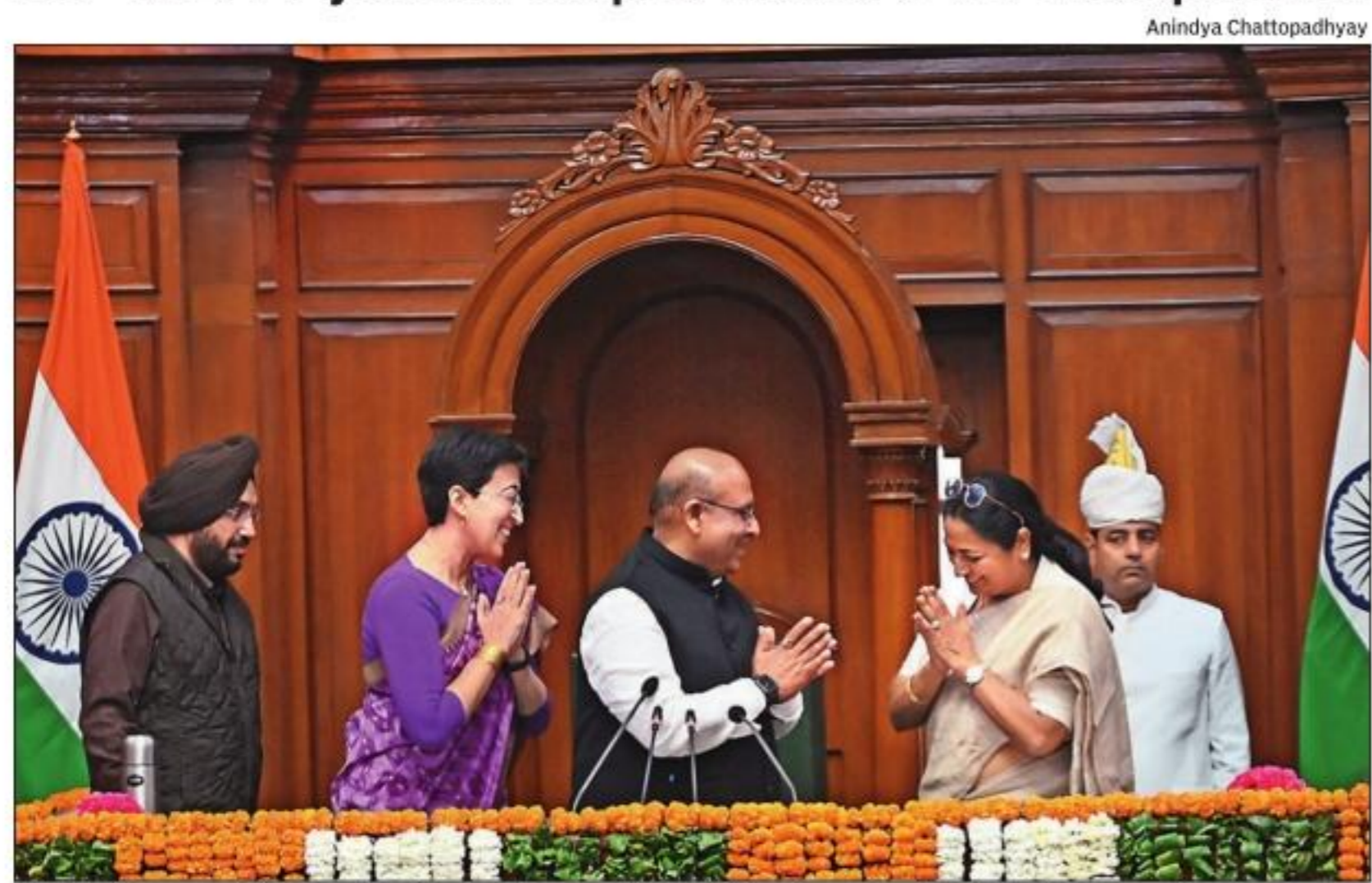
"Our responsibility is many times limited to notifying citizens about challans, and thereafter, it becomes their obligation when it goes to court, and out of our ambit. Often, people refuse immediate payment due to substantial fines and many opt for legal proceedings instead," a traffic cop

said, not wishing to be named. "Often, a Rs 2,000 challan is settled in a Lok Adalat for Rs 200, so the purpose of the challan is lost. There is no fear. Moreover, challans are generated every day, but Lok Adalat is held once every few months," he added.

To ease nagging communication issues, traffic police are collaborating with National Informatics Centre (NIC) to enhance the portal's accessibility and expand notification methods beyond SMS, said the official. "We are to undertake several initiatives to streamline the entire process," he added.

## MLAs Take Oath In 6 Different Languages

BJP MLA Vijender Gupta Takes Over As Speaker



Chief minister Rekha Gupta and leader of opposition Atishi welcome newly elected speaker Vijender Gupta

Abhinav.Rajput@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** The inaugural session of the newly elected legislature commenced on Monday, with the members taking oath of office in a variety of languages. The legislators chose to affirm themselves in Hindi, English, Sanskrit, Urdu, Maithili, and Punjabi using six different languages, reflecting the multicultural character of Delhi Assembly.

The proceedings signified a transition of BJP members from the opposition benches to the treasury seats on the right side of the Speaker's chair after 27 years. Prior to the commencement of the session, BJP member Arvind Singh Lovely, the most experienced among the 70 MLAs, was sworn in as pro-tem Speaker by lieutenant governor VK Saxena at Raj Niwas.

Chief minister Rekha Gupta was the first to take the oath. Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma and Ashish Sood, who respectively hold the PWD and home portfolios, were sworn in next. Environment minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa then chose to take his oath in Punjabi, while law minister Kapil Mishra used Sanskrit for the affirmation.

Those who followed used a linguistic variety to take their oaths, among them Karnail Singh in Punjabi, Pradyumn

Rajput and Neelam Pahalan in Sanskrit and Anil Jha in Maithili. Amanatullah Khan (Urdu), Chandan Chaudhary (Maithili), Ajay Dutt (English) and Gajendra Yadav (Sanskrit) followed. Other MLAs who took their oaths in Sanskrit were Sanjay Goel, Jitendra Mahajan, Ajay Mahawar and Karnail Singh, while Chaudhary Zubair chose Urdu for the act.

Leader of the opposition Atishi was sworn in, while Go-

**The proceedings signified a transition of BJP members from the opposition benches to the treasury seats on the right side of the Speaker's chair after 27 years**

pal Rai, due to difficulty in walking, took the oath from his seat, assisted by the former CM. BJP's Tarvinder Singh Marwah chanted religious slogans while being sworn in, to which Lovely objected, reminding him that he wasn't in a gurdwara. Mohan Singh Bisht was the last MLA to be sworn in.

The election for the new Speaker took place later in the day. Gupta and minister Ravinder Indraj proposed BJP's three-time MLA Vijender Gupta's name for the post and this was seconded by ministers Manjinder Singh Sirsa and Parvesh Verma. The motions were passed by a voice vote. Following the election, Lovely, Gupta and Atishi escorted the new Speaker to his chair.

The House was adjourned for 15 minutes amid sloganeering, with AAP MLAs accusing BJP of being "anti-Dalit and anti-Sikh" for having removed the portraits of Dr BR Ambedkar and Shaheed Bhagat Singh on the premises.

Gupta expressed gratitude to the members for unanimously electing him Speaker of the 8th Delhi Legislative Assembly. "Protecting democratic traditions and values in the House will be my top priority," said Gupta. "I am determined that Delhi Assembly should become a centre for fulfilling people's aspirations and prove a worthy platform for positive dialogue and effective policymaking for the prosperity and development of the state."

BJP secured a decisive victory in the Feb 5 Assembly elections, winning 48 of the 70 seats and ending the decade-long rule of the Aam Aadmi Party, which managed only 22 seats. In a unanimous decision, AAP MLAs elected former CM Atishi as its legislative body head and, thus, leader of the opposition in the assembly.

Medical superintendents and medical directors are responsible for daily supervision, handling patient and staff grievances, inspecting stocks of drugs and supplies, planning hospital development, and making emergency decisions. They also ensure the smooth functioning of OPD registration counters.

Singh who took charge of the health department last week also directed the special secretary to submit a report on AAP's flagship mohalla clinics within a week. He instructed officials that strict action be taken if any loopholes are discovered. "All mohalla clinics operating on govt land will continue...We are also planning to rename them Ayushman Arogya Mandir," he said earlier.

Atishi said in Jan 2022, then CM Arvind Kejriwal had ordered that all Delhi govt offices would only have portraits of Ambedkar and Bhagat Singh, not of any politicians, following which their photographs were displayed everywhere.

On X, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal posted, "The new BJP govt of Delhi removed Babasaheb's photo and put up the photo of Prime Minister Modi. This is not right. This has hurt millions of followers of Babasaheb. I have a request to BJP. You can put the photo of the

## Staff crunch: Health minister seeks details from hospitals

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Abhinav.Rajput@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** To tackle operational challenges and enhance patient services, health minister Pankaj Singh has sought comprehensive details from all Delhi govt hospitals. The requested information includes staffing levels, role-specific personnel counts, and data on multi-facility management by individual staff members.

"Delhi govt hospitals are facing a staffing crunch, including a shortage of senior officials such as hospital heads. For instance, one medical superintendent is managing three to four hospitals. How can a doctor, travelling daily from Deen Dayal Hospital to a hospital in Jafraabad, spending three hours commuting, effectively perform his or her duty? Much of their time is spent travelling instead of managing the hospitals," Singh said.

The minister stated that 17 hospitals were operating under a situation where one individual was managing multiple facilities, ranging from two to three centres. "When I asked, doctors assured me that they are working to resolve the issue, and it should be settled soon. But you can't run hospitals like NGOs. There are two types of doctors—specialists and general duty medical officers. A senior-level GDMO can become an MS and manage hospitals with up to 200 beds," he added.

Singh said that he sought details from the hospitals to ensure the appointment of one superintendent per hospital. Medical superintendents and medical directors are responsible for daily supervision, handling patient and staff grievances, inspecting stocks of drugs and supplies, planning hospital development, and making emergency decisions. They also ensure the smooth functioning of OPD registration counters.

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## Row over photo change, CM defends Ambedkar's picture in CMO replaced: Atishi AAP is trying to hide its corruption: Rekha

Abhinav.Rajput@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** Leader of the opposition in Delhi Assembly Atishi on Monday accused BJP of having an "anti-Dalit and anti-Sikh mindset".

Sharing photographs at a press conference, Atishi said, "This picture is from three months ago, when I was serving as CM in the Delhi Vidhan Sabha office, where the portraits of Babasaheb Ambedkar and Bhagat Singh were displayed. However, during lunch break, when we went to meet CM Rekha Gupta in her office, we saw that these portraits had been removed."

Attacking BJP, the former CM said, "Everyone knows the party has always been against Dalits and Sikhs. Today, they have openly demonstrated their deep-seated prejudice before the entire nation. It is shameful the party has replaced their pictures with those of PM Modi and revealed its anti-Dalit and anti-Sikh face."

Atishi said in Jan 2022, then CM Arvind Kejriwal had ordered that all Delhi govt offices would only have portraits of Ambedkar and Bhagat Singh, not of any politicians, following which their photographs were displayed everywhere.

On X, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal posted, "The new BJP govt of Delhi removed Babasaheb's photo and put up the photo of Prime Minister Modi. This is not right. This has hurt millions of followers of Babasaheb. I have a request to BJP. You can put the photo of the

Prime Minister but do not remove the photo of Babasaheb. Let his photo remain there."

AAP MLA Jarnail Singh said, "We requested the Speaker to put up portraits of PM Modi and the President; we have no objection to that. But you cannot compare them to Shaheed Bhagat Singh and Babasaheb Ambedkar. The sacrifices they made for the country are unparalleled. We demand that their portraits be reinstated immediately."

Meanwhile, AAP held a protest outside the CM's office to demand BJP fulfil its promise of giving Rs 2,500 to Delhi's women. Party MLAs, led by Atishi, raised placards that read: "When will women get Rs 2,500?"

"We met CM to discuss the issue, but she gave no assurance," Atishi said, adding, "PM Modi promised to approve a scheme providing Rs 2,500 per month to women in his first cabinet meeting, but it was not passed."



AAP MLAs protest during the first session of the new assembly

Abhinav.Rajput@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** Chief minister Rekha Gupta Monday dismissed allegations by leader of the opposition Atishi that photographs of Dr Ambedkar and Bhagat Singh had been removed from the CM's office and replaced with those of PM Modi and the President.

"Should the photo of the head of govt not be put up? Should the photo of the President of the country not be put up? Should the photo of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, not be put up?" said Gupta.

Claiming AAP was using "diversionary tactics", she alleged, "They are trying to hide their corruption and misdeeds behind Babasaheb Ambedkar and Shaheed Bhagat Singh."

"Bhagat Singh and Babasaheb are respectable personalities of the country and our guides. This room is of the CM of Delhi and as head of the govt,

we have given them the space. It is not my work to answer them (AAP); I am answerable to the people," she said.

Later, Delhi BJP released a picture of the CM office on X, showing photographs of Dr Ambedkar and Bhagat Singh on the walls, posting, "The chambers of the CM of Delhi and all the ministers are adorned with the pictures of Mahatma Gandhi, Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, Bhagat Singh, the President and the PM."

Delhi BJP president Vinendra Sachdeva said, "While in power, Atishi and other AAP functionaries spread lies and confusion from the assembly premises, and even after moving to the opposition, they continue their misconduct." Sachdeva claimed "Atishi attempted to spread falsehoods" as AAP was frustrated by its loss in Sikh-majority and Dalit-populated constituencies in the assembly polls.

"The portraits of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr Ambedkar, Bhagat Singh, President and PM continue to be displayed in the offices of CM and all Delhi ministers, something anyone can easily verify," he said. Terming the behaviour of AAP functionaries "disgraceful", he demanded Atishi apologise to the people of Delhi for "making false statements".

Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh also slammed AAP, saying, "They had 10 years, but they made things worse. Today, they harmed the sanctity of the House. I'd like to tell them, if there are good suggestions, we will accept them. Help us in making Delhi 'Viksit Dilli'."

## PWD to carry out repair work on 4 key flyovers

Siddhanta.Mishra@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** The Public Works Department plans to undertake repair work on four key flyovers in Delhi in the next few months. These are in Sarita Vihar, Shadipur, Seelampur and Zakhira.

"We are in touch with the traffic police authorities for the required approval and traffic diversion plans. After we get NOCs for all these projects, tenders will be floated. We hope that the repair work will be done in the next few months," said a PWD official.

"Any new work related to road infrastructure, like a flyover or underpass, is bound to take more than 100 days, especially when several approvals are required from different departments. The priority is to get these as soon as possible," added the official.

At the Sarita Vihar flyover, repair work was done last year only on one side. Now, the other carriageway will be repaired. In Oct last year, PWD started repair work on the busy Sarita Vihar flyover in south Delhi and a lane of the carriageway towards the Badarpur border from the Ashram side was barricaded. While a single lane of this carriageway was left open for public usage, due to the heavy movement of vehicles, congestion was witnessed on the flyover. Now, the opposite carriageway from Badarpur towards Ashram will undergo repair.

Similarly, the Shadipur and Seelampur flyovers, which are among the oldest flyovers in the city, require repair. Built in the 1970s, the Zakhira flyover connects to

Rohtak Road and Najafgarh Road in outer Delhi. It witnesses the frequent movement of heavy-loaded trucks from industrial areas located in Mundka, Nangloi and Anand Parbat. The repair work will benefit thousands of commuters.

To avoid any inconvenience to the commuters, Delhi govt has asked PWD officials to complete the maintenance work as quickly as possible. "The department usually replaces the expansion joints of the flyovers in a bid to strengthen any elevated road. As per the plan, during the repairing and maintenance work, the concrete of the flyovers will be repaired along with expansion joints, bearings, etc," the official explained further.

PWD minister Parvesh Verma had recently taken stock of the ongoing projects.

## One teacher for 43 students: MCD nearly 8k short of RTE mandate

Sugandha.Jha@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** MCD schools are grappling with a shortage of 7,928 teachers, forcing each teacher to handle 43 students on an average—13 more than the Right to Education (RTE) Act's mandated limit of 30, according to an audit report obtained through an RTI.

The 2023-24 audit report reveals that while MCD schools require 26,422 teachers, only 18,494 are available. The shortage affects over 7.9 lakh students, leaving them in overcrowded classrooms with inadequate teacher attention, leading to compromised learning outcomes, several teachers and parents said, expressing concern.

The RTI was filed by a teacher at an MCD school in central Delhi.

The preliminary report, based on data furnished by the MCD education department, highlights the scale of the problem. There were 2,720 primary schools under MCD with a total enrolment of over 7.9 lakh students, including those in nursery and aided schools, during the 2023-24 academic year.

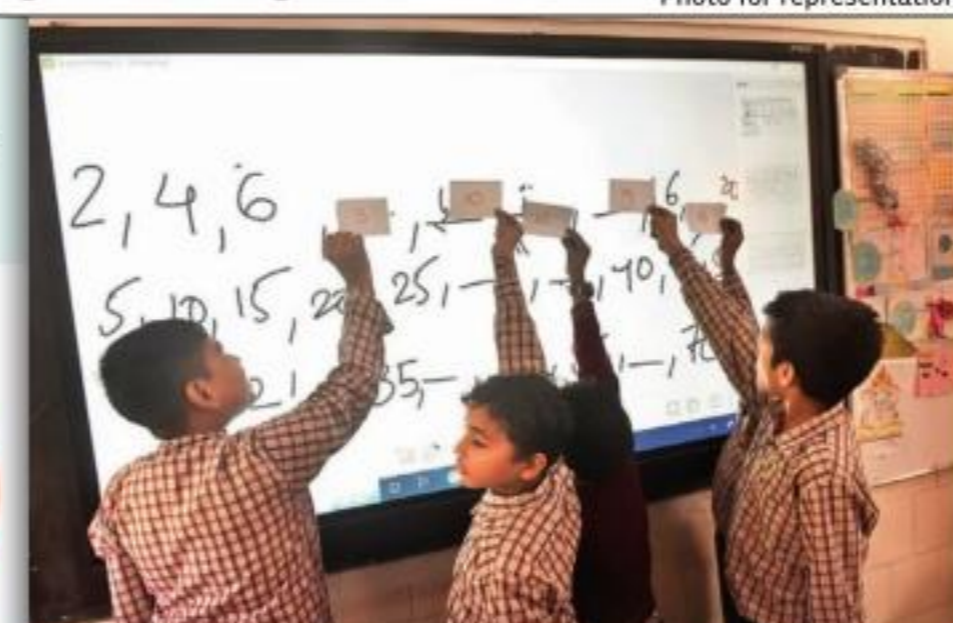
Despite the prescribed 1:30 student-teacher ratio, the current scenario stands at 1:43, significantly increasing the burden on teachers, as per the report. According to teachers, the shortage has led to extreme measures, including clubbing students from different grades and even different mediums of instruction into the same classrooms.

"If a class has fewer than 30 students, MCD often does not assign a teacher, citing insufficient numbers. These students are later merged

### RTE CALLS FOR 1:30 RATIO

**RTE Mandate Not Met** | The Right to Education (RTE) Act mandates a 1:30 student-teacher ratio, but MCD schools are operating at a 1:43, exceeding the limit by 13 students per teacher

**Audit Reveals Teacher Deficit** | MCD schools are short by 7,928 teachers, affecting over 7.9 lakh students, as per a 2023-24 audit report



Mandated ratio by RTE Act | 1:30  
Actual ratio in MCD schools | 1:43

Affected students | Over 79 lakh  
Primary schools under MCD | 2,720 (including nursery and aided schools)

with other classes, sometimes of different grades or study mediums—Hindi, English or Urdu," said a teacher from an MCD school on condition of anonymity.

The impact of these makeshift arrangements is felt most by the students, who struggle to cope with lessons meant for different grades being taught in the same classroom.

"We are made to sit with students from other classes, and sometimes even those who study in a different language," said a class III student at an MCD school in south

Delhi. "The teacher tries to explain to both groups, but it gets confusing because half the time, I don't understand what is being taught."

Many educators are forced to teach two different classes at the same time. "Handling multiple groups of students in a single room is chaotic. We are expected to conduct lessons for different grades simultaneously, which affects both the teaching process and students' understanding," another teacher added, who did not wish to be identified.

Several parents, too, expressed frustration over the situation. "My daughter studies in class two, and she tells me that sometimes her teacher has to take class three students at the same time," said a parent from a school in north Delhi. "How will small children learn properly in such an

**TIMES VIEW:** Govt schools offer education to all. But a majority of those who avail of its facilities belong to the less privileged class. Shortage of thousands of teachers will adversely impact the quality of education being dispensed to their children. The posts should be filled sooner rather than later. Filling up these posts will also help to add jobs.

environment?" she asked. The report also flags discrepancies in the transfer and placement of teachers. According to MCD's online transfer policy approved in 2023, no school should have surplus teachers while others remain understaffed. However, the audit found that 132 teachers were posted in schools without vacancies or in

institutions that already had excess staff, violating the policy.

Additionally, MCD recruited nursery and primary teachers under a combined vacancy, leading to inappropriate placements where educators were assigned to grades that they were not specifically trained to teach, the report stated.

When contacted, an MCD official said, "According to the present pupil-teacher ratio, 1,715 posts of nursery teachers and 445 posts of primary teachers are vacant in MCD schools. For the vacant posts and probable enrolments, 1,261 vacancies of nursery teachers and 1,147 vacancies of primary teachers have already been sent to Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board (DSSSB) and are at various levels of processing."

"In addition, 1,428 special educators are also working in MCD schools," he added.

# Pay Full House Tax Before Deadline, Get Dues Waived?

## Smaller Properties May Get Relief Too, MCD To Discuss Today

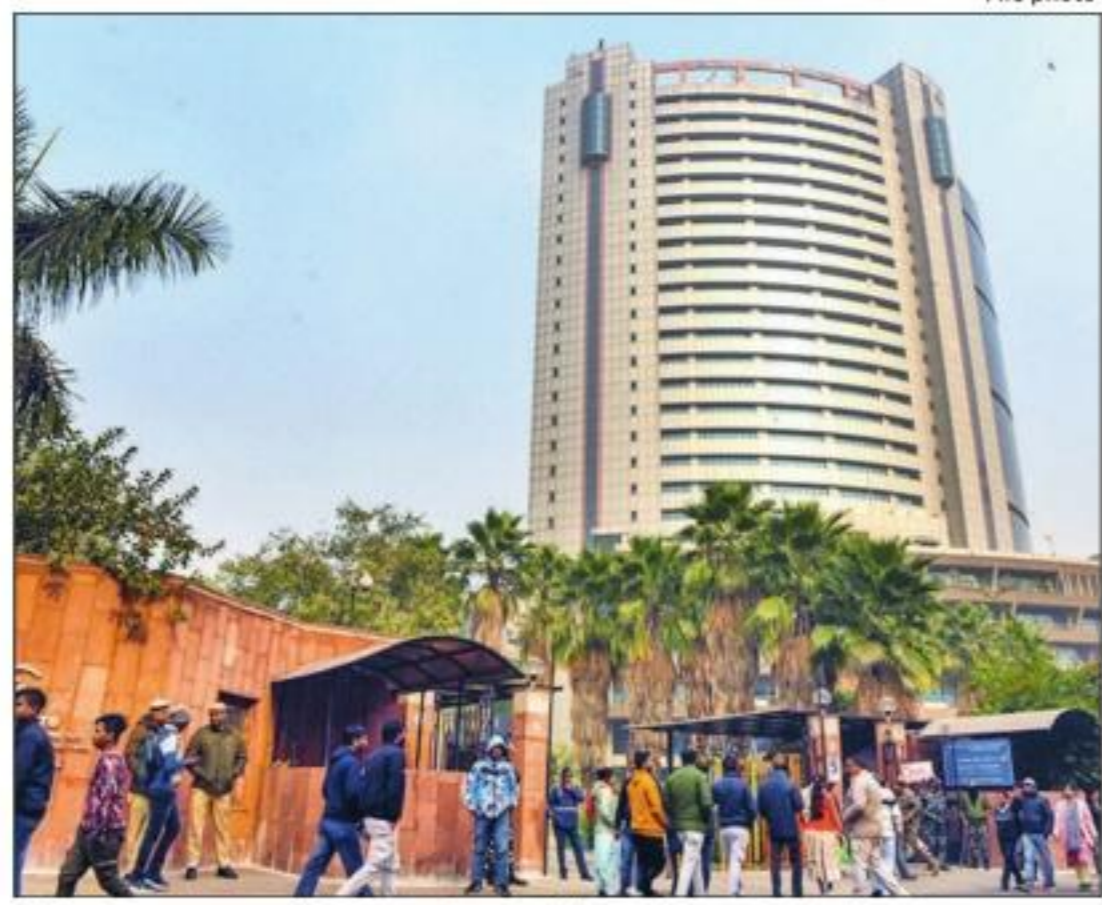
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Ahead of a crucial Municipal Corporation of Delhi's meeting, Aam Aadmi Party made some major announcements regarding house tax relief on Monday. These are going to be discussed in the meeting on Tuesday, said sources.

If these proposals get the green signal, people who clear their full house tax for 2024-25 within the stipulated time will have all outstanding dues waived. The house tax for buildings measuring between 100 square yards and 500 square yards will also be reduced by half. For properties measuring below 100 square yards, including residential shops, the house tax will be entirely waived from the next financial year.

"Upon paying the house tax for 2024-25, all outstanding dues, which were a financial burden, will be written off. Secondly, the house tax for buildings ranging from 100 square yards to 500 square yards will be reduced by half," said Sanjay Singh, AAP's Rajya Sabha member. "Tax will be fully waived for properties below 100 square yards," he added.

Durgesh Pathak, AAP's MCD in-charge, further said, "In Delhi, there are 1,300



The MCD House will meet today to discuss key proposals

**TIMES VIEW:** It appears that the scheme rewards the defaulter, while discouraging the conscientious from being honest and timely taxpayers. Those proposing it should look into this aspect as well

apartments that, due to their specific locations, do not receive any house tax benefits from any schemes. AAP has decided that if residents of these 1,300 apartments pay their house tax on time, they will receive a 25% rebate."

All these will bring relief to thousands of families that have

been burdened with high house taxes for years, he added.

The leader of the opposition in MCD, Raja Iqbal Singh, claimed that "AAP leaders are fully aware that today's announcements on house tax are a mere illusion because such declarations require prior approval from the Delhi finance commission, the municipal valuation committee and the standing committee — none of which are currently constituted."

"Since AAP has lost the majority and its mayor's post is also under threat, the party's leadership is trying to mislead the people of Delhi with empty promises," he stated further.

A day earlier, AAP had announced the regularisation of 12,000 MCD employees across all departments.

"Over the past two years, we have already regularised 8,000 employees—4,500 of them from the sanitation department, while the rest belong to various other departments. Today, we bring another major relief to the residents of Delhi," said mayor Mahesh Khichi on Monday.

BJP claimed it was an attempt to divert people's attention from the pending CAG reports that are to be tabled in the Delhi assembly on Tuesday.

In the MCD House meeting, a fresh proposal regarding the engagement of a new concessionaire for toll plazas managed by MCD is also likely to be discussed, as the current operator's six-month extension concludes by mid-March.

In the past few days, several AAP councillors have joined BJP. The defections have put the party in a spot of bother. Even in the last mayoral elections in 2024, AAP won by just three votes despite having more numbers than BJP. Now that AAP's strength has reduced in the assembly, it has given BJP an upper hand.

# CAG points out deficient route planning by DTC

Continued from P1

In 2007, Delhi High Court had ordered that DTC should have a fleet of 11,000 buses. However, five years later, the Delhi cabinet pegged the number at 5,500. The CAG report is learnt to have pointed out that at the end of March 2022, DTC had a fleet of 3,937 buses, of which 1,770 were overage. The low-floor buses were more than 10 years old and were due to be phased out by the end of next month.

Although there was a shortage of 1,740 buses, except the addition of 300 buses in 2022, procurement was not done despite Rs 233 crore being available. It did not avail of central assistance of another Rs 49 crore under FAME-I scheme, which CAG attributed to indecision and lack of clarity on specifications. A delay in the finalisation of 300 electric buses under FAME-II resulted in the contract period being reduced from 12 years to 10 years.

An ageing fleet meant that DTC could not achieve operational efficiency compared to the national average. Besides, breakdowns ranged between 2.9 and 4.5 for every 10,000 km of operations, which was seen to be very high in comparison to other state transport corporations as well as cluster buses run by

**The corporation was unable to recover its operational cost in any of the routes operated by it, CAG stated**

private operators on contract. CAG pointed out that the performance of cluster buses was much better than that of the DTC fleet on each operational parameter, despite both operating in similar circumstances.

The federal auditor also faulted DTC for deficient route planning with the state utility operating on 468 routes or 57% of the total 814 routes. "The corporation was unable to recover its operational cost in any of the routes operated by it. As a result, it suffered losses of Rs 14,199 crore on operations during 2015-22," a source said.

While losses soared, the Delhi govt provided a revenue grant of Rs 13,381 crore between 2015 and 2022, which left a gap of Rs 818 crore. Further, DTC did not sign an MoU with the Delhi transport department setting physical and financial targets.

Further, CAG is learnt to have pulled up DTC for not implementing an automatic fare collection system and having CCTV surveillance system that remained incomplete even nine years after the project was initiated.



# Zoo to have multi-utility plaza at Mathura Rd entry

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The Central govt plans to modernise the entrance of the National Zoological Park (Delhi zoo) by constructing a multi-utility plaza at its entry gate along Mathura Road.

The entrance plaza will be equipped with facilities such as food court, cloak room, security-related infrastructure, queue management area, souvenir shop, visitor centre and parking area.

"Modernisation of the entrance plaza of the Delhi zoo is part of a larger development plan, keeping in view site requirements, visitor profile, availability of water and electricity, vegetation, climatic condi-

tions and resources available with management," said an environment ministry official.

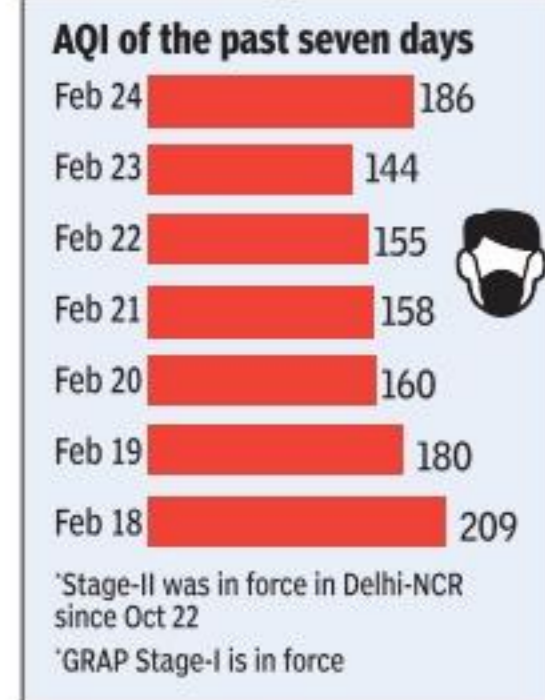
The ministry has already issued a document carrying detailed information for the modernisation of the entrance plaza, which will have a minimum plinth area 9,000 sqm and development area of minimum 35,000 sqm on Mathura Road. It will consist of 16,000 sqm of multi-level parking area for two-wheelers, three-wheelers, four-wheelers and buses with a semi-permanent structure using steel or suitable material.

According to the information for consultancy service for modernisation of the entrance plaza, the food court within the plaza will have an area of 2,000 sqm.

# GRAP-II curbs lifted as air quality stays moderate for 6 days

## BREATHING EASIER

GRAP's Stage-II revoked due to improvement in air quality



**Major measures revoked**

- Restrictions on entry of inter-state buses from NCR states
- Enhanced vehicle parking fees to discourage private transport
- Augmented public transport services and differential rates for encouraging off-peak travel
- Mandatory provision of heaters to security and sanitation staff by RWAs
- Restrictions on use of DG sets

Priyangi Agarwal  
@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** Commission for Air Quality Management has revoked Stage II of Graded Response Action Plan, which included restrictions on the entry of interstate buses from NCR running on non-cleaner fuel to Delhi, enhanced parking fees, and restricted use of diesel-generator sets.

GRAP's Stage II was in force in Delhi-NCR since Oct 22. However, it was lifted with immediate effect on Monday as Delhi's air quality stayed moderate for the past six days.

The GRAP system categorises air quality into four stages: Stage I (poor: AQI 201-300), Stage II (very poor: AQI 301-400), Stage III (severe: AQI 401-450), and Stage IV (severe plus: AQI above 450).

"Owing to improvement in mixing height and ventilation coefficient and much favourable meteorological conditions for the dispersion of pollutants, the air quality index of Delhi has since shown a significant improvement. The AQI was recorded as 186 for Feb 24, which is 114 points below the 300 mark to implement Stage II as per the extant directives of the Supreme Court," said CAQM.

The commission added that the forecasts by IMD and IITM indicate the average air quality of Delhi to stay in the 'moderate' or 'lower end of the poor category' in the coming days.

The measures that have been revoked include the restriction on inter-state buses from NCR states, other than EVs/CNG/BS-VI diesel, to enter Delhi. Other measures include restricted use of DG sets, enhanced vehicle parking fees to discourage private transport, and augmenting public transport services through CNG/electric buses and metro

# SI stabbed while trying to arrest 2

**New Delhi:** A sub-inspector was stabbed in the back by a criminal when he went to arrest two accused in a robbery case in Anand Parbat. Police arrested two accused in the case. They received information that the accused involved in a robbery case in Central Delhi's Rajendra Nagar were hiding somewhere in Anand Parbat.

A police team went to the spot in search of the suspects, including a juvenile girl. While apprehending them, their associates resisted, and during the scuffle, sub-inspector Neeraj got a sharp injury on the back. **TNN**

# SC seeks report from CPCB on impact of WTE plants

Amit Anand Choudhary  
@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** In view of several reports on adverse environmental and public health impacts of waste-to-energy (WTE) plants, Supreme Court on Monday sought a comprehensive report from the Central Pollution Control Board within a month on the efficacy of such plants and their alleged negative effect.

A bench of Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan agreed to inquire into it after senior advocate Aparajita Singh, who is assisting the court as amicus curiae, brought to the court's notice various reports which highlighted the adverse impacts of WTE plants.

A few months ago, an investigation by The New York Times had found that the Okhla WTE plant emitted toxins such as cadmium, lead and arsenic into the atmosphere. The report claimed major health and safety violations, including toxic ash being dumped near

residential areas and dioxin emissions exceeding legal limits by up to 10 times. Residents of Sukhdev Vihar, an area adjacent to the Okhla plant, reported high incidence of respiratory illnesses and cancer following construction of the plant. There are four waste-to-energy plants in Delhi. The SC recently allowed setting up of a new plant which aims to process 3,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste daily, reducing the amount sent to the landfill by converting waste into renewable energy. But residents fear it will bring more pollution instead.

The amicus filed a note in the SC which said, "WTE projects are being proposed as the most effective solution to tackle waste in several urban local bodies. However, there are several reports from India and elsewhere which highlight the environmental and public health impacts of WTE plants. These include the emission of toxins and greenhouse gases. A 2021 report by CPCB found

that Delhi's waste-to-energy plants failed to comply with air quality standards. The plant in Bawana exceeded permissible levels of PM2.5 and PM10. The climate action plans of cities like Chennai and Mumbai have specifically discouraged WTE plants as a solution to the waste problem.

"Questions have also been raised about the financial viability of such projects. Recently, the International Financial Corporation decided against investing in four proposed WTE projects in Gujarat. One of the main problems appears to be the mass burning or the burning of mixed waste which is against one of the main objectives of waste segregation of the SWM (Solid Waste Management) Rules, 2016." Interestingly, the court is on one hand trying to persuade states and local bodies to comply with SWM Rules by setting up WTE plants but on the other hand it is also examining the impact of such plants.

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**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**ABRIDGED E-TENDER NOTICE**  
 e-Tender No. 06/WBZA/EOD/2024-2025  
 The undersigned invites e-Tender from eligible contractors/suppliers for "Supply of staff uniforms and safety materials at Harinayala Zoo, New Town, Kolkata. Details can be seen at <https://wbenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, Harinayala & Deputy Conservator of Forests Urban Recreation Forestry Division. ICA-13984(3)/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**N.B.D.D NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**  
 Notice Inviting e-Tender by the S.E./NBDD Vide No.77 of 2024-25 of the S.E., NBDD. Details of works to be seen in the above mentioned NIT in the website: [www.wbenders.gov.in](http://wbenders.gov.in) & [www.wbnorthbengaldev.gov.in](http://wbnorthbengaldev.gov.in) Sd/- Superintending Engineer North Bengal Development Department. ICA-14003(4)/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE**  
 The undersigned invites re-tender for Purchase / Supply of Seeding under Sabujhree Scheme during 2024-25. Tender No. WBFOR/12/24PSS/2024-25 (2nd Call). Start date of Bid submission is -25.02.2025 at 10.00 a.m. Last date of Bid submission is - 03.03.2025 at 5.00 p.m. Details can be seen at <https://wbenders.gov.in> and also can see at <http://westbengalforest.gov.in> Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer, 24 Parganas (North) Division. ICA-13952(2)/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**NOTICE FOR e-TENDER**  
 The Calcutta Homeopathic Medical College & Hospital, 265-266, A.P.C. Road, Kolkata-9 intends to invite e-tender for engagement of scavenging and security personnel. Interested agencies are requested to visit the WB Health portal [www.wbhealth.gov.in](http://www.wbhealth.gov.in) and WB e-Tender portal [wbenders.gov.in](http://wbenders.gov.in) for details. Sd/- Mr. Rajat Chatterjee, Administrator & Principal. ICA-13997(2)/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**  
 e-Tender is invited by the undersigned for the work "Annual Maintenance Estimate of the Electrical Installation of the Govt. College of Engg. & Ceramic Technology—AMC of different type Room AC machines." Tender ID: 2025\_PWD\_818703\_1. Tender No. WBPWD/EE/55/IR/TKCE/11 of 2024-25. Bid submission end date 07.03.2025 up to 02:00 P.M. Website: <http://www.pwdwb.in> for details contact at the office of the undersigned. Corrigendum if any will be published only the said website. Sd/- B.Mandal, Executive Engineer, PWD, Kolkata Central Electrical Division. ICA-14009(2)/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**WRI & DD e-NIT**  
 e-NIT 27 of 2024-25 SL-01 to 04 ID: 2025\_WRDD\_819345\_1 to 4 for - Erection of Sub-station, HT & LT Line for new clustered LDTW under Belda (A-I) Sub Division under Midnapore (A-I) Division - maximum amount put to tender 71651891.00 Last date & time of submission is 11.03.2025 upto 09.00AM has been invited by the Executive Engineer (A-I), Midnapore (A-I) Division from Bonafide agency having similar type of work credential, other details may also be seen from the website [wbenders.gov.in](http://wbenders.gov.in) for details. Sd/- Mr. Anirban Chakraborty, Executive Engineer (A-I) Midnapore (A-I) Division. ICA-14000(3)/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
 The Executive Engineer Salt Lake Reclamation Division invites four no. online percentage rate basis e-tenders vide Tender ID No. 2025\_UDD\_816800\_1 to 4 WBU&MA/EE/SLRD/NIT-19(e)/2024-25 of EE/SLRD dated 17/02/2025. Value of works are Rs. 22,04,448.00, Rs. 29,02,033.00, Rs. 15,47,978.00 and Rs. 5,60,879.00. Start and Last date of submission of bid online are 25/02/2025 and 04/03/2025 respectively upto 13:00 hrs. respectively. All documents can be seen / obtained from the website <https://wbenders.gov.in> Detailed information can also be seen in the website [www.wbbsars.gov.in](http://www.wbbsars.gov.in) and office Notice Board. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Salt Lake Reclamation Division. ICA-13953(3)/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**WRI & DD e-NIT**  
 e-NIT 28 of 2024-25 SL-01 to 04 ID: 2025\_WRDD\_819346\_1 to 4 for - Erection of Sub-station, HT & LT Line for new clustered LDTW under Belda (A-I) Sub Division under Midnapore (A-I) Division - maximum amount put to tender 7625877.00 Last date & time of submission is 04.03.2025 upto 09.00AM has been invited by the Executive Engineer (A-I), Midnapore (A-I) Division from Bonafide agency having similar type of work credential, other details may also be seen from the website [wbenders.gov.in](http://wbenders.gov.in) for details. Sd/- Executive Engineer (A-I) Midnapore (A-I) Division. ICA-14000(3)/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
 Tender are invited by CMOH & Member Secretary Dist. Health & Family Welfare Sanyal Dakshin District for replacing firms for "Civil & Internal Electrical Works for Site Preparation of Manahali under Tapan Block and Deer under Kumarganj Block Primary Health Centre for XV FC HG FY 2022-2023 under Dakshin Dinajpur District" Memo No. D/HFWS/DD/NIT/14627 Dated: 20.02.2025. Technical Bid Opening Date of the above mentioned e-Tender No: 05/03/2025 at 02:00 P.M. For Detail, Please visit the website: [www.wbenders.gov.in](http://www.wbenders.gov.in) or the Office of the CMOH & Member Secretary Dist. Health & Family Welfare Sanyal Dakshin Dinajpur. ICA-13981(4)/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**E-Tender Notice**  
 The ADG & IG of Correctional Services, West Bengal for and on behalf of the Governor of WB, invites e-tender for "Procurement of 275 (Two hundred seventy five) nos. of Body Worn Camera without SIM" for use of Officers & Staff of West Bengal Correctional Services. Tender Inviting Notice No. NIT No. 781/DCS-18025/1/2023-SECTION (DCS)-DCS dated 20.02.2025. Date of documents download starts: 25.02.2025 at 15:30 hrs. Date for receipt of bids: 05.03.2025 at 15:00 hrs. Last date of submission of tender: 12.03.2025 at 17:30 hrs. Full particulars may be had from the website: [www.wbenders.gov.in](http://www.wbenders.gov.in) and [www.wbhealth.gov.in](http://www.wbhealth.gov.in) and [www.wbmsc.gov.in](http://www.wbmsc.gov.in) Sd/- General Manager, WBMSCL & Joint Secretary, H&F Dept. ICA-14001(3)/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
 West Bengal Medical Services Corporation Ltd. is inviting electronic bids for procurement of 02 (Two) nos. of High-end Anesthesia Work Station for emergency and Gynaecology & Obstetric OT at Murshidabad Medical College & Hospital as per details indicated below: Sd/- B. Belagachia Road, Kolkata-700037 for the following: Description of items/works: Procurement of 02 (Two) nos. of High-end Anesthesia Work Station. Bid submission starts on: 25.02.2025. Bid submission closes on: 05.03.2025. The detailed catalogue along with particulars may be obtained from e-tender portal <http://www.wbenders.gov.in> The NIT may be viewed from the website <http://www.darhabw.org> Sd/- Joint Director, ARD, IAHS&V (R&T), Kolkata. ICA-13962(3)/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
 West Bengal Medical Services Corporation Ltd. is inviting electronic bids for procurement of 02 (Two) nos. of High-end Anesthesia Work Station for emergency and Gynaecology & Obstetric OT at Murshidabad Medical College & Hospital as per details indicated below: Sd/- B. Belagachia Road, Kolkata-700037 for the following: Description of items/works: Procurement of 02 (Two) nos. of High-end Anesthesia Work Station. Bid submission starts on: 25.02.2025. Bid submission closes on: 05.03.2025. The detailed catalogue along with particulars may be obtained from e-tender portal <http://www.wbenders.gov.in> The NIT may be viewed from the website <http://www.darhabw.org> Sd/- Joint Director, ARD, IAHS&V (R&T), Kolkata. ICA-13962(3)/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
 West Bengal Medical Services Corporation Ltd. is inviting electronic bids for procurement of 01 (one) Ultrasonic Surgical Asyst (CUSA) Machine for the Department of Surgical Oncology at Medical College, Kolkata as per details indicated in below: Sd/- No. 1. Equipment Name (Qty.): Ultrasonic Surgical Asyst (CUSA) Machine (01). Bid Ref. No.: WBMSCL/NIT-148/2025; Dated: 20.02.2025. Last date of submission of online bid: 17.03.2025 upto 05:00 PM. Interested Bidders may download the tender document and submit their bids online at the website: [www.wbenders.gov.in](http://www.wbenders.gov.in) The tender document may also be downloaded from the website: [www.wbhealth.gov.in](http://www.wbhealth.gov.in) and [www.wbmsc.gov.in](http://www.wbmsc.gov.in) Sd/- General Manager, WBMSCL & Joint Secretary, H&F Dept. ICA-13963(3)/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
 Online bids are invited by the Joint Director, Animal Resources Development, Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals, 37 Belagachia Road, Kolkata-700037 for the following: Description of items/works: Procurement of 02 (Two) nos. of High-end Anesthesia Work Station. Bid submission starts on: 25.02.2025. Bid submission closes on: 05.03.2025. The detailed catalogue along with particulars may be obtained from e-tender portal <http://www.wbenders.gov.in> The NIT may be viewed from the website <http://www.darhabw.org> Sd/- Joint Director, ARD, IAHS&V (R&T), Kolkata. ICA-13962(3)/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**CORRIGENDUM-1**  
 WBSDB/EE/CE/II/NIT-19(e)/2024-25, SL-02  
 It is hereby notified that the Bid Submission End Date & Technical Bid Opening Date of above mentioned SL No. of NIT as published have been changed due to non-receipt of minimum nos. of bidder are as follows:-

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
 Online bids are invited by the Joint Director, Animal Resources Development, Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals, 37 Belagachia Road, Kolkata-700037 for the following: Description of items/works: Procurement of 02 (Two) nos. of High-end Anesthesia Work Station. Bid submission starts on: 25.02.2025. Bid submission closes on: 05.03.2025. The detailed catalogue along with particulars may be obtained from e-tender portal <http://www.wbenders.gov.in> The NIT may be viewed from the website <http://www.darhabw.org> Sd/- Joint Director, ARD, IAHS&V (R&T), Kolkata. ICA-13962(3)/2025

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**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
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**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**ABRIDGED E-TENDER NOTICE**  
 e-Tender No. 43/DCF/URF/2024-25  
 The undersigned invites e-Tender from eligible contractors/suppliers for Supplying Miscellaneous garden Equipment's and other materials for Laketown under Saltlake Range of URF Division. Details can be seen at <https://wbenders.gov.in> Sd/- DCF, URF Division. ICA-13970(2)/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
 Online bids are invited by the Joint Director, Animal Resources Development, Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals, 37 Belagachia Road, Kolkata-700037 for the following: Description of items/works: Procurement of 02 (Two) nos. of High-end Anesthesia Work Station. Bid submission starts on: 25.02.2025. Bid submission closes on: 05.03.2025. The detailed catalogue along with particulars may be obtained from e-tender portal <http://www.wbenders.gov.in> The NIT may be viewed from the website <http://www.darhabw.org> Sd/- Joint Director, ARD, IAHS&V (R&T), Kolkata. ICA-13962(3)/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**ABRIDGED E-TENDER NOTICE**  
 e-Tender No. 44/DCF/URF/2024-25 & 45/DCF/URF/2024-25  
 The undersigned invites e-Tender from eligible contractors/suppliers for Supplying Miscellaneous garden Equipment's and other materials for Laketown under Saltlake Range of URF Division. Details can be seen at <https://wbenders.gov.in> Sd/- DCF, URF Division. ICA-13970(2)/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
 Online bids are invited by the Joint Director, Animal Resources Development, Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals, 37 Belagachia Road, Kolkata-700037 for the following: Description of items/works: Procurement of 02 (Two) nos. of High-end Anesthesia Work Station. Bid submission starts on: 25.02.2025. Bid submission closes on: 05.03.2025. The detailed catalogue along with particulars may be obtained from e-tender portal <http://www.wbenders.gov.in> The NIT may be viewed from the website <http://www.darhabw.org> Sd/- Joint Director, ARD, IAHS&V (R&T), Kolkata. ICA-13962(3)/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
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**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
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 Online bids are invited by the Joint Director, Animal Resources Development, Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals, 37 Belagachia Road, Kolkata-700037 for the following: Description of items/works: Procurement of 02 (Two) nos. of High-end Anesthesia Work Station. Bid submission starts on: 25.02.2025. Bid submission closes on: 05.03.2025. The detailed catalogue along with particulars may be obtained from e-tender portal <http://www.wbenders.gov.in> The NIT may be viewed from the website <http://www.darhabw.org> Sd/- Joint Director, ARD, IAHS&V (R&T), Kolkata. ICA-13962(3)/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**WRISDD e-NIT**  
 Executive Engineer (A-I), Kolkata (A-I) Division invites e-tender for the following works related to Canal Reformation/Re-excavation of Canal vide Tender Reference No. - WRDD/KOL/AD/24/2024-25 (Gr-A to Gr-G) & WRDD/KOL/AD/24/2024-25 (Gr-A to Gr-G) Corresponding Tender IDs are as follows: 2025\_WRDD\_818791\_1 to 2025\_WRDD\_818791\_7 & 2025\_WRDD\_818795\_1 to 2025\_WRDD\_818795\_7. The last dropping date of the tender is 10/03/2025 up to 12:00 PM. Interested bidders are requested to visit the website <https://wbenders.gov.in> for details. Sd/- Executive Engineer (A-I) Kolkata (A-I) Division. ICA-13983(3)/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
 Online bids are invited by the Joint Director, Animal Resources Development, Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals, 37 Belagachia Road, Kolkata-700037 for the following: Description of items/works: Procurement of 02 (Two) nos. of High-end Anesthesia Work Station. Bid submission starts on: 25.02.2025. Bid submission closes on: 05.03.2025. The detailed catalogue along with particulars may be obtained from e-tender portal <http://www.wbenders.gov.in> The NIT may be viewed from the website <http://www.darhabw.org> Sd/- Joint Director, ARD, IAHS&V (R&T), Kolkata. ICA-13962(3)/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**ABRIDGED e-Tender Notice**  
 Bonafide Contractors eligible for participating are requested to visit the website: [www.wbenders.gov.in](http://www.wbenders.gov.in) from 25.02.2025 regarding Tender Notice Nos. 1. WBFOR/24PSS/NIT19e/SP/Water Supply Network/2024-25 regarding Creation of Water Supply Network System for Plantation at Sagar under Namkhana Range under 24 Parganas (South) Division. 2. WBFOR/24PSS/NIT20e/SP/Protection on Fencing/2024-25 regarding Construction of Protection Fencing for Plantation at Sagar under Namkhana Range under 24 Parganas (South) Division. Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer, 24 Parganas (South) Division. ICA-13982(3)/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
 Online bids are invited by the Joint Director, Animal Resources Development, Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals, 37 Belagachia Road, Kolkata-700037 for the following: Description of items/works: Procurement of 02 (Two) nos. of High-end Anesthesia Work Station. Bid submission starts on: 25.02.2025. Bid submission closes on: 05.03.2025. The detailed catalogue along with particulars may be obtained from e-tender portal <http://www.wbenders.gov.in> The NIT may be viewed from the website <http://www.darhabw.org> Sd/- Joint Director, ARD, IAHS&V (R&T), Kolkata. ICA-13962(3)/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**ABRIDGED e-Tender Notice**  
 Bonafide Contractors eligible for participating are requested to visit the website: [www.wbenders.gov.in](http://www.wbenders.gov.in) from 25.02.2025 regarding Tender Notice Nos. 1. WBFOR/24PSS/NIT19e/SP/Water Supply Network/2024-25 regarding Creation of Water Supply Network System for Plantation at Sagar under Namkhana Range under 24 Parganas (South) Division. 2. WBFOR/24PSS/NIT20e/SP/Protection on Fencing/2024-25 regarding Construction of Protection Fencing for Plantation at Sagar under Namkhana Range under 24 Parganas (South) Division. Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer, 24 Parganas (South) Division. ICA-13982(3)/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
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# Riots Wounds Still Raw, Closure Long Way Off

**2020 RIOTS:** As Many As 757 FIRs Registered By Delhi Police, One Case Being Probed By Crime Branch Has Resulted In Conviction

Raj Shekhar Jha & Abhay | TNN

New Delhi: It was a cauldron of passions, characterised by intense mob violence, arson and looting. Homes, businesses and schools were reduced to smouldering ruins, scores of families were displaced, many lost their livelihoods. The February 2020 communal clashes in northeast Delhi brought the city to a standstill and exposed societal fault lines. Five years on, the wounds of the riots linger on, a poignant reminder of the devastating consequences of social frenzy.

The riots left 53 dead and over 500 people injured. In the mob violence that wrecked the area for over two days, 108 cops, including DCPs, among them Amit Sharma, were also severely injured while head constable Ratan Lal and Intelligence Bureau officer Ankit Sharma were killed by the rioters.

Of the 757 FIRs registered by Delhi Police, 61 cases, involving the 53 deaths, were investigated by the Crime Branch and one case by the Special Cell. The northeast district police are probing 695 non-fatal cases — a majority of them pertaining to arson, hurt, burglary and violations of the Arms Act — and have filed a chargesheet in 368 of them. In total, Delhi Police arrested 2,619 people.

It has been five years since the violence, but most cases are far from reaching a verdict in court. "In the cases probed by the Crime Branch, one case has resulted in conviction while 39 are being heard, according to police data. The Crime Branch has charged around 419 people in 45 cases till now," an officer revealed.

The most controversial or

## FIVE YEARS OF NORTH EAST DELHI RIOTS

Casualties	Injured
53	581
Total Arrests	Total FIRs
2,619	757
Cops severely injured	
108+	



### The Probe Till Now

61 cases, including 53 deaths, probed by Crime Branch

695 cases investigated by North East district police

One case probed by Special Cell to probe the larger conspiracy behind the riots

2,174 people arrested by district police, 424 by Crime

Branch and 18 by Special Cell under UAPA, 3 by Special Cell for rioting and unlawful assembly

414 chargesheets filed, including 368 from district police, 45 Crime Branch and 1 by Special Cell

2,447 people chargesheeted, including 2,010 by district police, 419 Crime Branch and 18 by Special Cell

### What had happened

A major violence erupted on the night of Feb 23, 2020, and lasted till Feb 25, 2020, till late at night

53 people died as people from Hindu and Muslim communities clashed

Three SITs were formed, special camps organised to file FIRs

Committee constituted for compensation, Rs 21 crore disbursal recommended

466 supplementary chargesheets filed

In 410 cases, cognisance was taken by court concerned; these include 364 cases from the district, 45 cases from Crime Branch

At least 2,098 people out on bail

### Delhi Police received over 16,000 PCR calls during riots



the most talked about case has been the one being probed by the Special Cell under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act. Of the 21 individuals arrested, 18 were charged under the stringent UAPA. The chargesheet filed by additional commissioner Pramod Kushwaha's team was backed by 58 judicial statements recorded under 164 CrPC and chats retrieved on WhatsApp which the investigators claimed implicated and incriminated the accused. Most of those charged by the Special Cell continue to be in judicial custody. "Two of the accused wanted in this conspiracy case are still at large and have been declared absconders by the court," an officer said.

While the wounds are still raw for the victims, the memories of the violence have left the investigators on the edge too. In the aftermath of the riots, the central govt had enlisted the expertise of SN Shrivastava, a seasoned 1985-batch IPS officer who was serving in the Central Reserve Police Force at the time. Now retired, Shrivastava had clear instructions to quell the violence, restore order and rebuild trust in the shattered communities. And he did not disappoint.

As the embers of violence died down, a comprehensive plan was set in motion by the Union home ministry to revitalise the affected localities. Special investigation teams (SITs) were formed to probe the riots, ensuring that every complaint was registered and thoroughly investigated. The SITs harnessed the power of artificial intelligence and animation to enhance grainy CCTV footage to identify riot-

ters with unprecedented accuracy. "Facial recognition software played a pivotal role, matching 137 individuals to criminal records and 94 to driving licence photos," a senior officer disclosed. "To gather evidence in heinous cases, police cross-referenced footage with e-Vahan vehicle registration and driving licence databases. This meticulous approach ensured that perpetrators were brought to justice so that the community could begin to heal."

"To prevent future flare-ups, special investigation cells were established in each of the 11 affected police stations. These cells, monitored by inspector-level officers, ensured that trials were thoroughly scrutinised," the officer added.

In 2021, Sanjay Sain, a 2011-batch IPS officer, was sent to bolster community policing measures. He had also reorganised the riots cell of the district to focus on trials and ensure convictions, the aim being to restore normalcy in the area as soon as possible. For four years now, the riot-scarred localities have remained free of communal incidents. The cops hope this continues to be so for a long time.

## ₹14cr AIIMS centre to tackle tech addiction

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Indian Council of Medical Research has approved a proposal to set up a Centre for Advanced Research on Addictive Behaviours (CAR-AB) at AIIMS, targeting internet and technology-related addictions in people aged 12-25 years. The project, estimated at Rs 14 crore, awaits govt approval.

CAR-AB, focusing on excessive and problematic technology usage, will collaborate with diverse stakeholders. The initiative aims to establish a national network by joining forces with students from schools and colleges, their parents, educators, IIT faculty members, and medical college professionals.

Prof Yatan Pal Singh Balhara, who leads the project and Behavioural Addictions Clinic at AIIMS, announced the centre's focus on evidence-based interventions for excessive technology use among young people. The facility will adopt a holistic approach, aiming at prevention, screening, early detection and intervention. It will also develop resources to improve education and healthcare professionals' skills in managing these issues.

"We shall work with educational institutions, and those who test positive during screening will be directed to the centre for comprehensive

interventions," Balhara said, adding that the project will be implemented nationwide in phases. "Therapeutic interventions will address technology-induced psychological challenges, including stress, depression, anxiety and addictive behaviours," he pointed out. The centre will use artificial intelligence to identify young people at risk.



URGENT INTERVENTION

Experts said the extensive and concerning usage of technology had emerged as a significant health challenge for society. Economic Survey of India 2024-25 revealed a connection between rising mental health concerns among young people and their excessive internet consumption, emphasising the immediate requirement for educational institutions and households to implement measures that limit their internet exposure to enhance their psychological health.

## In second order in a week, HC backs 'adolescent love'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In less than a week, Delhi High Court issued a second ruling underlining the need to recognise "adolescent love" and "consensual physical relationship" between young couples, aiming to protect them from the stringent provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act.

In a recent case, the court acquitted a man accused of raping a girl he was in a relationship with. HC noted that the accused was 19 at the time of the incident in 2014, while the girl was 17.

Justice Jasmeet Singh said the case involved "adolescent love" and that the physical relationship between the two were consensual. "What cannot be lost sight of is that, at the time of the incident, the appellant (man) was 19 years of age and the prosecutrix (girl) was about 17 years of age. Thus, it was a case of adolescent love, and the physical relationship was established consensually. Therefore, convicting the appellant under the Pocso Act would be a perversion of justice," he said.

The court argued that the age of majority, as defined by law, must be interpreted in the context of the specific legal framework. It emphasised that the girl's view should not be disregarded simply because she was under 18, especially when her opinion and desire regarding the consensual na-

ture of the relationship remained "certain and unshaken". The court also ordered the man's release from jail, pointing out that the prosecution had failed to prove the girl's age beyond reasonable doubt, and the benefit of doubt should go to the accused. The girl's father had lodged a missing person complaint in 2014, and she was later found with the man from Ghaziabad. She

disclosed that they had married in a temple and were living together in a rented accommodation in Ghaziabad. Despite her objections, the trial court had sentenced the man to seven years of rigorous imprisonment under the Pocso Act. However, the HC called for a compassionate approach, prioritising "understanding" over "punishment" in cases involving adolescent love. It argued that the law should evolve to acknowledge such relationships, particularly when they are consensual and free from coercion. "I believe that societal and legal views on adolescent love should emphasise the rights of young individuals to engage in romantic relationships that are free from exploitation and abuse," the court said.

"Love is a fundamental human experience, and adolescents have the right to form emotional connections. The law should evolve to acknowledge and respect these relationships, as long as they are consensual and free from coercion," he said, adding, the focus of the law should be on preventing exploitation and abuse, rather than punishing love.

**HC JUDGE SAYS**  
The physical relationship was established consensually. Hence, convicting the appellant under Pocso Act would be a perversion of justice

## 10-yr jail for 3 traffic cops for 2010 murder bid on Gzb ACP

Kanwardeep Singh & Asif Ansari | TNN

Bareilly: A court has sentenced three traffic police officers and an auto driver to 10 years in prison for attempting to kill the then ASP while she was cracking down on an extortion racket targeting truck drivers on Sept 2, 2010. The convicted officers — Ravindra Singh, Ravendra Singh, and Manoj Kumar Singh — along with auto driver Dharmendra Kumar (Ravindra's brother), tried to run over ASP (traffic) Kalpana Saxena as she attempted to arrest them in the Cantt police station area in Bareilly.

Saxena, now the additional police commissioner of Ghaziabad, told TOI, "I am satisfied that justice has been served. This judgment sends a strong message that people in uniform cannot take the law into their hands. All the three involved were also dismissed from the department." The senior IPS officer pointed out flaws in the investigation and said: "The investigating officer failed to recover the car used in the crime and the money extorted from truck drivers. Due to this, bribery charges could not be proven, causing delays in the judgment."

The court of special judge (Prevention of Corruption Act) Suresh Kumar Gupta convicted the four under IPC sections 307 (attempt to murder), 333 (causing grievous hurt to a public servant performing duty), and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) and also imposed a fine of

Rs 50,000 on each of them.

In her police complaint, Saxena said she was on duty at the Chowki intersection with constables Sanjay Singh, Rishipal and Jeet Singh when she received information about traffic police personnel extorting money from truck drivers near a shrine in the Cantt area. Upon reaching the location, she saw trucks parked by the roadside, while a car with several individuals inside was parked across the road. Her arrival caused panic among those present.

**The convicted officers, along with an auto driver, tried to run over ASP (traffic) Kalpana Saxena as she attempted to arrest them in Bareilly**

As she attempted to apprehend the suspects, Manoj started the car and drove towards her with the intent to run her over. She managed to evade the attack but grabbed Manoj's neck inside the moving vehicle, ordering him to stop. However, the accused did not comply. Ravindra, who was seated in the back, restrained her hands as she was dragged along. She sustained multiple injuries and was later hospitalised.

Additional district govt counsel (ADGC) Manoj Bajpai confirmed that the accused were earlier out on bail, but their bail bonds were cancelled following the verdict. All four have now been sent to jail.

## In Maliwal case, court says verify med papers of 'absent' complainant

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Monday directed the verification of medical documents of the complainant in a case against former Delhi Commission for Women chairperson Swati Maliwal. The court of special judge Jitendra Singh ordered the verification of medical documents of complainant Barkha Singh after noting she failed to appear before the court as a witness, repeatedly citing her medical condition.

"On each and every date, she is seeking exemption on medical grounds. Before issuing coercive action against the complainant, it will be in the interest of justice to verify the medical documents and her physical condition," said the court. This case is at the stage of prosecution evidence and is related to alleged irregularities in recruitment in DCW during Maliwal's tenure. Three others, along with Maliwal, are facing trial in an alleged corruption case. All four accused persons appeared through video conferencing. The court, after hearing the submissions of the counsel for Singh — who told the court that she is still suffering from severe back pain and has difficulty moving and has been advised further bed rest of 15 days — passed the order.

The counsel submitted before the court that the absence of the complainant is due to her ill health and relevant medical documents have also been filed. Opposing the submissions, counsels for the accused persons pointed out that this has been happening for many hearings now. The court ordered complainant to appear in person on the next date of hearing on March 19.

## 22-yr-old murders friend for ₹100 in outer Delhi

New Delhi: Police arrested a 22-year-old man, identified as Aman, who killed his friend, Bunt, following a dispute over Rs 100 in outer Delhi's Narela. On Feb 15, police received a call reporting a body found behind the Rice Mill on Vishal Bagh, Bawana Road. DCP (outer north) Nidhin Valsan said police initiated the investigation. Two days later, the deceased was identified as Bunt. "Over 140 CCTV cameras were reviewed to zero in on the accused. Later, Bunt's friend, Aman, was arrested who confessed to the crime," said DCP, adding, "Both worked as waiters at wedding functions." TNN

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Special Chief Secretary Dept. of IT, Govt. of Assam

**Bipul Pathak**  
ACS, Dept. of Industries Govt. of NCT of Delhi

**Arvind Kumar**  
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# A week after 2-yr-old's death in Noida, 2 hurt in wedding firing as stray bullets hit cooks in necks SC: 20-year jail terms would become meaningless if state takes such a stand

Advitya.Bahl@timesofindia.com

**Noida:** A 23-year-old man was arrested on Monday after bullets he fired from his pistol during a wedding procession injured two cooks, a week after a two-year-old boy was killed during a similar incident of celebratory firing.

The latest incident occurred on Sunday night near Ashirwad Marriage Home in Greater Noida's Shakipur village. Two confectioners who were preparing hot milk and jalebis — Santosh (35), from Morena in MP, and Ishwar Dayal (23), from UP's Firozabad — were injured and rushed to Kailash Hospital. Doctors there said the two were responding to treatment and were in a stable condition.

Shivam, who fled the wedding after the bullets he fired injured the two, was arrested from LG roundabout on Monday with two live cartridges. An FIR was registered against him under BNS section 109 for attempted murder.

Police sources said that Shivam — who was from the groom's side — fired several shots after whipping out a pistol from his pocket, responding to repeated prods from his friends who knew he was carrying a firearm. Stray bullets hit Santosh and Ishwar in their necks.

The back-to-back incidents of celebratory firing prompted a string of orders from Noida police for wedding organisers.

According to DCP (central Noida) Shakti Mohan Avasthy, organi-

**TIMES VIEW:** Celebratory firings can be killers. There are far more pleasant, and certainly less violent, ways of expressing joy in modern times. Such firing is rightly banned. The government must devise methods to restrain people from such dangerous acts, which have not only taken so many innocent lives and caused injuries but also turned several occasions of happiness into those of mourning.

ers would have to ensure there are no weapons with visitors at their events, functional fire systems and alarms at venues, proper electrical safety measures, adequate parking arrangements and CCTV cameras. The officer also asked wedding

guests to follow traffic rules and not drive any vehicle under the influence of alcohol. He also said that disc jockeys and music systems should adhere to Supreme Court guidelines.

DCP Avasthy asserted that owners of marriage halls and other such establishments would be held responsible along with those carrying weapons in case of celebratory firing.

"Legal action will be taken against operators and owners if any of these guidelines are not followed," he added.

Wedding organisers, who were handed notices regarding these guidelines, were encouraged to contact the local police station or dial 112 for assistance if needed.

►Continued from P1

**H**ow can a govt take such a stand? Twenty-year jail terms would become meaningless. The court had said 20-year imprisonment and now the state is saying he cannot be released even after 20 years," the bench said.

The court was hearing a plea by Sukhdev Yadav alias Pehalwan who was sentenced to life imprisonment with a caveat that it shall be 20 years of actual imprisonment without consideration of remission. He was convicted in the 2002 Nitish Katara murder case and had filed a petition seeking furlough. As his jail term is about to get over in a few weeks, the court sought the state's response on when he could

be released from jail.

Senior advocate Aparajita Singh, appearing for Nitish's mother Neelam Katara, said it was a life sentence with 20 years without remission which meant that the convict could be eligible for remission after 20 years.

The bench, however, was not convinced and disapproved of the state govt's stand on the issue relating to freedom. "This is the concept of liberty for the state? We will deal with it. Let your home secretary take a stand on oath after taking legal opinion. If needed we can haul up your home secretary," the bench said.

On Oct 3, 2016, Supreme Court had awarded 25-year jail term without any benefit of remission to Vikas Yadav and his cousin Vis-

hal for their role in the kidnapping and killing of Nitish Katara. Co-convict Sukhdev Yadav was handed down a 20-year jail term in the case.

Earlier, Delhi high court, while upholding the life imprisonment awarded to Vikas and Vishal Yadav by the trial court, had specified a 30-year sentence, without any remission, to the two. It had awarded 25-year jail term to Sukhdev Yadav.

All three were convicted and sentenced for kidnapping Nitish from a marriage party on the night of Feb 16, 2002, and killing him for his alleged affair with Bharti Yadav, Vikas's sister. Bharti is the daughter of Uttar Pradesh politician D P Yadav who is in jail in connection with another murder case.

## TIMES TRIBUTE


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(March 01, 1960 - February 25, 2013)  
W/o Sh. Surender Gupta  
**12<sup>th</sup> death anniversary**

Times flies fast. Life goes on its pace. But some Memories can Never be forgotten or erased from the mind of dearest ones. You will always remain in our thoughts.

Fondly remembered by..


Surender Gupta, Chanchal & Amit Gupta, Parul & Sumit Gupta, Onam & Namit Gupta, Dharvik, Arshiya, Aryan, Raajsi, Raajvi, and all Gupta Family

Savitri & Shri Krishan Gupta, Usha & Arjun Kumar, Lata & Ishwar Dayal Gupta, Raghav Mahender Gupta

ALL MANAGEMENT & STAFF OF

SSG, redpro, BACHPAN

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR MOTIVATOR**



**DR. AMARJEET K. BINDRA**  
**12th Death Anniversary**

Spotlessly pure, a Heart Full of Love, Infinite Energy, Wisdom and Strength, Beautiful in Mind, Body & Spirit. Deeply missed, you will remain forever in our hearts.

Jaspreet Singh Bindra, Harmanjit Kaur Bindra, Meher and Jasmira Bindra

**ANTIM ARDAAS**  
In loving memory of our beloved **Kanwal Kumar Ghai**  
A Prayer Meeting will be held at **Guru Singh Sabha Gurudwara, Defence Colony** on **25th February 2025**, between **12:30 - 1:30 PM** (Followed by LANGAR).  
Fondly remembered and loved

Uma Ghai (Wife)  
Neenu & Vicky Sahgal (Daughter & Son in Law)  
Anu & Subir Malik (Daughter & Son in Law)  
Vaibhav, Vidhi, Ria & Ira (Grandchildren)  
Ghais, Sahgals, Maliks, Bagis & Logains

"And come he slow or come he fast, It is but Death who comes at last."  
- Sir Walter Scott

**OBITUARY**

**SAD DEMISE**

**PRAYER MEET**



**PROF. VED PRAKASH SAINI**  
27 MARCH 1930-22 FEBRUARY 2025  
THE PRAYER MEETING WILL BE HELD ON **FEB 25, 2025 FROM 3:00PM TO 4:00PM** AT **GURUDWARA ANAND VIHAR, A LOCK MAIN ROAD, NEW DELHI-110092**

REMEMBERED BY:  
MONICA & DEEPAK KHETRAPAL, VINEETA & PRAMOD SHARMA, SHWETA & VIS HAL MOHAN

**IN LOVING MEMORY**



**Shri Arun Kumar Chandra**  
(03.10.1939 - 23.02.2025)

Shri Arun Kumar Chandra departed for his eternal rest surrounded by his family on 23.02.2025.

A true patriarch, he was the heart of our family and cherished his time with his loved ones. Whether on the dance floor, at the bridge table, or in the gym, he exuded a zest for life that was both inspiring and infectious.

He was a man of strong principles in his personal and professional life. He retired from SAIL as an Executive Director after a long and illustrious career. His integrity, warmth, and loving commitment to family will always be our guide.

**LAST RITES**  
Date: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 | Time: 3:00 PM  
Venue: Lathi Road Crematorium, New Delhi

**PRAYER MEET**  
Date: Thursday, 27 February 2025 | Time: 4:00 PM  
Venue: The Club House, Richmond Park, DLF Phase IV, Gurugram

**He will live on in our hearts forever**

Smt. Kanak Chandra (Wife)  
Hina and Meeta (Daughters)  
Anupam and Sandeep (Sons-in-law)  
Anurag, Pranav, Varun, and Prathinav (Grandsons)  
And his loving extended family

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February 15, 1939 - February 25, 2017



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With deepest reverence,  
The Batra Family,  
Friends, and the Imperia Fraternity

**"HONOUR. COURAGE. BRAVERY."**  
Three words that you taught us.  
Three words that help us cope with your loss.

The silent joy of remembering a loved one. The moments you shared together. Little moments that make life beautiful.


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The Times of India (Delhi)/NCR	5,600	100x100mm (max 2 photos)
TOI-NBT (Delhi)/NCR	8,800	100x100mm (max 2 photos)
TOI+ET (Delhi)/NCR	6,600	100x100mm (max 2 photos)

REMEMBRANCE SHARING MEMORIES

For any information call  
**Vinod : 9958992088**  
**Pankaj : 8130604727**

**IN LOVING MEMORY**




**PIMMI KHOSLA**  
WIFE OF LATE SHRI DP KHOSLA

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YOUR LEGACY LIVES ON THROUGH THE LOVE WE FEEL FOR YOU. YOUR GOODNESS, GLAMOUR AND GRACE WILL FOREVER BE CHERISHED. WE ARE MOST FORTUNATE BECAUSE WE WERE RAISED BY YOU.

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**Prayer Meeting**



**Yog Raj Chhabra**  
1931 - 2025

Tuesday, February 25, 2025 from 4-5 pm  
at Shri Guru Nanak Satsang Sabha, Vasant Vihar Gurudwara, F1/4 Vasant Vihar, New Delhi

In sorrow:  
Kanwal Chhabra  
Renu & Atul Deshpande  
Sheena & Mona Chhabra

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In Loving Memory of  
**Smt. Manju Sethi**  
(29.08.1959 - 25.02.2012)

Person who's life was never for herself but for her family. Full of love, affection & caring will always remind your presence in our hearts. Your spirit lives in each of us & says you never went, you are here only. Love you & miss you. Deeply missed by: Sethi Family & U. C. Sethi and Associates Pvt. Ltd.

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In Loving memory of  
**Santosh Chawla**  
03.02.1946 to 25.02.2024

A year has passed, yet not a single moment goes by without missing you. Forever loved and deeply missed.

Baldev Raj Chawla (Husband) Arun, Namrata, Harshit, Sanjay, Sonu, Saanvi

# Under 18, But Brazen: Why Murders By Minors Are Emerging As Major Concern

In A Shift Of Trend, Teenagers Now Seem More Aware That They Can Get Away With Crime

Devanshi Mehta  
@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** Last week, the city witnessed three back-to-back crimes committed by teenagers. Five minor boys got drunk and committed two murders and robberies within two hours in east Delhi. Around 24 hours of that, three juveniles fatally stabbed a man in north Delhi only because he asked them for directions. In a third incident in the same week, a man was critically wounded during a stabbing in south Delhi.

Analysis of crimes reported of late indicates that 3-4 murders are committed by juveniles every month. In general, around 40 murders are reported in the capital each month.

The analysis of crimes reported of late indicates that 3-4 murders are committed by juveniles every month. In general, around 40 murders are reported in the capital each month.

ported in the city each month. The crimes involving minors are increasingly troubling because several cases have exhibited an extreme level of brutality. Last year, a teenager was booked for stabbing a youth over 50 times and then dancing over his lifeless body.

In a shift of trend, the teenagers now seem more aware that they can get away with crime. A few years ago, a study conducted by Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights found that around 70% of the children in detention centres were unaware about the consequences of their criminal acts. However, the trend these days is of juveniles boasting on social media about their acts and even uploading pictures of police raiding their homes. They post that the law is lenient towards them and that they would strike again after release from the shelter home.

Given their bravado and the latitude given to them by

## DELHI LEADS IN JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Year	Date	Incident
2025	Jan 19:	A teenager stabbed a 35-year-old man at Kamla Market
	Jan 22:	Three minors in net for killing a 23-year-old man for filing an FIR against them
2024	Sept 15:	Two juveniles, aged 15 and 17, stabbed to death a 32-year-old man in a bid to snatch his mobile phone in northeast Delhi
	Sept 23:	A 16-year-old boy was stabbed to death allegedly by three of his same-aged neighbourhood boys in east Delhi's Shakarpur when he refused to give them a treat after buying a new phone
2023	Nov 8:	In northwest Delhi, three teenagers killed a man for allegedly harassing their friend's sister
	Nov 9:	Three teenagers went on a shooting spree in north-east Delhi, killing one person and injuring another person. They also fired shot at a house minutes after the murder
2022	Dec 1:	Three teenagers held for fatally stabbing a 36-year-old man in a park in Naraina
	Dec 10:	Two juveniles, aged 16, apprehended for killing a man while robbing him of ₹200 in Jafrabad
2021	Feb 19:	A 60-year-old man fatally stabbed with a pair of scissors by three inebriated juveniles. The elderly man had merely asked the trio to give him way
	Feb 20:	Five minors apprehended in connection with two separate murders carried out in a span of two hours in east Delhi's Ghazipur and New Ashok Nagar

### In the last six months...

Oct 3:	Two minor boys posing as patients walked into a clinic in Jaitpur and shot dead a 54-year-old Unani practitioner for 'revenge'
Oct 27:	A 16-year-old boy was chased, stabbed and shot dead, and his friend was injured after four boys shot at them in Kishangarh
Oct 23:	Three juveniles detained for fatally stabbing a man and leaving another injured in northwest Delhi

### The kingpins of gangs are hiring juveniles to carry out killings or shootings after educating them that they can't be sent to prison being under 18 years

An NCRB report revealed that, in 2022, Delhi had the highest rate of crimes committed by teenagers — more minor offenders were busted in Delhi than in states, such as Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh.

A study by DCPDR in 2015 found that 70.3% of the children serving in the detention centres were unaware of the consequences of their acts.

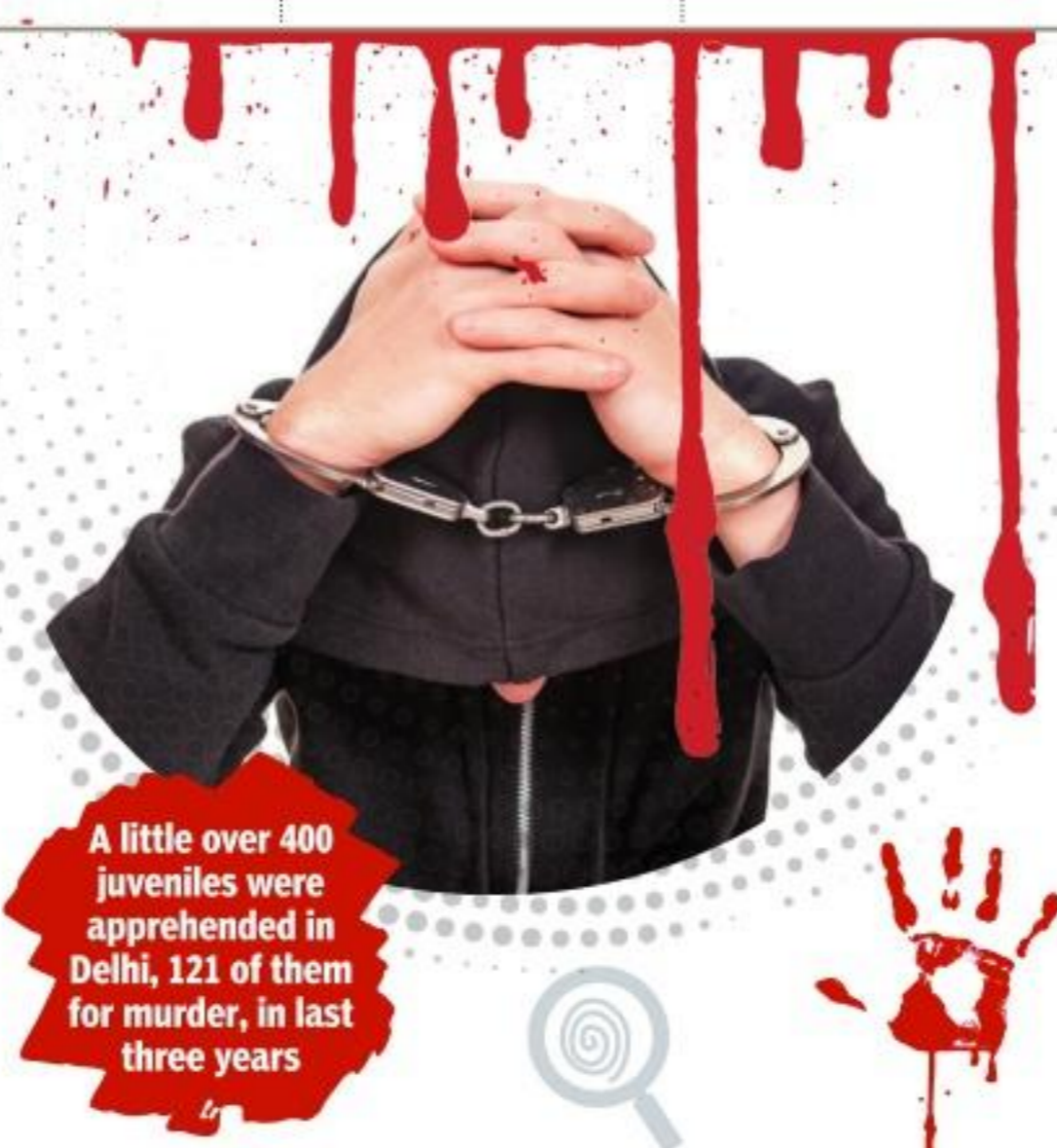
However, things seem to have changed now with more and more juveniles flaunting

on social media about how the law was lenient to them.

Last year, Delhi Police requested juvenile justice board to try around a dozen delinquents in the borderline age group as adults.

Juveniles were found to be involved in 2,436 criminal cases reported in Delhi in 2022.

Between Jan 2022 and May 2024, as many as 259 minors were involved in serious crimes, such as murder, attempted murder, rape, robbery and extortion, police data reveals



early indicators. "Hostile behaviour towards peers, whether at school or home, is often normalised, but it shouldn't be. Signs like teeth grinding and visible frustration in children as young as 7 to 9 years old should be taken seriously. Parents must ensure they are not immediately giving in to every demand because the children need to develop patience and tolerance."

He added, "The problem is that children often look up to the wrong role models. When parents fail to communicate with them, they turn to social media, where they see people brandishing weapons, committing crimes and seemingly getting away with it. This influences young minds and shapes perceptions of power and success."

## TIMES Special

Some of these disturbing tendencies may stem from psychobiological factors, including genetic predispositions, pointed out Dr Desai. However, he stressed that environmental influences played the major role, citing exposure to violent media as a big factor. He also noted that organised crime networks exploited vulnerable children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

While Dr Desai underscored that the key to preventing juvenile delinquency was identifying warning signs and acting on them before a crime was committed, Dr Nagpal pointed out that juvenile delinquency was not limited to any one socio-economic background. "While children from economically backward households are vulnerable, those from neo-rich families also engage in destructive behaviours," he said. "Some sell prized possessions to fund substance abuse, while others seek power through reckless acts like underage driving and brandishing weapons. The unregulated access to resources can be just as harmful as deprivation."

Dr Jitendra Nagpal, another senior consulting psychiatrist, said anger, hostility and aggression are crucial

## 2 brothers among 3 held for man's kidnap, murder

**New Delhi:** Three people, including two brothers, were apprehended in connection with the murder of a man in Samaypur Badli. The man, a representative of a switch-making company, had earlier filed a complaint with police, claiming that the brothers were producing fake switches.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Nidhin Valsan stated that the brothers allegedly kidnapped and killed the man before dumping his body in Munak Canal. A search for the body was underway.

On Feb 18, police received a complaint regarding the disappearance of a man, who lived in Rohini Sector 17. His family raised suspicion about his kidnapping by the two brothers, as a case was registered against one of the suspects in Samaypur Badli for manufacturing fake switches.

Both the brothers were questioned, and the duo confessed that they kidnapped the person on Feb 17 from SGT Nagar and murdered him. The brothers wrapped the body in a waterproof bag and threw it into Munak Canal on Feb 18. They also threw the victim's mobile phone into the same canal. The third accused provided the location of the man on the day of the kidnapping. A case was subsequently registered in this regard.

"Six divers have intensified the search for the body. After it is recovered and the postmortem is done, we will confirm the exact circumstances surrounding the death," the officer said.

## Arms supplier trying to flee country held from Mumbai

**New Delhi:** Delhi Police's crime branch arrested a 26-year-old arms supplier linked to the Baba Safidon Gang, while he was planning to escape to Dubai, on Friday. Bhola Shankar was wanted for a robbery at a currency exchange shop in Vasant Kunj, where foreign currency worth Rs 7.5 lakh was looted at gunpoint.

Police said, on Feb 14, two masked men had stormed into a currency exchange office in Vasant Kunj, brandishing firearms and looting foreign currency worth Rs 7.5 lakh around 11.30 am. The men fled in a car with a third accomplice. Following this, a case was registered under sections of BNS and the Arms Act at Vasant Kunj (north) police station.

During initial probe, Delhi

Police arrested two suspects, Dipanshu and Gaurav Dhanu, and recovered four illegal firearms from their possession. However, the third suspect, Bhola Shankar, managed to evade arrest.

"A police team utilised technical surveillance and ground intelligence to track Shankar's movements. After gathering credible inputs, police traced his location to Andheri East, Mumbai, where he was hiding in a hotel. A team was dispatched, and after a well-coordinated operation, Shankar was arrested before he could board a flight to Dubai. He was subsequently brought back to Delhi," said DCP (crime branch) Satish Kumar. The arrest was made by a team led by Inspector Sandeep Tushir.

## Man held with 1kg marijuana

**New Delhi:** An Indian passenger who flew from Bangkok to Delhi airport was arrested after he was found carrying 11.3 kg of marijuana concealed in eight packets of cookies and rice. The total value of the seized marijuana is approximately Rs 11.3 crore.

Customs officials said the incident occurred on Feb 21.

"After the man landed, he was diverted to the green channel for an X-ray screening of his personal luggage,

which revealed a suspicious image in his trolley bag. A physical check of the bag uncovered eight packets of biscuits and rice, each containing a green-colored substance suspected to be ganja or marijuana," an official said. The substance was later confirmed through diagnostic testing to be a narcotic.

The flyer was arrested under multiple sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

## Petitioner dies waiting, GDA VC's properties to be attached

Ashni Dhaor@timesofindia.com

**Noida:** A land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement authority (LARRA) court in Greater Noida ordered the attachment of movable properties and vehicles of Ghaziabad Development Authority's vice-chairman and secretary for GDA's failure to pay a beneficiary in a 63-year-old land compensation case. The farmer passed away in 2019, still waiting for a fairer compensation, which was later revised to Rs 3.4 crore.

In 1962, the Improvement Trust of Ghaziabad acquired 72,146 square yards (around 60,323 sq metres) of land in Jatwada Kalan village for Rajnagar District Centre — one of the city's most expensive commercial hubs today — offering the farmer, Anoop Singh, a compensation at Rs 4 per square yard.

Established in 1919 to develop the city's urban areas, the Improvement Trust was responsible for leasing out

properties in old Ghaziabad before the Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA) was established in 1977.

After the GDA was formed, Singh approached the additional district judge's court seeking better compensation. In 1992, the court upheld Singh's petition and asked GDA to increase the compensation from Rs 4 per sq yard to Rs 7 per sq yard. The development authority released Rs 5 lakh compensation to the farmer, but Singh filed another petition in the Allahabad High Court seeking better compensation.

"My father was not satisfied with the compensation rate as he deemed it unfair. While Ghaziabad was developing at a fast pace, a farmer whose land was acquired to develop a commercial township at the heart of the city was given a paltry compensation," Singh's son Susheel said.

In 1992, Singh moved the Allahabad High Court. Over 25 years later, the court ruled in

his favour, ordering the GDA to pay Rs 42.5 per sq yard.

Amarpal Singh, the family's lawyer, told TOI, the execution order of the Allahabad HC was admitted to the ADJ court in Ghaziabad, which also directed GDA to pay the compensation.

After Singh passed away, Susheel continued the fight.

In 2022, the case was transferred to LARRA court for execution of the HC order. Citing the HC order, the court determined the pending compensation amount at Rs 35.5 per sq yard, as the farmer already received compensation of Rs 7 per sq yard, and accumulated interest of 9% for the first year and 15% for the subsequent years, totalling to Rs 3.4 crore.

The LARRA court last week directed Ghaziabad DM to attach the movable properties and vehicles of the GDA chairman and secretary and submit a report by Feb 28.

On Monday, DM Deepak Meena said, "We will comply with the court's orders."

## Fire breaks out in CP restaurant

**New Delhi:** A fire broke out at a restaurant in Connaught Place's M-Block on Monday evening. The fire started in the chimney of the kitchen on the first floor of the restaurant.

According to Delhi Fire Services (DFS), an alert was received at 7:56 pm. Upon receiving the alert, four fire tenders were immediately dispatched to the scene, and the fire was extinguished within 30 minutes. No casualties or injuries were reported, a DFS official said.

## Case filed in threat to NY-Delhi flight

**New Delhi:** Police have registered a case in connection with an incident involving American Airlines flight AA 292, which was flying from New York to Delhi but was diverted to Rome due to a bomb threat.

Police said on Sunday that they received an email regarding a potential threat to the flight and, therefore, it was diverted. On Monday, a complaint was received from the airline, leading to the registration of an FIR.

## NGT seeks report from DPCC after plea claims illegal dyeing units still operating

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** After the authorities informed National Green Tribunal that they took action against dyeing units in Khyala and Meethapur village in Delhi, the applicant, an environmental activist, told NGT that more illegal units were operating in these areas. The tribunal has directed Delhi Pollution Control Committee to take action and submit a status report in four weeks.

In another matter related to such units, a joint committee recommended a campaign to sensitise the public regarding the illegal industrial activity.

TOI earlier reported that the yarn or textile processing industry, involving any effluent or emission-generating processes, including bleaching, dyeing, printing and colouring, was classified as Red category industries — most polluting — and such industries were required to operate only with valid consent to operate under Water Act 1974 and Air Act 1981 and Authorisation under Hazardous & Other Wastes (Management & Transboundary Movement) Rules 2016. Illegal units discharge untreated waste into drains,



Varun Gulati first filed a petition in NGT in 2019, demanding action against such units which ends up in the Yamuna.

Varun Gulati first filed a petition in NGT in 2019, demanding action against such units. Multiple petitions have been filed since then, seeking action against illegal units in Bindapur, Matiala, Ranhola, Khyala, Meethapur, Badarpur, Mukundpur, Kirar, Narela, Bawana, Khayala, Tri Nagar, Badli, Libasapur, Nangli Sakrawati, Mayapuri, Sarita Vihar and Aali Vihar. Last year, Gulati also filed a plea seeking action against similar units in Haryana.

The NGT bench headed by Justice

Prakash Shrivastava said in an order dated Feb 19 that the counsel of the applicant had submitted that she would supply a copy of the video footage disclosing that several dyeing units were still operating in the areas.

The bench said the DPCC counsel submitted that fresh inspection would be conducted after receiving the footage and action would be taken against the illegal units.

In the other matter, the joint committee, which inspected dyeing units in Jan, said Municipal Corporation of Delhi had served a show-cause notice to six units and sealed one in Ghoda village. The committee also observed traces of coloured effluent in drains near 10-15 units, which were found to be locked.

The committee recommended that MCD also take action against these 10-15 units and asked DPCC to levy environmental compensation. "Strict periodical vigilance of the area may be carried out by MCD to identify and stop the illegal industrial activities," the report recommended. It also suggested a campaign by MCD and the district administration to sensitise the public on the issue.

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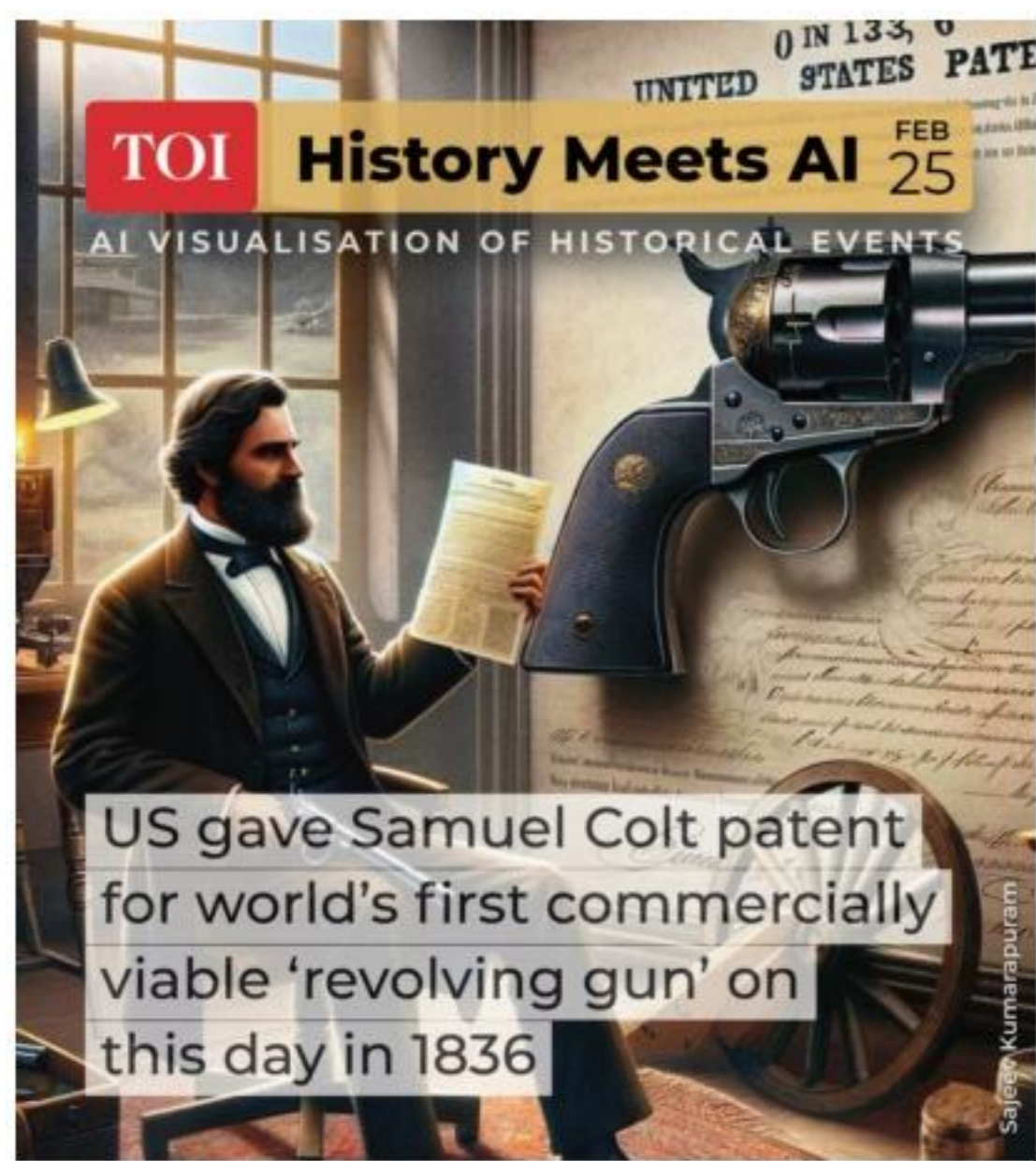
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**PRIYANKA WRITES TO PM TO CONVERT WAYANAD RELIEF PACKAGE INTO GRANT, EXTEND DEADLINE**

**K'TAKA MIN PARAMESHWARA URGES RESTRAINT AS LANGUAGE ROW REVIVES BORDER FEUD WITH MAHA**



## Man dies trying to save monkey

A 24-year-old man died while trying to rescue an injured monkey stuck in an electric transformer along Badi Parikrama Marg in Mathura on Saturday evening. The monkey, which had fallen onto the transformer, also succumbed to electrocution, reports Sudeep Lavania. The victim, Topic, saw the monkey lying on a transformer, which was connected to an overhead 11,000-volt power line. He climbed a railing surrounding it and attempted to rescue the monkey using a stick. However, he came into contact with the transformer and died instantly. After receiving an alert, a team from the Goverdhan police station arrived at the spot and rushed Topic to a nearby community health centre, where the doctors pronounced him dead.

## Biker harasses woman in Panaji

A woman from Goa was left traumatised after a biker chased and sexually harassed her in Panaji Sunday. North Goa SP Akshat Kaushal said cops subsequently identified the suspect — a habitual offender out on bail — and traced him Monday when he was out with his girlfriend, "but he pushed the police and fled the spot". The crime took place around 10.20pm when the woman and her friend were returning home on a bike. She told cops that the accused began chasing them from Church Square area. "While my friend and I were on a bike, a man approached us with an 'excuse me', pretending to be polite. But as we looked closer, we saw him riding with one hand while using the other to masturbate. He had the audacity to say 'nice a\*\*\*', she said in a social media post. TNN

# NAAC purges 900 assessors after corruption allegations

Before Sacking 20% Of Inspectors, It Had Stopped Physical Inspections

Hemali Chhappia  
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: The National Assessment and Accreditation Council took a dramatic step, cutting nearly a fifth of its peer reviewers — almost 900 of them — after allegations of corruption surfaced in the grading process. The purge followed a tip-off to CBI that assessors visiting Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation (KLEF), a deemed university in Andhra Pradesh, solicited a bribe in exchange for the highest accreditation grade. At a moment when NAAC was already reassessing its accreditation framework, mass removal of reviewers signalled a deeper shift. Letters from NAAC director to remaining reviewers made clear that their work was more than procedural; it was a "nationally important assignment". "We were reviewing our processes for over a year. We were also looking at assessors on board and while we removed many, we were also looking at onboarding some senior academicians, vice-chancellors, deans, and directors of reputed institutes,"



At a moment when NAAC was already reassessing its accreditation framework, mass removal of reviewers signalled a deeper shift

said professor Anil Sahasrabudhe, the chairman of NAAC executive committee. In a move aimed at eradicating corruption and streamlining accreditation, after the KLEF case, NAAC abruptly halted physical inspections of colleges. Evaluations, it said, would now be conducted online, eliminating campus visits for colleges. Universities, though, would see a hybrid approach — most assessments would be remote, but select reviewers would still conduct on-site visits to ensure oversight. "Integrity is not a line item — it is the very foundation of trust. We dropped over 900 assessors. In some cases, data about assessors was insuffi-

cient; in others, we reviewed their assessments and found them lacking. Some were removed based on feedback we received, and in others, we analysed how they wrote their reports," NAAC director Ganesan Kannabiran told TOI. The scrutiny extended beyond individual assessors. NAAC also examined assessment reports from institutions that requested a re-evaluation of their grades. "In some cases, we compared the two assessment reports and felt that certain assessors' performance did not meet NAAC's requirements," Kannabiran added. Those names, too, were struck off the list. The crackdown went beyond internal reform. Each peer team member now receives a letter from the NAAC director, reminding them of the expectations placed upon them. "In recent times, we received complaints that a few higher education institutions were offering above-normal hospitality, organising elaborate cultural activities, arranging sightseeing, and most importantly, offering gifts. Please discourage these aspects and report to us if you notice any such acts or intentions of the HEIs." A similar message is sent to the institutes too, asking them not to indulge in "elaborate" hospitality. The letter is unequivocal. "We are in the process of identifying such practices of the HEIs and taking punitive action. Keeping the long-term requirements of our nation in mind, I sincerely request you to ensure that a critical and transparent approach is adopted during the entire period of assignment. I strongly believe your invaluable commitment with honesty and integrity in this regard shall positively impact the credibility of NAAC and eventually enhance quality of education."

## 23-year-old goes on stabbing spree, kills 5 people in Kerala

Shankar.CG@timesofindia.com

Thiruvananthapuram: In a grisly pre-planned murder spree Monday evening, a 23-year-old youth killed his girlfriend, brother, grandmother, uncle and aunt, and also attempted to hack his mother to death with a machete and a hammer, at three different places at Venjaramoodu in Thiruvananthapuram, before surrendering to police.

The accused, Affan, told cops that he had killed six family members as they were reluctant to clear the massive debts he had incurred after suffering losses in his business in the Gulf country. However, cops have doubts over his version and are digging deeper to unearth more details. The mobile phone and call details of the accused are being checked to ascertain if he is addicted to drugs. Affan's mother Shemi (47), a cancer patient, is in ICU and remains critical. Affan, too, was admitted to the hospital as he claimed to have consumed rat poison to end his life. During the medical examination, however, doctors could not confirm the presence of any poison in his body. Police said Affan first murdered his grandmother

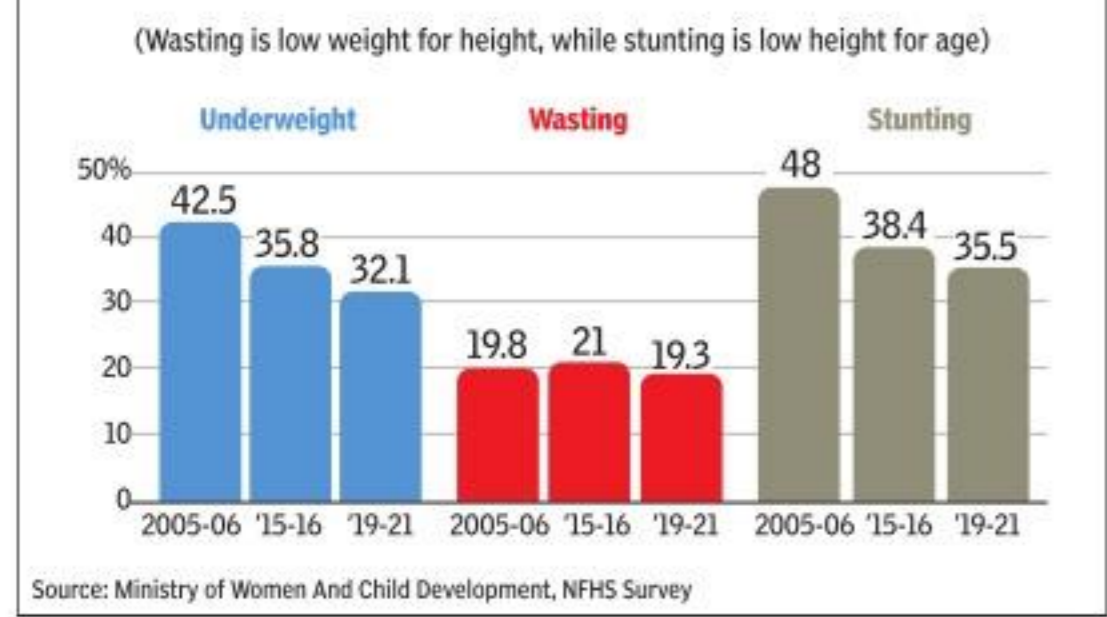


Affan told cops that he killed his relatives as they were reluctant to clear the massive debts he had incurred after suffering losses in his business in the Gulf

Salma Beevi at her home around 3pm. He then reached house of his paternal uncle Abdul Latheef at SN Puram near Koonanvenga, 16 km from Pangode, and murdered him and his wife Shahida. Affan then returned home at Perumala near Pullampara, and attacked his mother, brother Afzan (14) and girlfriend Farshana (19). After committing the crime, he went straight to the Venjaramoodu police station in an autorickshaw and surrendered. Affan and Afzan were in the Gulf with their father, Rahim, before the brothers and their mother returned to Kerala after his business ran into losses.

## Weight is a bigger problem for Indian children than height

The number of underweight and stunted kids under the age of five in the country has come down considerably in the last two decades. However, the share of children affected by wasting remains more or less the same



Source: Ministry of Women And Child Development, NFHS Survey

## High-speed car chase claims life of event manager in West Bengal

Mohammad Asif & Falguni Banerjee TNN

Panagarh: A high-speed car chase on NH-2 Monday ended in tragedy as 27-year-old dancer and event manager Sutantra Chatterjee lost her life when her vehicle overturned. Chatterjee, a resident of WB's Chandernagore, was travelling to Gaya for work when the accident occurred at 12.30am. While Chatterjee, seated in front passenger seat, bled to death, at least two of her colleagues suffered injuries. Police have seized both vehicles involved in the chase, but have yet to make any arrests. Durgapur-Asansol commissioner Sunil Choudhary said the crash resulted from an overtaking attempt gone wrong. "We studied multiple CCTV footage and found that



Chatterjee's car overturned on GT Road in Panagarh

of the car in which the woman was traveling," the cop said. Chatterjee's colleagues, Mintu Mondal — who lodged an FIR — and driver Rajdeo Sharma, gave a different account. They alleged that the occupants of the white car had been harassing Chatterjee before ramming their vehicle multiple times. "There were five men in the car. They honked and made obscene gestures at madam while driving next to our car. They kept overtaking us and then allowing us to go ahead. They chased us till Panagarh, and in the process, there were multiple collisions between the cars. We tried to avoid them, fearing they were robbers," said Sharma. As per Mondal, the white car's occupants looked drunk and abandoned their car before fleeing.

## 3 cops get 10-yr jail for bid to kill ASP in 2010

Bareilly: A court has sentenced three traffic police officers and an auto driver to 10 years in prison for attempting to kill the then ASP while she was cracking down on an extortion racket targeting truck drivers on Sept 2, 2010, report Kanwardeep Singh & Asif Ansari. The convicted officers — Ravindra Singh, Ravendra Singh, and Manoj Kumar Singh — along with auto driver Dharmendra Kumar (Ravindra's brother), tried to run over ASP (traffic) Kalpa Saxena as she attempted to arrest them in the Cantt police station area in Bareilly. Saxena, now additional police commissioner of Ghaziabad, told TOI, "I am satisfied that justice has been served. This sends a strong message that people in uniform cannot take the law into their hands."

## Communal tension in Raj over 'sexual exploitation'

Ajmer: Several towns in Rajasthan observed a bandh Monday demanding strict action against the suspects of in alleged targeted sexual exploitation of schoolgirls from the majority community in Bijaynagar of Beawar district, reports Kshitiz Gaur. Cops have arrested seven men on charges of assault, blackmail, and forced religious conversion of a group of girls. The arrested men include Rihan Mohammad, Lukman, Sohail Mansuri, Arman Pathan, Sahil Kureshi, Kareem, Shrawan Kumar, and ex-councillor Hakem Qureshi. Addressing the allegations of religious conversions, Ajmer DIG Om Prakash said: "These are under probe."

The alleged crime was discovered when a girl's parent found her talking to someone at night. "The accused gifted mobiles and forced the girls to talk to them and also ask their friends to chat, and with this, they were physically exploiting them," according to FIR. Following complaints from the parents on Feb 15, civic authorities had served notices to the families of the accused for alleged encroachments. Protests were recorded across different towns. In Beawar, markets remained shut and protesters carried out a rally. In Gulabpura, residents marched to the SDM's office. A similar demonstration was held in Kekri. Baghera town also observed a shutdown, as did Nasirabad and Bhinai. Deputy CMDiya Kumari has vowed stringent action against the culprits.

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## BJP mantri plans 2nd darbar in Thane, denies trying to capture Shinde's fiefdom

Thane: Maharashtra forests minister and BJP politician Ganesh Naik has announced his second 'janta darbar' in the city next month following the response received to the inaugural event on Monday, which saw over 550 applications, reports Manoj Badgeri. While observers see this as a fresh attempt by BJP to dig in its heels in the Shiv Sena stronghold of Thane, Naik, who was anointed as 'sampark pramukh' for the district, dismissed any such advances and maintained he was simply following the directions given by CM Devendra Fadnis. The idea of the darbar is to bring the administration closer to citizens instead of them travelling to the state headquarters at Mantralaya, he said. Mahayuti is working smoothly with equal participation from the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar-led NCP, he added. Sena MP Naresh Mhaske also refuted speculation that BJP was attempting to wrest control over Thane, saying that Naik was a senior Mahayuti leader and there was no reason for his party to object to his darbars.

## UBT unhappy with Pawar for Gorhe's 'mudslinging' at Marathi literary meet

Mumbai: A day after Shiv Sena MLC Neelam Gorhe said at Marathi Sahitya Sammelan that "two Mercedes would fetch you a post in Shiv Sena (UBT)," NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar termed her statement "foolish, uncalled for and immature," while CM Devendra Fadnis called for "restraint" and "a balanced approach" at literary gatherings, reports Prafulla Marpakwar. Pawar's criticism came after UBT Sena MP Sanjay Raut earlier in the day expressed his party's unhappiness with the NCP (SP) chief, saying he (as chairman of the literary meet's reception committee) could not shirk responsibility for the "mudslinging" at the 98th Akhil Bhartiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan in New Delhi. The literary meet was inaugurated by PM Modi in the presence of Pawar and CM Devendra Fadnis. At one of the events at the Sammelan, Gorhe claimed that in Thackeray's Sena, one had to gift Mercedes cars to Udhav for securing plum posts. "She should have refrained from making such comments. A literary meet is not the platform for making such political statements," Pawar added.

# French firm levels graft charges against MMRDA, seeks diplomatic intervention

## Agency Denies Claim, Alleges Systra Violated Multiple Norms

Manthan K Mehta & Chaitanya Marpakwar | TNN



Systra has designed and overseen the Metro construction in Mumbai

Mumbai: French engineering giant Systra, which has designed and overseen the metro construction in Mumbai, has levelled allegations of corruption against senior officials of the planning agency, Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), accusing them of seeking "undue favours" and delaying payments. Complaints, which have been communicated to the govt, include pressuring the firm to inflate orders to contractors, stalling approvals for key staff and imposing arbitrary penalties.

Systra sought diplomatic intervention. In a letter dated Nov 12, 2024, the French embassy asked Rupinder Singh, resident commissioner of Maharashtra in Delhi, to intervene for the firm, which cited "severe harassment and challenges" while working as general consultant on MMRDA projects.

said the complaint had not reached him but he would speak to chief secretary Sujata Sainik. "Transparency is at the core of our administration. We will ensure it is restored at any cost," Fadnavis told TOI.

In its response, MMRDA called the allegations "baseless" and "a deliberate attempt to malign" the reputation of the agency and its personnel. Systra's complaint routed through the embassy highlighted its record in executing rail and metro projects in India and said, "Since August 2023, Systra has been facing severe problems in its daily operations, escalating to the suspension of its payments due in January 2024."

It requested that the matter be "studied in depth" and left it in the hands of the resident commissioner "to resolve the situation." It said, "Systra is keen to work together with MMRDA for mutual benefit in an atmosphere of peace and cooperation, without external pressure."

Systra said the trouble began in Aug 2023 following a leadership shake-up at MMRDA. As general consultant for Mumbai's Metro lines 5, 6, 7A, 9, 10, and 12, and detailed design provider for lines 2A, 7, and associated depots, the company alleges that MMRDA officials began pressuring for monetary benefits, which were thinly veiled as demands from higher-ups.

Systra claimed "favours" were sought on the pretext that the "MC (metropolitan commissioner)" was demanding it. Systra said it informed the authority that the company "shall not be able to do the same".

Reacting to the allegations, MMRDA said a detailed report was sought from the department concerned and submitted to govt for consid-

eration. The report revealed multiple contractual and regulatory violations by Systra, extending beyond the initial cost overruns of 4.27% to 10% in fees, it said.

MMRDA said it has issued a termination notice to Systra for various violations, including security concerns and operational lapses. "It is important to note that the present matter pertains to a commercial dispute," it said. "Unfortunately, Systra appears to be attempting to escalate this into an issue between a foreign country and an agency of the government of Maharashtra, which is not an appropriate practice."

Systra's general manager for Mumbai, Arun Mishra, said, "We cannot comment as the matter is sub judice." Systra has approached Bombay high court over the issue.

Between Jan and Feb 2024, Systra alleges that MMRDA issued payment suspension notices, citing supposed deficiencies in already-resolved issues on line 5 (Thane-Bhiwandi-Kalyan), 9 (Dahisar-Mira-Bhayander), 7A (Gundavli-Airport), and line 6 (Lokhandwala to Vikhroli). Additionally, MMRDA issued notices changing the scope of contractual work, alleging deficiencies in civil and systems contracts for line 10 (Gaimukh-Shivaji Chowk) and 12 (Ka-

# Rescue ops stalled as water level rises in T'gana tunnel

Koride Mahesh | TNN



Army engineer task force with medical teams at the site on Monday

Hyderabad: Hopes for two engineers and six labourers trapped in the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel in Telangana's Nagarkurnool district are diminishing, as more than 48 hours of strenuous efforts to rescue the eight people have come to a standstill, with rising water levels and shifting silt making the operation riskier by the hour.

The eight people were trapped deep inside the tunnel when the tunnel roof caved in on Feb 22, while 52 others managed to come out to safety. By late Monday, family members of some of the trapped people were also flown in by the authorities.

State govt, which initially considered vertical drilling and digging from the top of the tunnel, above 400 metres, has now abandoned that approach. Instead, the authorities have decided to continue efforts from within the tunnel to mitigate any potential harm to rescuers. The increased water inflow and the sudden accumulation of silt have raised grave concerns about the structural integrity of the tunnel, forcing officials to reconsider their strategy.

On Monday morning, rescue teams entered the tunnel to assess the situation, only to find that the silt had increased by about one metre, to over seven metres. The influx of water continued unabated, complicating the dewatering process. Experts suggest the fresh water surge could be due to either a sudden increase in activity at the collapsed roof or the onset of a new collapse—though they have been unable to confirm this. Officials further reported that the tunnel boring machine had moved 500 metres, likely due to the rising water, and the conveyor belt used for material removal was damaged.

best to proceed without endangering additional lives. The National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) urged govt to slow down operations and proceed with utmost caution. No risks could be taken at this point, they advised, suggesting the tunnel should be observed for any further signs of collapse while the water and silt subsided.

Australian tunnel expert Chris Cooper, too, strongly urged against using gas-cutters or any form of digging, emphasising that the area near the collapsed roof remained unstable. He advised waiting for a more thorough assessment before any further action could be taken.

# Be ambitious, turn disruptors, Rajnath tells IIT students

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India's technological sector is on the rise and is expected to reach \$300-\$350 billion in the next five years, defence minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday, even as he emphasized that the challenge for India lies not just in adapting to the rapid changes in technology but also to create new technologies.

"Don't just be adapters, become the disruptors who lead innovation," the minister said, highlighting the rising number of start-ups in the country. With more than 1.25 lakh start-ups and 110 unicorns, the country is emerging as the third-largest start-up ecosystem in the world, he said while addressing the foundation day celebrations of IIT-Mandi.

According to a release issued by the defence ministry, Singh said new avenues have opened up for young innovators if they are ready to try "shaping new paradigms rather than simply following existing trends". He asked students to be courageous and disruptors. "Be ambitious," he said.

# The day isn't far when Kashmir will be free of guns, Shah tells kids from UT

Bharti Jain | timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The day is not far when nobody in J&K will possess a weapon, dispensing with the need for armed forces to be deployed within the Union Territory and ensuring that their role is limited to guarding the frontiers, home minister Amit Shah on Monday told young children from J&K visiting Delhi as part of 'Watan ko Jano' programme.

Telling the visiting school children, some as young as eight years of age and some

travelling out of their home/UT for the first time ever, that every part of the country but every part of them as much as J&K does, Shah asked them to ensure that they do not abandon their studies mid-way as "opportunities await you across the country".

"You should grab these opportunities. J&K is peaceful even now but you should make sure that the peace is permanent," he said while exhorting the children to carry back the message of peace and development that they have witnessed in rest of

the country during the 'Watan ko Jano' tour, to their family, friends, neighbours and village in J&K.

Around 250 children from J&K visited Jaipur and Delhi as part of the tour aimed at familiarising them with the social and cultural diversities of the country and bringing about an emotional connect among them. "We got a chance to visit the Hawa Mahal and enjoyed the non-Kashmiri cuisine in Jaipur," Samriti Balraj replied when asked by Shah about her experience. "Get your parents to visit next," he promptly advised.

# Maha hikes farm dole by ₹3,000 to ₹15,000 a year

Nagpur: Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis on Monday announced that farmers in the state will soon get a yearly dole of Rs 15,000, up from the Rs 12,000 that they currently receive, reports Shishir Arya.

Of the Rs 12,000 that each farmer gets in Maharashtra, half of it is under Centre's PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana while the rest is the state's matching grant that was implemented two years ago. Increasing this amount was a promise made by the Mahayuti in its manifesto. This will be an extra outgo for the state, which faces a rising debt.

# Modi to attend Bimstec meet in Thailand in April

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India has conveyed to Thailand that PM Modi will travel to the country for the Bimstec summit on April 3-4, said official sources on Monday. Apart from India and Thailand, the inter-regional Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation includes as member states Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bhutan and its summit is held biennially.

For India, as the SAARC summit process remains stalled, Bimstec provides an important platform for promoting regional cooperation, connectivity and security. The last summit, held virtually by Sri Lanka in 2022, saw

the adoption and signing of the Bimstec Charter, which formalised the grouping into an organization made up of member states that are littoral to, and dependent upon, the Bay of Bengal.

This year's summit will see Bangladesh taking over as the Chair from Thailand. It will also be followed closely by a likely meeting between Modi and Bangladesh chief adviser Muhammad Yunus. It will be the first meeting between the leaders after the latter took charge of the country in Aug last year, following the deposition of former PM Hasina.

The 2022 summit also saw progress in the Bimstec connectivity agenda with the adoption of the 'Master Plan for Transport Connectivity'.



Shaktikanta Das on Monday assumed charge as Principal Secretary-2 to Prime Minister. Seen here with the former RBI governor is PK Mishra, first principal secretary to the PM.

# Vinesh lied her way into politics: BJP MP

Vijender Kumar | TNN

Jind: BJP Rajya Sabha MP and former chairperson of National Commission for Women (NCW) Rekha Sharma on Monday claimed Commonwealth Games medal winner and Congress MLA Vinesh Phogat had lied her way into politics.

Sharma said Vinesh used a false narrative which eventually helped her get elected as an MLA from Julana in Haryana, although she did not name anyone against whom

him in the last LS polls. The case of sexual harassment against Singh is already in court. A Delhi court had in May 2024 framed the charges of sexual harassment and using force to outrage women's modesty against him in the criminal case filed by the female wrestlers.

After she was disqualified from the Paris Olympics, Vinesh had also accused Indian Olympics Association chief P T Usha of not providing her enough support.

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1	स्नातकोत्तर शिक्षक (P.G.T) - अंग्रेजी, हिंदी, वाणिज्य, अर्थशास्त्र, राजनितिक विज्ञान, संगणक विज्ञान (Computer Science), इतिहास, भूगोल, रसायन, भौतिकी, जीव विज्ञान एवं गणित। प्रशिक्षित स्नातक शिक्षक (TGT) - अंग्रेजी, हिंदी, गणित, विज्ञान, सामाजिक अध्ययन एवं संस्कृत, कंप्यूटर इंट्रडक्टरी।	दिनांक 04.03.2025 प्रत: 9:00 बजे से	प्रील्म श्री केन्द्रीय विद्यालय ए.जी.सी.आर. कॉलोनी	
2	प्राथमिक शिक्षक (PRT), स्नीत कोच, आर्ट & क्रफ्ट कोच, योग टीचर, स्पोर्ट्स कोच, स्पेशल एड्युकेटर, नर्स, डॉक्टर, काउंसलर एवं बैंड मास्टर (बैंगपाइपर)	दिनांक 06.03.2025 प्रत: 9:00 बजे से		

1. पत्राया या योग्यता की अधिक जानकारी हेतु के. वि. स. की वेबसाइट [www.kvsangathan.nic.in](http://www.kvsangathan.nic.in) पर जाए।  
2. कंप्यूटर की जानकारी अनिवार्य है।  
3. उम्मीदवार अपने साथ पूरी तरह भरा हुआ फॉर्म व सत्यापन हेतु मूल प्रमाण पत्र व उनकी स्व-प्रमाणित प्रतिलिपि अवश्य लाएं।  
4. फॉर्म को <https://agcrcolony.kvs.ac.in> पर जाकर डाउनलोड करे व भरकर साथ लाएं।  
5. स्नी पद केवल संचालक शिक्षक हेतु है। साक्षात्कार के लिए कोई यात्रा भत्ता देय नहीं होगा।  
6. योग्यता एवं साक्षात्कार से संबंधित अधिक जानकारी, विद्यालय की वेबसाइट <https://agcrcolony.kvs.ac.in> या संचालक की वेबसाइट <https://kvsangathan.nic.in> से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।  
(अंजलि जैन)  
कार्यवाहक प्राचार्या

**Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran Division Mangaon.**  
E-Tender Notice (Third Call) No. 7 for 2024-2025

Executive Engineer, Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran Division, Mangaon invites e-Tender for the work of **Jal Jeevan Mission Phansdar Rural Regional Water Supply Scheme Tal. Murud Dist. Raigad Design, Manufacturing, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Pantoon (Floating Pumping Station with Pumphouse)** Estimated cost at **RS. 1,00,97,200/-**

The e-Tender details are available on [www.mahatenders.gov.in](http://www.mahatenders.gov.in) from dated- 25/02/2025.

Sd/-  
(H.R. Nagade)  
Executive Engineer  
Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran  
Division Mangaon.

Date: 17/02/2025

DGI/PR/2024-2025/6639

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
JAWAHAR LAL NEHRU BHAWAN,  
23-D JANPATH, NEW DELHI-110011

Dated: 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2025

Ministry of External Affairs invites applications from interested candidates for engagement as Consultants in NEST and L&T Divisions of the Ministry on contractual basis.

Detailed advertisements along with the process of submission of application is available at Ministry's website [www.mea.gov.in](http://www.mea.gov.in), under the heading - Carriers-Vacancies-2025 (web link <https://www.mea.gov.in/vacancies.htm>) with the Title 'Advertisement for engagement of a Consultant (Technology) for the NEST Division' and 'Advertisement for engagement of a Consultant for Treaty Related Works in the L&T Division'.

Last Date for submission of applications is 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2025. CBC 14101/11/0006/2425

No. E-24/21/2023-ESTT-II-HQ  
Brahmaputra Board  
Ministry of Jal Shakti  
Dept. of Water Resources, RD & GR  
Basistha, Guwahati-29

Date: 17.02.2025

**PRESS NOTIFICATION**

Applications are invited for Appointment on Compassionate Ground under Brahmaputra Board. All the eligible and willing dependent family members whose family members were employed during the time of their death/retirement on medical ground may apply for the same within 30 days from the date of issue of circular No. E-24/21/2023-ESTT-II-HQ dated 17.02.2025 i.e. by 18.03.2025.

The duly filled application must be submitted in the respective Office of Brahmaputra Board where the deceased/retired on medical ground last worked on or before 18.03.2025 (1700 hrs).

The details of Advertisement and application form may be obtained from Board's web site: [www.brahmaputraboard.gov.in](http://www.brahmaputraboard.gov.in) or DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti's Website of [jalshaktidowr.gov.in](http://jalshaktidowr.gov.in).

S/d  
Under Secretary (E)

CBC-45108/11/0003/2425

**North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd.**  
(A Wholly Owned Subsidiary of NTPC)  
Office: Boreland Complex, Lower New Colony, Shikong-730003, Meghalaya  
CIN No. U40101ML1976G01001658 Regd. I Website: [www.neepco.co.in](http://www.neepco.co.in)

File No. PERS/07/G-30/13189 Date: 25-02-2025

**CORRIGENDUM**

**RECRUITMENT FOR THE POST OF EXECUTIVE TRAINEE (FINANCE)**

Ref.: This Office Earlier Published Notification No. NEPCO/05/2025 dated 21-02-2025 is hereby notified that the post of Executive Trainee (Finance) stands omitted and cancelled. In case of payments being already made while applying through online mode will be refunded and the transaction details must be mandatory mentioned filled up along with supporting proof must be attached and forwarded to [recruitment@neepco.co.in](mailto:recruitment@neepco.co.in) for released of payment from this end.

DGM (HR) Recruitment

**GAIL (India) Limited**  
(A Government of India Undertaking)

**Invitation of Expression of Interest (EOI) for Acquisition of Land Parcel(s) for setting up LNG Retail Stations across various locations in India**

GAIL (India) Ltd., a Maharatna CPSE under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG) invites EOIs from interested Individual Land owners/ Firms/Public Limited Companies/ Private Limited Companies/ Partnership Firms/ LLPs/ CPSEs/ Government Authorities/ Autonomous/ Statutory Bodies or any other Instrumentalities of Govt. of India, having clear and absolute title for sale/ long-term lease of their lands.

Acquisition of Land parcels (Either by outright purchase or long-term lease) for setting up of LNG Retail Stations. The intended stretches for this EOI abouting/adjacent NH/Expressway are as under:

Sr. No.	HIGHWAY	HIGHWAY STRETCH/LOCATION
1.	Kolkata-Agra-Delhi (NH-19)	Gobindpur (Dist-Dhanbad), Barhi (Dist Hazaribagh-Jharkhand), Chandauli (Uttar Pradesh), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh), Agra (Uttar Pradesh)
2.	Kolkata-Chennai (NH-16)	Balasoore (Odisha), Khordha (Odisha), Vishakhapatnam (AP), Guntur (AP)
3.	Agra-Kanpur (NH-44)	Agra (Uttar Pradesh), Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh), Sagar (Madhya Pradesh), Nagpur (Maharashtra)
4.	Nagpur-Bengaluru (NH-44)	Nagpur (Maharashtra), Nizamabad (Telangana), Ramaypet-Turan (Dist. Medak, Telangana), Hyderabad (Telangana), Anantpur (Andhra Pradesh), Chikkaballapur (Karnataka) / Devanahalli (Dist.Bengaluru Rural Karnataka)
5.	Delhi/NCR-Agra-Mumbai (NH 44/ NH 60)	Sonapat (Haryana), Agra (Uttar Pradesh), Indore (Madhya Pradesh) on NH 52, Dhule (Maharashtra) on NH 60, Bhiwandi (Dist-Thane before Mumbai-Maharashtra) on NH 60
6.	Delhi-Mumbai (NH 48)	Udaipur (Rajasthan), Karjan/Palej (Dist. Vadodra /Bharuch Gujarat), Bhuruch/ Ankleshwar (Gujarat), Valsad/Vapi (Gujarat).
7.	Mumbai-Goa (NH 66)	Raigadh District (Pen to Nagthane Stretch - Maharashtra), Goa.
8.	Raipur-Kolkata (NH 53)	Rajnandgaon (CG), Sambalpur (Odisha), Keonjhar (Odisha) on NH53

On GAIL's website <https://www.gailonline.com/> w.e.f. 25/02/2025, (in EXPRESSION OF INTEREST section of website).

Last date of submission of EOI (Due Date) 27/03/2025 up to 15:00 hrs.

Date of opening of EOIs 27/03/2025 at 16:00 hrs.

Place of submission/opening of EOIs GAIL Bhawan, Plot No. 16, District Centre, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110066

Mode of submission of EOI documents Speed Post/Courier so as to reach before the due date and time.

GAIL shall not be liable for any postal delays whatsoever in receipt of EOI documents. EOI received after the stipulated date and time shall not be entertained.

GAIL will not be responsible for any cost or expenses incurred by the Applicant in connection with preparation or delivery of EOI.

Brokers/Property Dealers need not apply. Their responses will not be evaluated. GAIL reserves the right to negotiate with any or all, accept or reject any or all of the EOIs received or annul this process at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever.

EOI can be downloaded from the website [www.gailonline.com](http://www.gailonline.com) within the above-mentioned period. Any amendment, clarification, corrigendum w.r.t. EOI will be hosted on [www.gailonline.com](http://www.gailonline.com) Applicants should regularly visit this website to keep themselves updated. Any query related to EOI may be submitted online only at Email ID [mkgtretailing@gail.co.in](mailto:mkgtretailing@gail.co.in) or clarifications received in any other form are liable to be unanswered. A written reply from the GAIL will be suitably given.

Stretches against which Application(s) are received with in due date (or any extension thereof) shall be deemed closed for evaluation. However, stretches against which no Application is received may be extended for Application submission and notification for the same shall be updated in website link mentioned.

Corporate Office : GAIL Bhawan, 16, Bhikaji Cama Place, R.K. Puram, New Delhi - 110066, PH-011-26172580, CIN: L40200DL1984G01018976

[www.gailonline.com](http://www.gailonline.com) #EnergizingPossibilities Follow us on

# Jamiat trust justifies 'halal' cert for tulsii water, water bottles

But Says Govt Statement In Court Incorrect

AmitAnand.Choudhary  
@timesofindia.com



The trust said halal certification is protected under Article 25 and 26 of the Constitution

New Delhi: Facing allegations from Centre that "lakhs of crores of rupees" were being collected through issuance of halal certification for various products, including cement, iron bars, bottles, etc, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind Halal Trust told SC Monday that govt's statement in court "was completely incorrect, vexatious and scandalous".

In an affidavit filed in SC to counter Centre's allegation, the trust said it had never given certification to cement and iron bars and pleaded the court to seek explanation from Centre on what basis it had made the statement. It also said its annual collection is close to only Rs 2.1 crore, out of which Rs 59.2 lakh is paid as tax. It, howev-

er, justified halal certification for lipstick, tulsii water, biscuit, water bottle, etc, saying it is done to ensure that animal fat, bones or any other component has not been used in their manufacturing.

Referring to Centre's statement during court hearing on Jan 20, the affidavit said, "It is submitted that statements of Centre are completely incorrect, vexatious and scandalous. The statements are without any basis, inconsistent with the record and the pleadings sworn on oath by public officials submitted before this court. The instructing officer of govt has shown irresponsible

behaviour while instructing the solicitor general to make such statements. This court may direct govt for disclosure of the fact as to which officer instructed the SG to make such statement before this court as these statements have caused serious prejudice to the concept of halal; which is considered to be one of the basic requirements of behaviour and lifestyle of a very large community of our country."

Centre had told court that 'halal' certification was not confined to food items but it was done for all sorts of products, even cement & iron bars have to be halal-certified.

Responding to allegations, the trust said, "It is submitted that the petitioner has not issued any halal certification to iron bars or cement. Govt is hereby put to strict proof for producing such certification having been granted to any of such manufacturing. However, there are few, predominantly steel and cement manufacturing companies which produce materials to be used in preserving or protecting

edible materials, like tin plates/food cans (for packaging) and are interested in doing their export for their material benefit. When it comes to making exports outside India, the importing establishments from outside India, place conditions on exporting companies that the said materials be halal certified."

The trust said halal certification is a serious issue of religious belief and practice of a large section of Indian citizenry and the same is protected under Article 25 and 26 of the Constitution and it is also related to international trade and commerce.

"It is further submitted that halal certification, mostly, if not all, are consumer driven. In the process as to whether this certification is required or not, there is no role to be played by the certifying agency. It is a business decision of manufacturing companies to opt for such certifications because consumers, who want to consume certain products, necessarily want such certifications," it said.

# Too many ads before a movie? This ruling could change that

A Bengaluru court recently ordered PVR Cinemas to pay damages for delaying the start of a movie, sparking debate on how cinemas, in their quest to increase profits, could be taking their customers' time for granted

Sunil Baghel & Bhavika Jain | TNN

The Bangalore (Urban) District Consumer Commission, in a first-of-its-kind order, directed PVR Cinemas, Bengaluru, and its parent company, PVR Inox, to pay a total of Rs 1.28 lakh as penalty to a patron who had complained he was made to sit through half an hour of advertisements.

The order requires the cinema chain to deposit Rs 1 lakh into a consumer welfare fund and pay Rs 20,000 to the complainant, Abhishek MR, for the inconvenience and mental agony caused, along with Rs 8,000 for his legal expenses.

The court also instructed the cinema chain to clearly state the actual start time of movies on tickets and avoid similar delays in the future.



Image: AI

## The Complaint

On Jan 6 last year, Abhishek MR filed a complaint about the screening of *Sam Bahadur* (2023), a Bollywood movie based on the life of Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw. Abhishek had booked three tickets for the 4.05 pm show at PVR Cinemas in Orion Mall, Bengaluru for Rs 825.66.

Expecting the movie to run for 2 hours and 25 minutes, he planned his evening accordingly, assuming the show would end by 6.30pm. However, Abhishek and his family sat through nearly 30 minutes of advertisements, trailers, and promotional content and the film began at 4.30pm.

He documented the delay in a video recording, arguing that the prolonged pre-show advertisements disrupted his schedule and constituted an unfair trade practice.

## What PVR Said In Its Defence

PVR Cinemas argued that recording a video inside a theatre is illegal as it amounts to piracy, and that made the complainant's evidence inadmissible.

It also said that theatres are legally required to screen govt-mandated public service announcements (PSAs), like anti-tobacco ads, which are typically played when the attendance in the cinema is at its peak.

Govt guidelines, however, specify that PSAs should not exceed 10 minutes before the film starts.

The theatre chain argued that the movie's actual runtime was 2 hours and 30 minutes, not 2 hours and 25 minutes as submitted by the complainant. It also said that audience movement and security checks can cause minor variations in movie start times.

## What The Court Ruled

The Consumer Commission dismissed PVR's arguments and admitted the complainant's video evidence, noting that it did not record the actual movie screening.

The court found that while two of the advertisements shown were govt-mandated PSAs, 95% of the pre-show content was commercial.

The court also said that movie screenings must begin precisely at the time printed on the ticket and recommended that theatres limit commercial ads and PSAs to the intermission period.

"Theatres cannot extend a viewer's stay for commercial gain. Time is an economic asset, and misleading showtimes inconvenience moviegoers," the ruling said.

## How Cinemas Earn

Movie theatres generate revenue through three primary streams, with box office collections being the most obvious one.

In 2023, theatrical revenue hit an all-time high of Rs 11,200 crore, with over 1,796 films making their way to the big screen, according to Ernst & Young's (EY) March 2024 report.

However, every time a ticket is sold, a portion of that money is split between the film's distributor, the exhibitor (the theatre), and the govt in the form of taxes.

After these deductions, the cinema owner is left with a fraction of the total ticket price. That's where the other two revenue streams come in.

Food and beverage sales inside theatres, exorbitantly priced in most cases, is a lucrative revenue stream. A pack of popcorn, available for around Rs 20 outside, can cost you Rs 300 in a multiplex. This is why cinemas don't allow moviegoers to carry any food or even water into the theatre.

The other crucial revenue stream, of course, is advertising.

## How Much Do Cinemas Make From Ads?

According to an Ernst & Young 2024 report, cinemas in India earned Rs 750 crore from in-cinema advertising in 2023.

This revenue stream is likely to grow to Rs 1,000 crore by 2026, driven by factors such as rising discretionary spends, an increase in high-quality mass content, and advancements in pricing strategies and infrastructure.

## Any Fixed Limit On Ads?

There is no regulation limiting the

duration of pre-show advertisements. The number of ads shown before a movie can vary based on factors such as the film's popularity, the time of day, and the day of the week.

"Weekdays generally have fewer ads compared to weekends," said Nitin Datar, president of the Cinema Owners and Exhibitors Association, adding that advertising agreements are typically made in advance and often span a year.

Big films like 'Pushpa 2', said Girish Wankhede, head of business strategy at Cineport Cinemas, pull in more advertising, and what is planned as a 10-12 minutes of ad slot often extends to 20-25 minutes.

## Are Cinemas Struggling?

In Oct 2024, PVR Inox, India's largest multiplex chain, reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 11.8 crore for the Sept quarter, a stark contrast to the Rs 166-crore profit for previous year.

This downturn, according to a Reuters report, was attributed to a 19% fall in total revenue, with movie ticket sales plummeting by 25% and food and beverage sales decreasing by 18%.

However, there are signs of resilience. In Feb 2025, PVR Inox reported a threefold increase in its third-quarter profit, driven by a strong line-up of new films during the festive period like 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3', 'Singham Again', and 'Pushpa 2'. 'Pushpa 2' alone accounted for 36% of box office collections in the quarter.

## What Next?

The Bengaluru court's ruling against PVR Cinemas could set a precedent, pushing theatres to be more transparent about movie start times and reconsider ad durations. However, PVR is expected to challenge the ruling.

If more consumers complain, cinemas may have to disclose ad durations upfront or limit them. Since advertising is a major revenue source, theatres might explore shifting ads to intermissions or offering ad-free premium screenings.

Research: Rajesh Sharma

## 3 killed in TN cracker godown explosion

Three women lost their lives when firecrackers exploded at a godown at Chinnamurukampatty in TN's Dharmapuri Monday. Victims were V Tirumalar, 38, M Shenbagam, 35, and T Manju, 33. The firecrackers exploded around 2pm when they were working in the godown. The bodies were sent for postmortem. CMM K Stalin announced compensation of Rs 4 lakh each for kin of deceased. TNN

## Medical examination confirms groom was drunk; booked under Dowry Act

Continued from P 1

The 500-odd guests at a house in Naughwa Bhagwantpur village in Bareilly stayed in their seats as the bride waited. The garland-exchanging ceremony was about to begin. Kumar turned to the wrong woman. It was just a second. A miscalculation. As confusion rippled through the crowd, he took the garland off and placed it around the neck of a male friend beside her. Then,

to perhaps maintain symmetry, he garlanded an elderly guest. The guests did not react. They watched. The bride, Radha Devi, 21, did not. She slapped him & walked away.

It had taken months of preparation. Omkar Verma, the bride's brother, said the family spent over Rs 10 lakh on the wedding. He had his own theory for why things had gone wrong. "They were unhappy with the dowry. Maybe this was their way of humiliating us," he told

TOI. "We found out that he isn't a farmer as his family told us but a truck driver." At 4am, a complaint was filed at Kularia police station. By morning, the wedding was off, and Kumar was in police custody. By noon, he apologised. His family suggested the wedding should go on. Radha refused.

Circle officer Harsh Modi said, "Medical examination confirmed the groom was drunk. He was booked under sections of Dowry Act."

## LENS ON PLIGHT OF B'DESH MINORITIES



NSA Ajit Doval at an exhibition hosted by Vivekananda International Foundation titled 'The Never Ending Persecution of Minorities in Bangladesh' on Monday. At a panel discussion, he underscored India's concern over the plight of minorities in Bangladesh

## S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER

Tender Notice No. ST-OT-Interlocking-9LC-25, Date 21.02.2025. For and on behalf of President of India, the Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer (Co)/Kharagpur-721301 invites e-tenders for the following works before 12:00 hrs. on the date mentioned against items and will be opened at 12:30 hrs. Description of works : S&T portion of work in connection to (i) Interlocking of 8 nos. LC Gates : KA-3, KA-9, KY-11, PH-2, PH-8, PH-10, HA-22 & HA-27 in Kharagpur Division of South Eastern Railway. (ii) Interlocking of LC Gate No. KY-12 in Nimpura-Gokulpur Section of Kharagpur Division. Tender Value : ₹ 5,17,61,819.21. EMD : ₹ 4,08,800/-. Cost of tender document : Nil. Date of Opening : 17.03.2025. Completion Period : 15 Months. Date of Submission: up to 12:00 hrs. of 17.03.2025. Interested Tenderers may visit website www.ireps.gov.in for full details, description, specification of the tender and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these works will be accepted. N.B. : Prospective bidders may regularly visit www.ireps.gov.in to participate in all tenders. (PR-1168)

Government of Gujarat  
Office of the Resident Commissioner  
Gujarat Bhawan, 11, Kautliya Marg,  
Chanakyaपुरi, New Delhi-110021

E-TENDER NOTICE  
Hiring of Vehicles for Gujarat Bhawan and Garvi  
Gujarat, New Delhi

E-tenders are invited from the reputed and experienced agencies for the above mentioned work under two bid system. Details may be seen in the bidding documents available at website www.gujaratbhawan.gujarat.gov.in and https://tender-nprocure.com The last date for submission of Bid online is 10.03.2025 by 17:30 hours and submission of technical bid physically is 11.03.2025 upto 14:30 hrs.

Sd/-  
Assistant Resident Commissioner

## B-1031 GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

WORKS DEPARTMENT  
E-mail: ce.worldbankprojects@gmail.com  
2nd corrigendum to Bid Identification No. CE-BRIDGES - 12/2024-25  
Tender for the work at SI 01 "Construction of H. L. Bridge over Chhatisha Nallah at Chainage 4.760km on Old Cutback - Sambalpur Road in the District of Cutback under State Plan for the year 2024-25" invited vide Bid Identification No. CE-BRIDGES - 12/2024 - 25 is hereby cancelled due to single qualified bid in 1st tender call.

## A-1098 GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES  
Office of the Additional Chief Engineer,  
Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur - 760004  
e-mail id: se\_sicbam@yahoo.com  
e-Procurement Notice No. ACE,RBB - 13/2024-25

- Type of Work : Flood Protection works.
- Total No of Works : 02 (Two) No.
- Amount put to tender : Rs. 832.95 Lakh to Rs. 687.12 Lakh
- Period of completion : 11 (Eleven) calendar months
- Class of Contractor : 'A' & 'Sp'

Procurement officer	Bid Identification No.	Name of Work	Bid Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Availability & Submission of Bid On-line
Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur	ACE,RBB(BNID)-26/2024-25	Improvement to LFB of river Rushikulya near village Brahmunichai.	832.95	From 27.02.2025, 10.00 A.M. to 13.03.2025, 5.00 P.M.
	ACE,RBB(BNID)-27/2024-25	Improvement to RFB of river Badanadi near village Kamagada.	687.12	

Date of opening of the Technical Bid:- 17.03.2025 at 11.30 A.M.  
Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/-  
Additional Chief Engineer  
Rushikulya Bahuda Basin,  
Berhampur.  
OIPR-32111/11/0008/24-25

## ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION 2025

OJEE 2025  
Ref No:065/OJEE Date:25.02.2025

## NOTICE

For extension of date of submission of bids in r/o Tender ID No. OJEE/737 dated 08.01.2025 for Online Examination (Computer Based Test): Conduct and Processing of Entrance Examinations of ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION (OJEE) - 2025.

With reference our advertisements published in newspapers and our websites vide no: OJEE/735 dated 08.01.2025 and subsequent tender corrigendum No: OJEE/743, dated 21.01.2025 bidders are hereby informed that the last date to submit the complete tender documents is further extended as given below:

Submission of complete tender document: 12.03.2025 at 5:00 PM

Bids opening date & time: 13.03.2025 at 11:30 AM.

All other terms and conditions will remain same as per original tender document and subsequent corrigendum notice. For other details please visit <https://ojee.nic.in>, [www.odishajee.com](http://www.odishajee.com).

Sd/-  
Chairman OJEE  
OIPR-44026/11/0011/24-25

# FDA finds 9 more companies previously permitted to produce now-banned drug

Eshan.Kalyanikar  
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Food and Drug Administration officials identified 9 more companies in and around Palghar that were previously permitted to manufacture and export a lethal medicine combination banned worldwide. The drug gained attention after a media expose held Aveo Pharmaceuticals responsible for its role in fueling the opioid crisis in West African countries.

Of the nine companies, seven never produced the drug. However, two firms based in Boisar, the same area where Aveo operates — National Pharmaceuticals and Maxwell Life Science — had reportedly exported it to West African countries in the past, much like Aveo.

Representatives from National Pharmaceuticals could

not be reached for comment. Sanjay Surana, MD at Maxwell Life Science, stated while they had explored the market, they had never proceeded with manufacturing or exporting the drug. "There was no buyer. It is now out of the question to manufacture these drugs as the product permission has been revoked," Surana said.

Aveo held a GMP certificate in accordance with WHO norms, a requirement in most West African importing countries. FDA officials noted Maxwell Life Science had recently re-applied for GMP certification, while National Pharmaceuticals had never obtained one. "India does not make WHO-GMP mandatory for pharmaceutical exports," an FDA official said.

Meanwhile, officials have seized five consignments of Aveo's Tafrodol, the drug in

question — a dangerous combination of tapentadol, a potent opioid painkiller, and carisoprodol, a muscle relaxant with sedative properties. A total of 90 lakh tablets, worth Rs 1.5 crore, were confiscated, including 26 batches of raw materials classified as active pharmaceutical ingredients (API).

"We are investigating where the other seven companies intended to export these medicines," an FDA official said.

CDSCO only last week instructed all states to withdraw export NoCs and manufacturing permissions for all combinations of tapentadol and carisoprodol. It mandated cancellation of approvals for any combinations not authorised by the importing country.

This was following an investigation by BBC where Aveo Pharmaceuticals MD Vinod Kumar

Sharma was recorded acknowledging the harmful effects of the exported Tafrodol in Ghana, Nigeria, and Ivory Coast.

Aveo has denied allegations and said they were not "the only company in India manufacturing a similar combination product". They said exports were done after obtaining a license from FDA, NoC from the assistant drug controllers and export licence from CDSCO.

TOI had earlier reported the company lists a Borivil address as its headquarters, but the building where its registered head office was located was demolished over a year ago. When TOI visited the redevelopment site Sunday, there was no board displaying developer's name.

Aveo representatives said a banner was placed but was torn down by miscreants, after which they did not put it up again.

# <1% bike riders in crashes wear helmets: Study

Dipak.Dash@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: In glaring evidence of how two-wheeler crashes have a high share in traumatic brain injury (TBIs) in India, a study at Christian Medical College, Vellore revealed that over 70% of injuries were due to such accidents and less than 1% of patients were wearing a helmet at the time of crash.

The results of the study — based on patients admitted to the hospital and carried out over six-and-a-half-years from March 2013 to Sept 2019 — was published on Friday. The report gains significance considering that 77,539 two-wheeler occupants died in road crashes, which was nearly 45% of all road fatalities in 2023 in India. There has been an increase both in the number



77,539 two-wheeler occupants died in road crashes in 2023 in India

and share of two-wheeler occupants getting killed in road crashes in the past decade.

During the study, researchers identified 3,172 patients, of which 84% were males, who were admitted with TBI. Two-wheeler road traffic crashes caused 2,259 (71%) injuries and only 13 (0.6%) of these patients were wearing a

helmet, as per the study. Around one-third patients reported alcohol consumption. The study paper, prepared by researchers from Cambridge University, CMC's neurological sciences department, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, mentioned lesser causes of injury included falls (307), pedestrian-vehicle accidents (163), and four-wheeler road traffic accidents (163). The median

time from injury to arrival at emergency department was 3 hours & 1,093 patients were transferred from a referring hospital. While 1,162 (37%) patients experienced a mild injury, around 33% had moderate injuries and the remaining around 30% (968) had severe injuries.

While there were 174 (5%) in-patient deaths, the overall mortality was 540 (17%) in three to nine months. Only around 4% patients had health insurance, and 31% patients were unable to cover their hospital expenses. The average hospital expenditure was Rs 35,850 and the average patient expenditure was Rs 28,900. A large proportion of TBI cases in low and middle income countries can be prevented or made less severe through public health policies, the report states.

## Expedite KIIT probe, Nepal rights body writes to NHRC

Bhubaneswar: National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of Nepal has written to its Indian counterpart requesting an early investigation into the death of a Nepalese student at Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) in Odisha, and seeking justice for other students from the Himalayan nation who faced ill-treatment at the institute while protesting over her alleged suicide, reports Debabrata Mohapatra.

According to a statement by joint spokesperson of NHRC Nepal, Shyam Babu Kafle, the Indian commission was urged to guarantee safety of Nepalese students studying in the country and "hold KIIT office-bearers to account with a fair investigation".

NHRC Nepal noted that students who were allegedly evicted from the university on Feb 17 following unrest in the aftermath of the alleged suicide were unable to return to campus, apprehending repercussions. Nepal's human rights commission has urged Nepal govt "to take further diplomatic initiatives in this regard with India and create a fear-free environment where students can study", the statement added.

Odisha govt reaffirmed its commitment to ensure safety of Nepalese students. A govt official told TOI, "Our CM has already spoken to Nepal's foreign affairs minister Arzu Rana Deuba and assured her that stringent action would follow against those responsible. Our govt's high-level probe is underway. KIIT authorities have been warned of action if they intimidate or nurture a grudge against any student from Nepal."



**Dr. Mohan Yadav**  
Chief Minister



**Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

# INVEST MADHYA PRADESH

— INFINITE POSSIBILITIES —  
Udyog Evam Rojgar Varsh-2025

*Marking a New Era of  
Industrial Development & Employment in  
Madhya Pradesh*

## GLOBAL INVESTORS SUMMIT CONCLUDES

Chief Guest

**Amit Shah**

Union Minister, Home Affairs  
and Cooperation

August Presence

**Dr. Mohan Yadav**

Chief Minister  
Madhya Pradesh

**25 February, 2025**

4:30 PM–6:00 PM | Main Hall

**Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal**

### HIGHLIGHTS



**LIVE STREAM**

[Webcast.gov.in/mp/cmevents](http://Webcast.gov.in/mp/cmevents)

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[JansamparkMP](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjansamparkMP)

[www.investmp.in](http://www.investmp.in)

# Ahead of Bihar polls, Modi reaches out to tillers with PM-Kisan

Kumar Rajesh & Madan Kumar | TNN

**Bhagalpur/Patna:** Reaffirming his commitment to farmers' welfare, PM Modi disbursed Monday financial assistance of over Rs 22,000 crore to farmers across the country while releasing the 19th instalment of the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) scheme at the Kisan Samman Ceremony in Bhagalpur. He also launched several development projects.

"There are 75 lakh farmer families from Bihar who were beneficiaries of the PM-Kisan scheme... Around Rs 1,600 crore was credited directly into bank accounts of Bihar farmers," he said. Assembly elections will be held in Bihar later this year. More than 9.8 crore farmers, including 2.4 crore female farmers, benefited from the 19th instalment, receiving financial aid without the involvement of any middlemen.

Asserting that farmers would not have received these benefits if his gov't had not been elected, Modi said since the scheme's inception six years ago approximately Rs 3.7 lakh crore had been directly transferred into farmers' accounts. He added that small farmers, who previously struggled to access govt schemes, were now receiving rightful support.

Modi criticised past govts, stating that intermediaries used to exploit small farmers. "Under my leadership, and that of CM Nitish Kumar, this will not be allowed to happen," he said. The PM highlighted the success of PM Fasal Bima Yojana, under which farmers have received claims worth Rs 1.75 lakh crore during disasters.

## RJD gave 'jungle raj' to Bihar, ate animal's fodder: Modi jibe at Lalu

Madan.Kumar@timesofindia.com

**Patna:** PM Modi launched Monday a sharp attack on Bihar's main opposition RJD, accusing it of imposing "jungle raj" during its tenure in office before 2005. Without directly naming RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, he took a swipe at him over the fodder scam as well as his recent remarks on the ongoing Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj. "Those who ate fodder meant for animals cannot think about farmers' welfare in the country," Modi said, speaking at Kisan Samman Ceremony in Bhagalpur. He also released the 19th instalment of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, providing financial assistance of Rs 22,700 crore to farmers nationwide.

Modi accused RJD politicians of disrespecting Hindu traditions. "These jungle raj wallahs are speaking vulgar things about Maha Kumbh. These people were opposed to Ram temple in Ayodhya too. I know the people of Bihar will not forgive them," he said.

Lalu had criticised the rush at Maha Kumbh following a stampede at New Delhi railway station, where at least 18 people were killed. Questioning the crowd surge, Lalu remarked: "What does Kumbh signify? It is 'faaltu' (meaningless)."

# PM picks 10 heavyweights to lead fight against obesity

## They Will Spread Awareness On Reducing Edible Oil Consumption

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** PM Modi on Monday nominated 10 persons from different walks of life, including J&K CM Omar Abdullah, businessman Anand Mahindra and actor Mohanlal, to help fight obesity; a day after he exhorted people to take measures to curb the health menace.

"I would like to nominate the following to help strengthen the fight against obesity and spread awareness on reducing edible oil consumption in food. I request them to nominate 10 people each so that our movement gets bigger," Modi wrote on X.

Olympians shooter Manu Bhaker and weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani, actor R Madhavan, singer Shreya Ghoshal, philanthropist and Raja Sabha MP Sudha Murty and Bhojpur singer-actor Nirahua were the other personalities nominated by the PM.

Making a strong pitch for fighting obesity, Modi in his 'Mann Ki Baat' broadcast on Sunday urged people to use less oil in food and pass on the challenge of reducing oil intake by 10% to 10 others.

Omar, who said he was happy to join PM's campaign, also nominated 10 persons to join it. They are Biocon managing director Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, businessman Sajjan Jindal, actor Deepika Padukone, former tennis player Samia Mirza, ex-cricketer Irfan Pathan, MP Supriya Sule and former wushu

## PRIME MINISTER'S FITNESS AMBASSADORS

Modi nominated 10 persons from different walks of life to help fight obesity and urged them to nominate 10 each to expand the health movement



player Kuldeep Handoo.

Mahindra Group chairman Anand Mahindra said to achieve mission of a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, "we not only need a strong economy, but a healthy population as well".

"Making small changes like using even 10% less cooking oil can build up to big contributions; be it to your well-being, to your wallet, or to a healthier world," Mahindra posted on X. He nominated actors Anil Kapoor and Gul Panag, Zerodha co-founder Nikhil Kamath, India's first chess grandmaster Vishwanath Anand, and ace badminton player P V Sindhu to take forward the campaign.

Nilekani said apart from a range of health-related benefits, reduced use of edible oil will also strengthen the nation's economy by cutting dependence on imports and saving valuable resources. "In addition to dietary changes, I have also incorporated daily exercise

## Modi's Monday: Breakfast in MP, lunch in Bihar and dinner in Assam

The weeks following Delhi polls were supposed to be a lean season politically, with no Parliament session and no electoral battles looming. But not so for PM Narendra Modi, who swung by three states on Monday — having breakfast in Madhya Pradesh, lunch in Bihar and dinner in Assam. The PM started his day inaugurating the Global Investor Summit in MP, where he pitched the state as an attractive investment destination, while asserting that the world was optimistic about India.

By afternoon he reached Bhagalpur, in what was seen as Modi's first address in the run-up to state polls later this year. He released Rs 22,000 crore of PM-Kisan funds to 9.8 crore farmers. He then hopped on to his aircraft and reached Guwahati on a two-day visit. In the evening, he witnessed the Jhumur dance performance. TNN

to keep obesity and related issues in check," he said.

Nilekani nominated industrialist Harsh Goenka, chef Ritu Dalmia, Mynta founder Mukesh Bansal, and Kotak Mahindra Bank director Uday Kotak, among others, for the campaign.

Sudha Murthy nominated fellow parliamentarian and former Olympian P T Usha, ex-cricketers Anil Kumble

and Venkatesh Prasad, former top cop and governor Kiran Bedi and author Amish Tripathi, among others.

Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, who won silver at 2021 Tokyo Olympics, wrote on X, "Making small changes to our daily lives can result in a huge transformation all over the country and help us move towards achieving our dream of making a fit India."

# Post-RGK, Didi hikes docs' stipends by up to ₹25,000

Sumati.Yengkhom  
@timesofindia.com

**Kolkata:** Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee on Monday announced a slew of benefits for doctors, while outlining her administration's expectations from them, at her first conclave with health professionals since Aug 2024 rape-murder of a junior doctor at RG Kar Hospital.

Banerjee, who addressed 4,000 healthcare workers, announced significant hikes in stipends—ranging between Rs 10,000 and Rs 25,000—for junior and senior resident doctors working at state-run hospitals. She also increased the private-practice distance cap for state ser-

vice doctors. They can now conduct private practice up to 30km from their workplace—up from existing cap of 20km. In another decision, the govt scrapped the suspension of seven Midnapore Medical College & Hospital junior doctors (which followed the death of a mother after a C-section delivery).

The CM also outlined her expectations from the community: doctors should spend at least eight hours at workplace and seniors should not leave patient care, including C-section deliveries, to juniors. Doctors should not have any "political colour"; and they should rise above politics and have "only one colour (humanity)", she said.



# New CEC to chair meet on modern poll management

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Election Commission is set to reflect on issues related to modern election management, including an enabling IT architecture and enhancement of its social media outreach, at a conference with chief electoral officers of all states & UTs here from March 4-5.

This is the first event to be chaired by newly appointed CEC Gyanesh Kumar. In a first, the EC has instructed every CEO to nominate a district election officer and an electoral registration officer to participate in the conference. "As statutory authorities, CEOs, DEOs and EROs are important functionaries at the state,

district and the assembly levels," the EC said on Monday.

To be held at India International Institute of Democracy & Election Management, the two-day conference will serve as a platform for election officials of states and

UTs for brainstorming & learning from each other's experiences.

The first day of the event will witness discussions on key areas of modern election

management, including IT architecture, effective communication, enhancing social media outreach and statutory role of different functionaries in electoral processes. On the second day, CEOs of states and UTs will present respective action plan on the thematic discussions from Day 1.



**Cabinet Secretariat Department**  
(Directorate of Civil Aviation)  
Patna Airport, Patna - 800014  
Patna 42423, Fax 0612 2224614, e-mail-cadbiar@bihar.gov.in

Letter No. 0612-2225659

05-01-2025-1499

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tender are hereby invited by the Govt. of Bihar from NSOP holder operator under DGCA, India, for hiring of one Twin Engine, VVIP/VIP configured Helicopter of 8+2 seating capacity on wet lease basis for a period of 12 Months for operation in Bihar and entire Territory of India.

THE DESIRED SPECIFICATIONS OF THE HELICOPTER ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

a) The age of the helicopter should not be more than 10 years from the date of manufacture.

b) The helicopter should be twin engine certified vide FAR 29 or CS 29 certification standards with helicopter and Engines duly approved by DGCA for operating (VFR&IFR) by both, Day and Night.

c) Maximum AUW below 5700kg

d) Category A performance capability.

e) Dual flight control with Auto Pilot.

f) CVR/DFDR, EGPWS, ADSB (Desired) and other essential equipment installed as required by the DGCA vide various Rules/CARs/Guiding Circulars.

g) Should be able to fly Minimum Range 300 NM in one refuelling with AUW of 7+2/8+2 seating configuration.

h) Should be fully air conditioned.

i) Average cruising speed should not be below 130 knots.

j) Helicopter should be in VVIP/VIP seating configuration.

Other features:

• At the time of submitting the offer the Helicopter shall be type certified by Directorate General of Civil Aviation, India as per Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) Section 3 - air transport series 'C' part X.

• The above specifications are indicative. In case any better specification are available, the same may be furnished.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

1. The helicopter shall be placed at Patna on 01.04.2025

2. One in number Twin Engine helicopter 7+2/8+2 (Passenger + Pilot) seater required for VVIP/VIP operation in Bihar and all airports in India initially for a period of 12 months. It can be extended on same terms and conditions for another 03 months. Average utilization of flying hours will be 25 hrs. per month.

3. Technical Bid should contain :-

I. Profile of Company

II. Details of technical specification of the Helicopter with Name of manufacturer, Type of Helicopter, Year of making & Regd. No.

III. Current Certificate of Airworthiness (ARC) for the Helicopter offered.

IV. Proof of the operator holding valid Non Schedule operator Permit (NSOP) issued by DGCA, Govt. of India.

V. Copy of Certificate of incorporation issued by Registrar of company.

VI. Copy of PAN, GST Registration Certificate & Income Tax Return of previous 03 years.

VII. Bid Bond (Earnest Money) of Rs. 50,000/- (Fifty thousand Rupees) in the form of Bank Draft payable to Bihar Flying Inst. C.A. Department, Cabinet Secretariat Department, Patna.

VIII. Self Certificate that the Company/Operator having no records of major accidents in last 05 years.

4. The successful Bidder shall furnish Performance Guarantee after getting Letter of Intent, in the form of Bank Draft or Bank guarantee from the Nationalized Bank or Scheduled Bank in India for a sum equivalent to 5% of the total tender value for a period of 12 months drawn in favour of Bihar Flying Inst. C.A. Department, Cabinet Secretariat Department, Patna.

5. Quoted rate should be fixed and firm for the helicopter i.e.

a. Fixed monthly charge at Rs. .... only per month.

b. Hourly flying charge for hours actually flown at Rs. .... only per flying hours.

c. Mobilization and demobilization charge (Lump-sum) for the first induction of the helicopter at state hanger, Patna Airport at the beginning of the contract and withdrawal of the helicopter after expiry of the contract at Rs. Nil.

d. No other miscellaneous charges should be payable i.e. ground handling, landing Parking and accommodation, transportation of Pilot, engineer etc.

6. Interested and qualified agencies are requested to submit their tender along with requisite documents relating to desired specifications of the helicopter through Speed Post/Registered Post/ Courier/ By hand latest by 05:00 pm on 17.03.2025 and sealed & subscribed as "Tender for Hiring of One twin engine helicopter on wet-lease". The posts are to be addressed to The Director, Directorate of Aviation, Patna Airport, Patna (Bihar) 800014 Bihar.

However, if the quotation found incomplete, not supported by requisite Bid Bond and/or required documents or deficient of any technical parameters as specified in the Detailed Tender Documents, their Quotation shall not be valid and same will be returned to the bidder.

7. The bidder shall be allowed to ground the helicopter for maintenance if required @ 04 days per month during the term of this agreement. In the event of grounding of operating helicopter for scheduled/routine inspection/maintenance or Technical snag or whatsoever, for excess days of grounding beyond permissible ground time of 04 days in a month, if the bidder fails to provide backup helicopter of the same type, a penalty of 1/15th of the fixed monthly charge per day shall be imposed and the amount so calculated shall be deducted from the fixed monthly charged bill or hourly flying charged bill of that month or of subsequent month.

In the case if replacement of helicopter is not of similar type and standard only 75% of original charge will be paid for 10 days, thereafter 60% till 30 days and 50% charge will be paid after 30 days. Replaced helicopter should be acceptable to the government of Bihar.

8. The evaluation of Bids will be done on the basis of quoted fixed monthly charge and flying hourly charge for hours actually flown. For the purpose of evaluation only the bid shall be calculated on the basis of monthly fixed charges + flying charges for 25 hours.

9. The tender will be opened on 18.03.2025 at 03:00 PM before the committee headed by Additional Chief Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat Department, Bihar, Patna or by an officer so authorized by him before bidder's representatives.

10. The Successful bidder will have to sign an agreement as per financial rules. Any violation of agreement will be deemed to be a breach of contract and accordingly legal action will be taken.

11. For any technical query feel free to contact The Accountable Manager, Directorate of Aviation, Govt. of Bihar (Mobile-9905035154) or on e-mail i.e. cadbiar@bihar.gov.in

12. The Additional Chief Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat Department, Govt. of Bihar reserves the right to reject any or all the bids offer without assigning any reasons thereof.

13. In case of any dispute, the place of settlement will be within the Jurisdiction of High Court at Patna.

14. The detailed information of published Tender notice can also be seen on website <http://state.bihar.gov.in/csd>

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

PR-020218 (Cabinet) 2024-25

Director,  
Directorate of Aviation

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

## PRESS NOTICE

HIMACHAL PRADESH  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

The Executive Engineer, Jawali Division HPPWD, Jawali -176023 on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites e-tenders on percentage basis, from approved and eligible contractors registered with HPPWD for the following work.

Sr. No. :- 1 Division :- Jawali Name of Work :- Construction of Rajiv Gandhi Govt. Model Day Boarding School at Thanger/Jawali in District Kangra (HP). (SH- Construction of Building portion (Ground floor) including Water Supply & Sanitary Installation and Septic Tank). Estimated cost (Rs.) :- 45308069/- Earnest money (Rs.) :- 906200/- Time allowed for completion (Months) :- Eighteen Months

Cost of documents (Rs.) :- 5000/- Class of contractor / Firms :- Class-B & A Location/ Office where e-tenders will be opened :- Jawali Division, HPPWD Jawali Date and time of opening of Tenders :- 03/03/2025

1. Tender documents, other instructions and terms and conditions can be downloaded or viewed on line from the portal <https://pmsys.tendership.gov.in> by the firms/individual registered on the website which is free of cost.

2. As the bids are to be submitted online are required to be encrypted and digitally signed.

3. Key Dates :-

1. Date of online publication 24/02/2025 at 5:00 PM

2. Downloading of e-tender document From 24/02/2025 at 5:00 PM up to 03/03/2025 at 10:30 AM

3. Date of submission of e-tendering From 24/02/2025 at 5:00 PM up to 03/03/2025 at 10:30 AM

4. Physically submission of earnest money deposit and cost of tender 03/03/2025 up to 1:30 PM

5. Date of technical bid opening, evaluation of technical bid followed by financial bid 03/03/2025 at 2:00 PM

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Jawali Division, HP, PWD,  
Jawali -176023  
Telephone No 01893264186  
e-mail ee-jaw-hp@nic.in  
For on behalf of Government of H.P.

HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK.

Adv.No.:- 5471/24/02/2025.

NORTHERN RAILWAY  
OPEN TENDER NOTICE

The Divisional Engineer/Track, Northern Railway, DRM Office, Delhi Division, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055, for and on behalf of the President of India invites sealed open electronic-tenders for under noted works:-

S. NIT No. Name of work Approximate cost of work Earnest money to be deposited Completion period Date of opening

1 31 Supplying, stacking and loading of 30,000 Cum, 65 mm gauge stone ballast (Machine crushed) into Railway Wagons at ballast sub depot No. 01 at TKD. (including all leads & lift, GST, taxes etc., so nothing will be paid extra whatsoever the case may be) Rs. 3,86,41,500/- Rs. 3,43,200 12 Months 18.03.2025

2 32 Fabrication assembly of G-3/L type Glued insulation joints at Track Depot Shakurbasti under DEN/Track/DLI. Rs. 2,48,99,085/- Rs. 2,74,500/- 12 Months 18.03.2025

The e-tender is to be submitted through railway website '<https://www.ireps.gov.in>'. The tenders can be submit on website up to 15:00 hrs. on 18.03.2025 and shall be opened there after.

NO: 128-W/Sr. DEN-C/NIT-31-32-2024-25-WC Date: 24.02.2025

608/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

STATE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY (PC & PNDD ACT)  
DIRECTORATE OF FAMILY WELFARE, GNCT OF DELHI  
'B' & 'C' WING, VIKAS BHAWAN-II, CIVIL LINES, DELHI-110054, Ph: 23813477  
Email: pndt.delhi@gov.in, cmopndt@gmail.com

3rd Phase of Competency Based Assessment under PC&PNDD

Attention of all medical practitioners, who are registered under PC&PNDD Act on the basis of six months training/one-year experience in ultrasonography with the District Appropriate Authorities under GNCT of Delhi and conducting ultrasound procedures, is drawn to the provisions of The Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) (Six Months Training) Rules, 2014 under which it is mandatory to undergo and qualify the competency based assessment. The competency based assessment of all such practitioners will be conducted as per the provisions of The Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) (Six Months Training) Rules, 2014 and amendment 26.06.2020.

The applications are invited for appearing in the said examination. The application form and guide lines along with other details are available on the website of Health and Family welfare <http://health.delhigovt.nic.in> and DSHM <https://dshm.delhi.gov.in> between 25.02.2025 to 10.03.2025.

Duly filed application forms accompanied with required documents must be submitted to "State Programme Officer" PC&PNDD, Directorate of Family Welfare, 7th Floor, B-Wing, Civil Lines, Delhi-110054 between 25.02.2025 to 10.03.2025 and latest by 10.03.2025 by 5:00p.m.

The list of eligible candidate will be displayed on the official website of Health and Family welfare <http://health.delhigovt.nic.in> and DSHM <https://dshm.delhi.gov.in> after screening of application forms along with date and venue of theory examination within 10-15 days after the last date of submission of application form.

Candidate qualifying in the theory exam will be allowed for appearing in practical examination.

The syllabus and pattern of examination will be as per notification in the Gazette of India extraordinary part II section 3 sub section (i) January 10, 2014 and amendment vide notification dated 26.06.2020.

STATE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY  
PC & PNDD ACT GNCT OF DELHI

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0592/24-25

# Well near Sambhal masjid on public land: UP to SC

**New Delhi:** UP govt has informed the Supreme Court that the disputed "private well" near the Mughal-era Jama Masjid mosque in Sambhal was situated on public land. A status report was filed before a bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjay Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar following a Jan 10 direction of SC.

"The petitioners are attempting to create private rights over a public well. The subject well is part of the 19 wells that are being revived by the district administration for inter alia, rainwater harvesting, water recharge and use by all communities" the report said.

The report stated that the well, locally known as "dharani varah koop", was situated near and not inside the disputed religious site, and had no connection with the mosque.

"Even the disputed religious site is situated on public land. It is submitted that the well is public

well and is not situated anywhere inside the mosque/disputed religious site. In fact, there is no access to the subject well from inside the mosque," it added.

The state administration formed a three-member committee comprising the SDM Sambhal, area officer, Sambhal and the

executive officer, municipal council, Sambhal, to examine the status of the well in question.

The Uttar Pradesh govt said the petitioner failed to disclose there was a well within the boundary walls of the mosque known locally as "yagna koop".

The committee, in a spot inspection, found that the well was situated outside the mosque boundary wall, the report said. "The petitioner has annexed misleading photographs attempting to show that the subject well is located inside its premises..It was also found during the inspection that this well was in use since time immemorial by persons of all communities. TNN

OWNERSHIP ROW

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OWNERSHIP ROW

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### CCTV footage helped solve school blast puzzle, says SP

Continued from P 1

A team led by district education officer is conducting a probe. The Chhattisgarh school blast puzzled investigators. The chemical burns on the victim and lack of shrapnel indicated it wasn't an explosive device or the work of a professional. There was no clear motive to target the child. "It's a strange case," said Bilaspur SP Rajesh Singh, adding CCTV footage solved the puzzle. "It helped identify the students who planted sodium inside the school washroom," he said. Accused students were upset with a teacher and decided to teach her a lesson. A student ordered sodium online from her aunt's account and others planted it in the cistern, designed to explode the moment someone tried to flush. Oblivious to the sinister plan, the 9-year-old went to the washroom on Feb 21 and as she flushed, an explosion occurred. School staff heard the blast and rushed to help but the door was locked. They broke it down to find her slumped over, with burns all over. She was rushed to hospital in critical condition. Her parents lodged an FIR. SP Singh said such chemicals are not easily available and certain guidelines must be followed for their sale and purchase. "Online purchase is a major loophole that needs to be fixed," he added.

### Can't call Modi govt fascist, says CPM, faces CPI, Cong ire

Rajeev.KR@timesofindia.com

**Kozhikode:** A detailed note from CPM to its state units explaining why its draft political resolution for the 24th party congress does not say "Modi govt is fascist or neo-fascist" or characterise "the Indian state as a neo-fascist state" has accentuated fault lines in the Left front, with CPI demanding that its ally correct what is seen as a big U-turn. "What we are pinpointing is that after 10 years of continuous rule by BJP, which is the political wing of RSS, there was a consolidation of political power in the hands of BJP-RSS, and this is resulting in the manifestation of neo-fascist characteristics," states the note. It explains that the "characteristics" referred to in the draft political resolution for the April congress implies "features or trends" but not explicitly a neo-fascist govt or state. "The political resolution is talking about the danger of Hindutva-corporate authoritarianism going towards neo-fascism if BJP-RSS are not fought back and halted." Unlike CPI and CPI (ML), both fiercely antagonistic towards the Sangh, CPM has all along taken an admittedly nuanced stand, with multiple political resolutions stating

that the "authoritarian and Hindutva communal attacks display emerging fascist trends" (22nd party congress) and that Modi govt was carrying out the "fascist agenda of RSS" (23rd party congress). Congress reacted sharply to the note while CPI said it couldn't understand the "haste" to cushion the fascist labelling of Modi govt. "Fascist ideology teaches how religion and faith can be used for political gain and BJP govt is implementing these in practice," CPI state secretary Binoy Viswan said. Leader of opposition V D Sathesnan of Congress said CPM's assessment was part of its decision to "align with Modi and work in subservience to the Sangh". He said the "CPM discovery" wasn't a surprise, exposing its "secret relationship with BJP for years". Terming the controversy misplaced, CPM central committee member A K Balan said it would be wrong to say CPM had changed its opinion ahead of the upcoming party congress. "Opposition in Kerala calls Pinarayi Vijayan govt a fascist govt. That doesn't mean the LDF govt is fascist," he said, adding, "Modi govt has some fascist traits that, if not checked, could manifest into fascist governance. But it would be too early to brand it as a fascist govt."

### Sex assault on five tribal girls, 18 minors detained

Were Returning From Marriage Event In J'khand

Sanjay Sahay | TNN

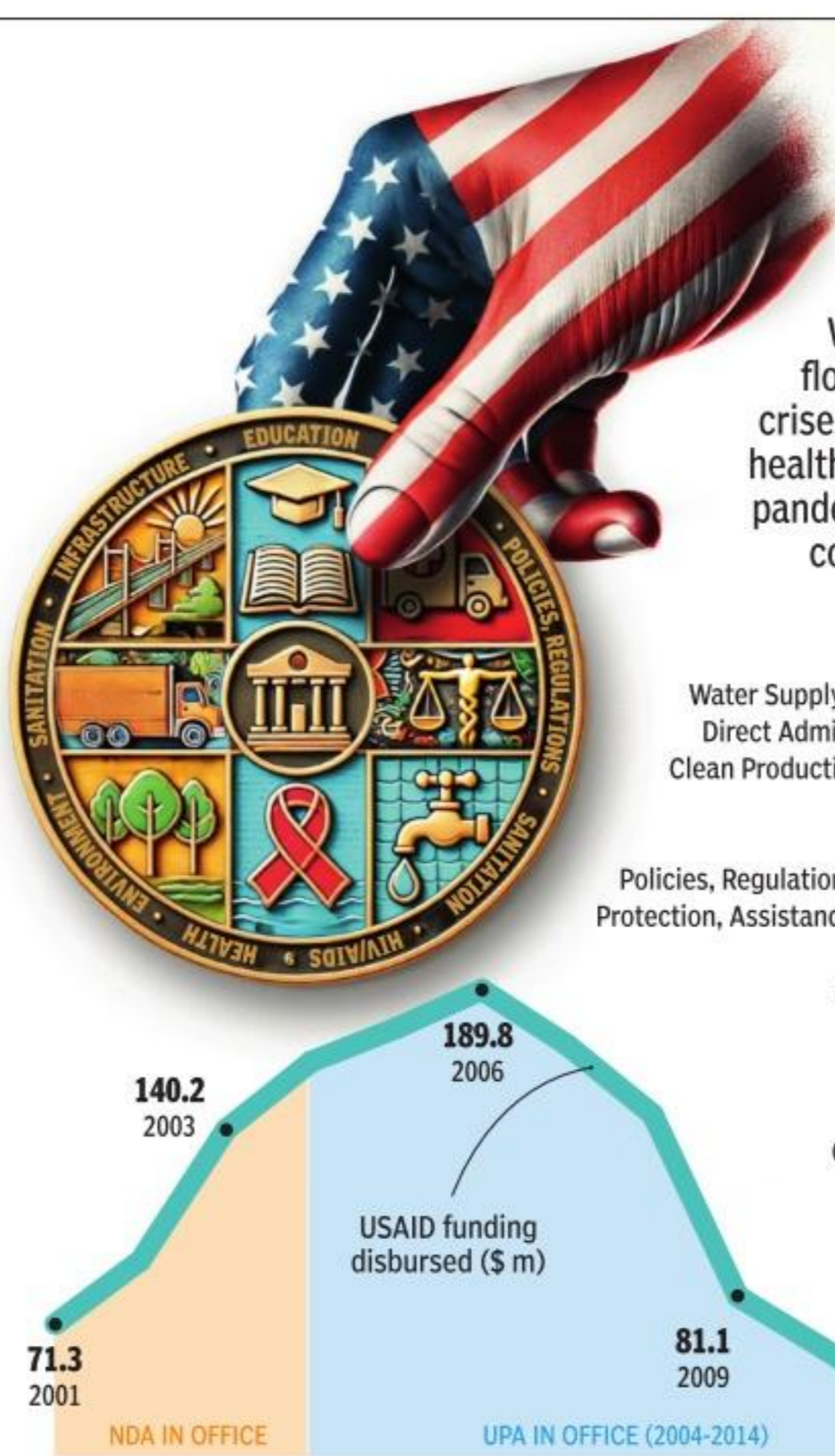
**Ranchi:** Jharkhand police have detained 18 boys for allegedly raping three girls and molesting two others in Rania block of Khunti district on Friday night. The survivors and the suspects are minors from the tribal community. An investigation is underway to determine the circumstances surrounding the alleged crime, which came to light after the girls' parents filed a complaint Sunday. "It took place around 9.30pm when the girls, aged between 13 and 18, were returning home in a group from a 'lota-pani' (a marriage-related function) in a village. The accused surrounded the girls and committed the crime," Khunti SP Aman Kumar said Monday. The alleged crime bears a stark resemblance to the 2018 gang rape of 5 women in Kochang block of the same district. Kumar said the detained

Survivor seeks police help, raped by cop

A police constable, in his late 30s, was arrested for allegedly raping a minor who sought assistance after being raped by her neighbour on pretext of marriage. "In Dec last year, the girl and her mother approached Bommanahalli police, alleging that the neighbour had been harassing the teen for marriage. The cop, who discovered that the neighbour had established physical relations with the girl, befriended her and took her to a hotel room. There, he gave her beer laced with sleeping pills and raped her. He threatened her saying he had recorded the act and would upload it on social media if she dared to file a complaint against him," police said. The girl later informed her mother about both sexual assaults and the latter filed a police complaint against the accused duo under Pocso Act. TNN

BTech student raped on way from college

A 17-year-old BTech first-year student was raped by a man after giving her a lift on his bike when she was returning home from college in UP's Muzaffarnagar, police said on Monday. Police said that medical reports have confirmed 'sexual assault', reports **Sudeep Lavania**. The crime took place on Feb 21. Instead of dropping the girl home, the man took the minor to a secluded spot in the village. Three of the accused's friends also reached the spot to "assist him". The matter came to light after the girl narrated her ordeal to her parents, who filed a complaint Sunday. ASP Rajesh Ghunawat said, "An FIR was registered against main accused Himanshu and his friends Sagir, Siddharth and Adesh under BNS Section 63 (rape) and Pocso Act. All accused are on the run." they reported the crime. However, the girls informed their parents Saturday morning, who approached local elected representatives before filing a police complaint.



### Key Players Who Drive USAID's Projects

Behind every USAID project is a network of implementing partners. These partners — ranging from govt bodies to private enterprises and international organisations — are the backbone of USAID's initiatives

US Govt — USAID Dept	218.9
Govt of India	181.4
Nexant, Inc. (US Firm)	78.6
CARE International (US NGO)	58.7
World Health Organisation	44.9
US Govt — Department of Energy	41.3
JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (US NGO)	40.4
Tetra Tech, Inc. (US NGO)	39.8
Jhpiego Corporation (US NGO)	39.3
Tibet Fund (US NGO)	36.0

### Most Heavily Funded Projects

The largest USAID-funded projects in India focus on fundamental issues: health, clean energy, and supporting vulnerable communities. The 'Improved Health and Reduced Fertility' project alone secured over \$280m

Improved Health and Reduced Fertility in Targeted Areas	280.7
Improved Access to Clean Energy and Water in Selected States	205.5
USAID Administrative costs	175.1
Increased Transparency and Efficiency in the Allocation	95.9
Enhanced Opportunities for Vulnerable People	80.4
Inter-Agency with JHS ASPR — Brazil support	50.8
WHO Umbrella Grant	44.6
Program to Strengthen Self Reliance & Resilience of Tibetan Communities in South Asia	42.3
Momentum 3B: Overcoming Entrenched Obstacles in Routine Immunization	35.7
WHO: Polio & Immunizations (Health and Emergency Response Support)	33.3

**22%** of total funding was received in the last 5 years, driven by the Covid-19 pandemic. Of this, 50% went to health, 20% to economic development, and 10% to education. Notably, 3% — around \$16m — was allocated to democracy, human rights, and governance

### How India Compares With Others

India ranks below Afghanistan, Israel, and Egypt when it comes to USAID funding. Among its neighbours, Pakistan received over 5 times the aid India did

Country	Amount (\$ bn)
1. Afghanistan	146.5
2. Israel	91.2
3. Iraq	89.6
4. Egypt	49.4
5. Ukraine	46.9

Country	Amount (\$ bn)
1. Pakistan	23.70
2. Bangladesh	7.10
3. Nepal	3.16
4. INDIA	2.18
5. Sri Lanka	1.69

### Cong backing 'covert interference' to hurt democracy: BJP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** BJP on Monday accused Congress of defending "covert interference" by foreign donors seeking to destabilise India's democracy, after the opposition party cited a finance ministry report on USAID-funded projects in India to claim that it has thoroughly exposed govt's "lies". BJP IT department head Amit Malviya claimed the desperation of Congress and its ecosystem to deflect from the controversial USAID funding routed through various "George Soros-linked

NGO structures to meddle with India's electoral process is a dead giveaway". "It is now obvious who the beneficiaries are," he said on X. He said USAID projects are official govt-to-govt partnerships, transparently executed as externally aided projects. Centre simply channels these funds to states for development, which is well within the framework of cooperative federalism, Malviya added. The projects cited in the finance ministry's 2023-24 report trace their origins back to 2010-11, Malviya said, add-

**Govt report exposed BJP's USAID 'lies': Cong**  
Aimed Union finance ministry has "thoroughly exposed" BJP's "lies" with its annual report for 2023-24 stating the US agency is currently implementing seven projects in collaboration with Indian govt and none of them has anything to do with voter turnout. Congress' Jairam Ramesh said, "None other than Union finance ministry has thoroughly exposed the lies of the PM and his 'jhoth brigade', including his dapper external affairs minister." "Not a single of the seven projects has to do with voter turnout. All of them are with and through Union govt," he said. PTI

the selective amnesia and political theatrics. Facts matter. India's governance will not be dictated by foreign agents masquerading as benefactors," Malviya said. For financial year 2023-24, an obligation of \$97 million was made by USAID under the seven projects, the finance ministry report said. During the year, no funding was made for enhancing voter turnout but to projects related to agriculture and food security programme; water, sanitation & hygiene (WASH); renewable energy; disaster management and health.

### Land Ports Authority of India

(A statutory body under Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India)

#### INVITATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT IN VARIOUS POSTS

Land Ports Authority of India has invited applications vide vacancy circular E-13012/1/2024/LPAI/Deputation Recruitment(Pt-1)/3704359 dated 09.01.2025 from the serving employees of Central/State Government / Union Territory Administration / Statutory Body / Autonomous Body for filling up various posts in Levels 6.7, 11 and 13 of Pay Matrix Level (7th CPC) in LPAI mentioned below at its Headquarter in New Delhi and ICPS at Attari and Dera Baba Nanak (Punjab), Petrapole (West Bengal), Raxaul and Jogbani (Bihar), Moreh (Manipur), Dawki (Meghalaya), Rupaidihari (UP), Agartala, Sabroom and Srimantpur (Tripura), Sutarkandi, Mankachar, Darrang and Golakganj (Assam) on deputation (Foreign Service):

Sl. No.	Name of Post	Pre-revised Pay Band + Grade Pay	Pay Matrix Level (7th CPC)	No. of posts to be filled up
1.	Director (Technical)	Pay Band-4 + 8700	Level-13	1
2.	Under Secretary	Pay Band-3 + 6600	Level-11	2
3.	Section Officer	Pay Band-2 + 4600	Level-7	4
4.	Assistant Engineer (Civil & Electrical)	Pay Band-2 + 4600	Level-7	3
5.	Private Secretary	Pay Band-2 + 4600	Level-7	1
6.	Assistant	Pay Band-2 + 4200	Level-6	3
7.	Junior Engineer (Civil and Electrical)	Pay Band-2 + 4200	Level-6	4
8.	Sr. Accountant	Pay Band-2 + 4200	Level-6	1
9.	Personal Assistant	Pay Band-2 + 4200	Level-6	1
Sub Total (A)				20

Sl. No.	Name of Post	Pre-revised Pay Band + Grade Pay	Pay Matrix Level (7th CPC)	No. of posts to be filled up
1.	Manager/Port Administrator (New Designation)	Pay Band-3 + 6600	Level-11	10
Sub Total (B)				10
GRAND TOTAL (A+B)				30

For ICPS:

Sl. No.	Name of Post	Pre-revised Pay Band + Grade Pay	Pay Matrix Level (7th CPC)	No. of posts to be filled up
1.	Manager/Port Administrator (New Designation)	Pay Band-3 + 6600	Level-11	10

2. Complete information of posts, eligibility criteria, application format and other details are available on the website at <http://mha.nic.in/vacancies>, <https://dopt.gov.in/whats-new> and <http://lpai.gov.in>.

3. Last date for receiving of applications through proper channel is here by extended from 24.02.2025 to 24.03.2025. Incomplete applications received after the last date shall not be considered.

4. Address for sending applications: Deputy Secretary (Administration) Land Ports Authority of India First Floor Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market New Delhi-110003 Tel No. 011-24340708, E-mail: [dsga-lpai@lpai.gov.in](mailto:dsga-lpai@lpai.gov.in)

CBC 19142/11/0012/2425

### बिहार सरकार

कार्यालय विद्युत कार्यपालक अभियंता, विद्युत कार्य प्रमंडल, सं०-३, पटना, मवन निर्माण विभाग शुद्धि पत्र

इस कार्यालय के द्वारा आमंत्रित ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-24 / 2024-25 जिसका पी० आ० सं०-18843(BCD) 2024-25 है, में अन्वेषित-विस्तार निम्न प्रकार किया जाता है:-

कार्य का नाम:- Provision of Audio conference System for Bihar Legislative Assembly with five years Operation and maintenance at Patna.

विवरण	पूर्व की तिथि	अन्वेषित विस्तार की तिथि
Date & time for downloading of Tender document.	Upto 24.02.2025 Timing-3:00 PM.	Upto 07.03.2025 Timing-3:00 PM.
Date & time for submission (upload) of Tender.	25.02.2025 Timing - 3:00 PM.	11.03.2025 Timing - 3:00 PM.
Hard Copy Submission of tender document.	&	12.03.2025 Timing - 3:00 PM.
Date & time for Opening technical Bid.	27.02.2025 Timing - 3:30 PM.	12.03.2025 Timing - 3:30 PM.

SI No. 15)

As per SBD dafMdk & 4-5C The Bidder must furnish satisfactorily completed one similar nature work, Audio-Video/Electrical work the bidder should provide tender specific authorization(MAF) in OEM letterhead for SITC & operation & Maintenance of audio-Video from BCD approved Specification/ Company 70% of quoted value during last seven year Certified by the competent authority not below the rank of Executive Engineer of Central/State Government Departments/ Public Sector undertakings of Similar Nature of work along with Technical Bid. Audio conference OEM should provided incorporation certificate in India, also provided valid BIS registration certificate for chairman and delegate system considering the major part of tender. Audio Conference product customization (if any) should be from OEM factory and OEM needs to submit the confirmation letter from the factory. The OEM and Bidder shall not share the common borders with india and adhere of GFR 144(XI) guidelines of purchase manual.

As per SBD Rule 4.5(b) The Bidder must furnish satisfactorily completed at least One Similar nature work (Audio/Video/Electrical) Value not less than 50% of estimated value Certified by the competent authority not below the rank of Executive Engineer of Central /State Government Departments/Public Sector undertakings of Similar Nature of work along with Technical Bid. The successful Bidder should submit the OEM Authorization Certificate and technical data sheet for SITC and Maintenance work before signing of Agreement. पत्र जारी।

शेष अन्य सभी यथावत् रहेगी।

PR. No.20065 (BCD) 2024-25

विद्युत कार्यपालक अभियंता, विद्युत कार्य प्रमंडल, सं०-३, पटना, मवन निर्माण विभाग

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

### The Odisha State Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited

D-2, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007  
PH NO.: 0674-2546030, 2540273, 2540417, 2540974  
E-mail ID: [omfed@yahoo.com](mailto:omfed@yahoo.com)

#### E-TENDER NOTICE

OMFED invites sealed techno-commercial offer in separate envelope from Manufacturer / Authorized Dealer of Chilled Water Based Air Conditioning Unit for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 7000 CMH CHILLED WATER BASED AIR CONDITIONING UNIT at OMFED Dairy, Arilo-Govindpur, Barang, Dist.- Cuttack, Odisha. Interested bidders may download the Tender Document from the OMFED web site [www.omfed.com](http://www.omfed.com) only for reference. Bid document will be available in the <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> from 10.00 AM of 25.02.2025 to 2.00 PM of 28.02.2025 for bidding. Tender cost of Rs.20000/- + 18% GST along with E.M.D. of Rs.15,000/- shall be deposited through online portal. The technical Bid shall be opened at 11.00 AM on 01.03.2025 at the OMFED Corporate Office in the presence of the interested bidders. Bids without requisite EMD shall not be considered. The price / commercial bid of technically successful bidder shall be opened on a later date under information to the bidders. Bidders are advised to visit OMFED website regularly for any corrigendum / addendum may be published in OMFED website and not in any other media/newspapers. The Management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bid document or part thereof without assigning any reason.

Sd/-  
Managing Director  
OIPR-06063/11/01/24-25

### SHRI SAIBABA SANSTHAN TRUST, SHIRDI.

Post-Shirdi, Tal. - Rahata, Dist.-Ahilyanagar, Pin -423109  
Phone No.- (02423) 258967/258969 Fax -258770  
E-mail: [sanitation@sai.org.in](mailto:sanitation@sai.org.in), Website: [www.sai.org.in](http://www.sai.org.in)

#### E-Tender Notice

Online e-tenders are invited for the Housekeeping including Machinery etc. of Shri Saibaba Darshan Complex on outsource basis for duration 12 months. For e-tender Criteria, Terms/ Conditions and e-tender information visit the <https://mahatenders.gov.in> and official website of Shri Saibaba Sansthan [www.sai.org.in](http://www.sai.org.in). In the said e-tender will be available on <https://mahatenders.gov.in> for online downloading and uploading from Dt. 25/02/2025, 11.00 am to Dt. 24/03/2025, 05.00 pm.

(Goraksha Gadlikar, I.A.S.)  
Chief Executive Officer

DGIPR/2024-2025/6631

#### ADVERTISEMENT

### "ENGAGEMENT DRIVE FOR BATTALIONS OF ODISHA SPECIAL STRIKING FORCE (OSSF)"

The engagement drive in the rank of Sepoys/NCOs/JCOs for 3 OSSF Battalions in Odisha Police has been continuing on 1st & 3rd Monday of each month, if any holiday falls on that day, then the drive will be conducted on the next succeeding working day. This is to notify that the post of JCO has now been filled-up. As a result, the engagement of JCOs is hereby discontinued from 26.02.2025. However, the engagement drive for Sepoys and NCOs will continue.

Sd/-  
D.I.G. of Police (Operations),  
Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

OIPR-1210/11/0010/24-25

**कार्यालय प्राचार्य, सोहन सिंह जीना राजकीय आयुर्विज्ञान एवं शोध संस्थान अल्मोड़ा**  
 निम्नलिखित कार्य, पाठ्यक्रम, अल्मोड़ा, जिला-अल्मोड़ा-263601 (उत्तराखण्ड)  
 ई-मेल: principal.gmcalmora@gmail.com, http://www.ssgimarmora.org  
 मोबाइल नं.:- 9412410755 फोन/फैक्स नं.:- 05962-230557  
 GSTIN :- 05AAAGS2989B1ZA PAN: AAGS2989B TAN: MRTS16286E  
 पिनकोड :- 125 (जी.एस.टी. नं. 24/कार्य, 2023)

**निविदा सूचना**  
 सोहन सिंह जीना राजकीय आयुर्विज्ञान एवं शोध संस्थान, अल्मोड़ा से सम्बद्ध मोड्युलर हाइपरबेरिक ऑक्सीजन थेरापी चम्बर (HBO-T) 01 Nos का ड्राइ इ-निविदा के माध्यम से किये जाने हेतु विभिन्न प्रतिष्ठित फार्मों से निम्नलिखित निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।  
 Tender Document Publish Date & Time 24.02.2025 at (04:30 p.m.) (IST)  
 Doc. Download/Sale Start Date & Time 24.02.2025 at (06:30 p.m.) (IST)  
 Seek Clarification Start Date & Time 24.02.2025 at (06:30 p.m.) (IST)  
 Pre-Bid Conference 28.02.2025 at (4:00 p.m.) (IST)  
 Seek Clarification End Date & Time 28.02.2025 at (4:00 p.m.) (IST)  
 Bid Submission Start Date & Time 04.03.2025 at (06:30 p.m.) (IST)  
 Bid Submission Closing Date & Time 12.03.2025 at (12:30 a.m.) (IST)  
 Bid Opening Date & Time 12.03.2025 at (1:00 p.m. onwards) (IST)

निविदा से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत जानकारी/बिड डॉक्यूमेंट ई-जोइन्टमेंट पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध है।  
 निविदादाता वेबसाइट से अभिलेखों को डाउन लोड कर सकते हैं।  
 प्राचार्य  
 सोहनसिंहजीनाआयुर्विज्ञान एवं शोध संस्थान, अल्मोड़ा।

**Central Public Works Department**  
**Notice Inviting e-Tender**  
 The Executive Engineer & Senior Manager (E), CPWD, 7th floor, A2 wing, CGO Complex, Sector 10, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai-400614 (Telephone No. 022-27561061, Fax No.022-27561058, (email: teamitbombay1@gmail.com, mumeee-ib@cpwd.gov.in) on behalf of the President of India invites online percentage rate bids from CPWD enlisted contractor of appropriate class in B & R category and firms/contractors of repute in single bid system for the following:  
**NIT No.: 02/NIT/CE cum ED/EE&SM(E)/2024-25**  
**NAME OF WORK:** Construction of 354 nos. staff Quarters Hostel Building Academic Block for Reserve Bank of India at Plot No. 1, Sector 7, CBD Belapur (Kharhar), Navi Mumbai.  
**Sub Head:** Package 3 work of :- Providing Services of Internal Electrical Installations, Fibre to the home (FTTH), Audio Video System (AV), Data Networking System, Solar Photovoltaic System, Home Appliances, Signages, Kitchen equipment, Electric Vehicle Charging station & Access Control including miscellaneous civil works.  
 Estimated cost ₹ 24,11,04,623/-  
 E & M (Major Component) ₹ 22,36,46,699/-  
 Civil Work (Minor Component) ₹ 1,74,57,923/-  
 Pre-bid Conference 11:30 AM on 27-02-2025  
 Period of Completion 4 (Four) Months  
 Last time & date of submission of bid 15: 00 Hrs On 13-03-2025  
 Earnest Money Deposit ₹ 34,11,04,62/-

The NIT, bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website [www.etender.cpwd.gov.in](http://www.etender.cpwd.gov.in).  
 Note:- Applicants are advised to keep visiting the above-mentioned web-sites from time to time (till the deadline for bid submission) for any updates in respect of the tender documents, if any. Failure to do so shall not absolve the applicant of his liabilities to submit the applications complete in all respect including updated thereof, if any. An incomplete application may be liable for rejection.  
 Executive Engineer & Senior Manager (E),  
 O/o. CE cum ED, Mumbai,  
 C.P.W.D., Navi Mumbai-400614.

**ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES**  
**Vijaypur, Jammu-184120**  
**Notification for Non-Faculty Posts (on Deputation Basis)**  
**Employment Notification No. 02/2025**  
 Applications are invited in the prescribed Proforma for filling up of the Non-Faculty Posts (On Deputation Basis) mentioned hereunder for AIIMS, Vijaypur, Jammu :-

Sl. No.	Name of Posts	Group	Pay Level (as per 7 <sup>th</sup> CPC)	No. of Vacancy
1.	Assistant Controller of Examinations	A	(Level-11)	01
2.	Nursing Superintendent	A	(Level-11)	02
<b>Total</b>				<b>03</b>

For other details, application form and terms & conditions, please visit the AIIMS Jammu website [www.aiimsjammu.edu.in](http://www.aiimsjammu.edu.in) under the head 'Recruitment'. Duly filled in application (through proper channel) along with attested photocopies of ACRs/APARs for the last 5 years and vigilance clearance should reach to the undersigned within 30 days after the day of publishing of this advertisement in Employment News. In case of any query, mail can also be forwarded to [recruitmentcell@aiimsjammu.edu.in](mailto:recruitmentcell@aiimsjammu.edu.in)

Sd/-  
 Registrar  
 For and on Behalf of the Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**



General Public is hereby informed that one Girl (depicted in the photo) namely **RENU D/o Amir Chand, R/o: Sandeep Rana Ka Makan, Near Laxmi Garden, New Colony, Mungeshpur, Delhi, Age-17 Yrs**, has been reported missing since 19.02.2025 around 7.00 PM from her Residence, vide, **FIR No. 100/2025, Dated 20.02.2025, U/S 137(2) BNS**, registered at Police Station **Bawana, Outer-North Distt., Delhi-39**. Her physical description is as under:  
**Sex: Female, Height: 5'0", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Identification Mark: Old Scar on Left Hand, Wearing: Black Suit & Pant and Black Sandal 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 Bawana, Outer-North Distt., Delhi-110039, Ph.: 7065036321**  
 Website: <https://cbi.nic.in> DP/2315/ON/2025

**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 on 23.02.2025 DN Line, KM Pole No. 09/28, Near Shakur Basti Railway Station, Delhi.** In this regard **DD No. 17A, dated 23.02.2025** has been lodged at Police Station Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved in Subzi Mandi Mortuary. Identification of unidentified male is as under:  
**Name: Unknown, Age: 25 Years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Shallow, Built: Medium, Injury Mark: Body Amputated from stomach in Train Accident, Wearing: Blue Colour Jeans and Black Colour T-Shirt.** If anyone have any information or clue about this male may kindly be inform undersigned.  
**SHO P.S. Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi DP/2333/Rly/2025 Ph.: 8010367254**

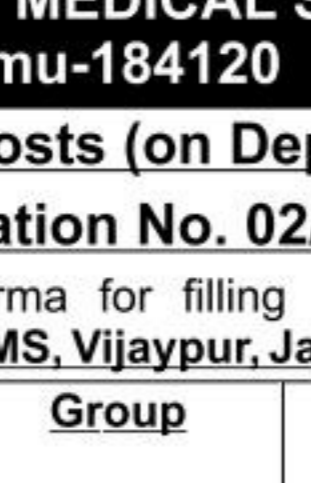
**U.P. RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.**  
**E-Tender Notice**  
 Bid is hereby invited for E-Tender. Details of Tender Notice as well as Total quantity of work, Tender Specifications, Other terms & conditions is available on our Web Site [www.uprvnl.org](http://www.uprvnl.org)/e-tender portal [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in). Tendering authority reserve the right to cancel e-bid without assigning any reason. Corrigendum, Addendum, Extension if any, shall be uploaded on the E-Tender website. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time.  
**E-Tender No. : 01/NCB/UUNL/2025 (ID: 2025\_RVUNL\_1009915\_1)**  
**"Appointment of Transaction Advisor for Selection of Mine Developer & Operator (MDO) for Saharpur Jamarpani Coal Block."**  
**Tender fee: Rs. 1180.00, Earnest Money: Rs. 80,000.00, Opening Date of E-Tender:-20.03.2025.**  
 Sd/-  
 Superintending Engineer  
 पत्रांक: 57 /उनिवि/न्यू कोल ब्लॉक /2025 दिनांक: 24.02.2025  
 "Save Electricity in the interest of Nation"

**कार्यालय अधिवासी अधिकारक, उदयपुर इन्डियन पोस्ट, उदयपुर**  
 पत्रांक - 14/66/उदर/वि.सो/वि.सो/2024-25/उदयपुर 15764295 दिनांक - 21/02/2025  
**निविदा सूचना संख्या-04/2024-25**  
 राजस्थान राज्य कृषि विपणन बोर्ड खंड उदयपुर के अन्तर्गत जिला उदयपुर/अजमेर में कृषि विभाग में जन स्वास्थ्य प्रयोगशाला मय जैविक प्रामोक्कण प्रयोगशाला भवन निर्माण कार्य की ऑनलाईन निविदाएं ई-प्रोकराजस्थान [www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) के माध्यम से उपयुक्त कार्य हेतु दिनांक 07.03.2025 तक आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। बिड से सम्बंधित विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट [www.ramb.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.ramb.rajasthan.gov.in) एवं [www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) पर भी देखा जा सकता है।  
**UBN No. : AGM2425W5R0C00693, AGM2425W5R0C00694**  
 का.सा.सं./सी./24/1281 अधिवासी अधिकारक

**INDIAN RAILWAYS**  
**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**  
**(RAILWAY BOARD)**  
**No. 2023/Track-III/M/C/4 New Delhi, dated 24.02.2025**  
**CORRIGENDUM-III**  
**Sub: E-Tender No. TM-2405 for procurement of 2 nos. Self Propelled Track and Turnout Measurement Car (STTMC) with Track and Turnout Monitoring System (TTMS).**  
 The Corrigendum-III regarding replies to pre bid commercial and technical queries, corrigendum to commercial tender conditions and technical specifications and the revised tender document has been uploaded on website <http://ireps.gov.in>. All other terms and conditions of the subject tender remain unchanged.  
 Sd/-  
 Executive Director, Track (M&C) Railway Board  
 605/25 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED**  
**NOTICE INVITING e-BIDS**  
 Online e-bids are invited for construction of 132 KV GSS along with associated Lines & Bays including supply of all Equipment (Except Power Transformer & ACSR Conductor), materials, erection (including civil works), testing & commissioning as detailed below:-  
**SE (PROC-II)/NIB-11/2024-25 /BN- 9016002422 & UBN- VPN2425WLOB031122**  
 2 Nos. 132 KV Grid Sub-Station at Sahwa and Satda (Binisar) along with associated Lines (45 KM S/C, 2 KM D/C approx.) & 1 No. 132 KV Bay at 220 KV GSS Bhadra  
**SE (PROC-II)/NIB-11/2024-25 /BN- 9016002427 & UBN- VPN2425WLOB031123**  
 2 Nos. 132 KV Grid Sub-Station at Semli Phatak and Choma Kot along with associated Lines (17 KM S/C, 14.5 KM D/C approx.) & 1 No. 132 KV Bay at 220 KV GSS Kelwara & 2 Nos. 132 KV Bay at 220 KV GSS Dahra.  
**SE (PROC-II)/NIB-10/2024-25/BN- 9015002425 & UBN- VPN2425WLOB03119**  
 132 KV GSS, Bhadsoda (Distt.- Chittorgarh) along with associated Line (25 kms 132 KV S/C line from 220 KV GSS Sawa to 132KV GSS Bhadsoda with 20% line on double circuit towers (10% on approach section of each substation) ) and 01 No. of 132 KV bay at 220 KV GSS Sawa.  
 The detailed NIB and Bid document /specification are available for viewing/downloading on the website <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>. Details of NIB are available on website [energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvnp](http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvnp).  
 Any extension in bid submission/opening date (if any) will be floated/uploaded on <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>; [energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvnp](http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvnp) & <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> only.  
 RRVPN/TR-6648/2025 Superintending Engineer Superintending Engineer  
 Raj.Samwad/C/24/1216 (Proc.-I) (Proc.-II)

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**



General Public is hereby informed that one male person namely: **Rajesh, S/o: Shri Shyam Sunder R/o: H. No. 31A Ground Floor Gali No. 10 New Govind Pura Jagatpuri Delhi, Sex: Male, Age: 34 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Face: Long, Mentally: Normal Wearing: Blue Jeans & Yellow Winter Jacket, and Sport Shoes in feet.** has been missing since 22.01.2025 from H. No. 31A Ground Floor Gali No. 10 New Govind Pura Jagatpuri Delhi, from the Jurisdiction of Police Station Jagat Puri Delhi, In this regard **GD No. 75A Date: 18.02.2025** has been registered at **P.S.: Jagat Puri, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing male but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing male. Please inform to the following.  
**SHO P.S.: Jagat Puri Delhi Mobile: 8595868063, 9868648829**  
 Website : <http://cbi.nic.in> E-Mail ID: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) P.S.: Jagat Puri Delhi DP/2208/SHD/2025

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**



General public is hereby informed that a female namely **Manju W/o Manjeet Singh R/o H.No. 23, Govind Colony, Jhangola-2, Alipur, Delhi, Age: 25 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Face: Round, wearing Grey colour Suit Salwar, Black colour Dupatta and Bare feet**, has been missing/kidnapped from her house since 20.02.2025 at 12:05 AM. In this regard **DD No. 34A, dated 20.02.2025** has been registered at **P.S. Alipur, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the female but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.  
 Website : <http://cbi.nic.in> E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) Fax: 011-24368639 Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641 **SHO P.S. Alipur, Delhi Ph. No.: 9953892904**  
 DP/2275/ON/2025

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**



General Public is hereby informed that a man (depicted in the photo) namely: **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown was found in accidental condition and dead at Upper GT Road, in front of Gurudwara Siraspur, Delhi on 19.02.2025 at 06.49 A.M.** In this regard vide **FIR No.206/2025 Dated 19.02.2025 U/s 281/106 (1) BNS** has been registered at **P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi**. The body has been preserved in the mortuary of **BJRM Hospital** mortuary for identification.  
 The description of the deceased is given as below:  
**Name: Unknown, Sex: Male, Age: About 50 Years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Injury Mark: Found in accidental condition, Identification Mark: A Tattoo mark on Left Side Chest, Wearing: Pink Color Shirt and Grey Colour Pajama.**  
 Sincere efforts have been made by local police to identify the deceased but no clue has come to light so far. Anyone having information about the person, please inform the undersigned.  
**SHO P.S Samaipur Badli, Delhi DP/2313/ON/2025 Ph.: 011-21710052 & 7065036326**

**TELANGANA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION**  
**Tender Notification**  
 Tender Notification No. SMIT-II/WhatsApp/11/25-IT. Dt: 25.01.2025  
 Tenders are invited from interested bidders for the Implementation of WhatsApp Notifications / SMS (OPRS, Bus Pass, Cargo, Parcels Booking & Commercial App, etc.) with Follower Mechanism for TGSRTC. Sealed bids should be submitted in the tender box in Main Conference Hall, TGSRTC, Bus Bhavan, 1st Floor "B" Block, Musheerabad, Hyderabad from 11:00 to 14:00 hrs on 13-03-2025. The Request for Proposal (RFP) with full details can be downloaded from the [www.tgsrtc.telangana.gov.in](http://www.tgsrtc.telangana.gov.in) website.  
 Tender Notification No. SM-III(T)/DMS(03)/2025-IT. Dt: 25.02.2025  
 Tenders are invited from interested bidders for Implementation of Driver Monitoring System (DMS) & Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS) in TGSRTC. Sealed bids should be submitted in the tender box in Main Conference Hall, TGSRTC, Bus Bhavan, 1st Floor "B" block, Musheerabad, Hyderabad from 11:00 to 14:00 hrs on 12.03.2025. RFP with full details can be downloaded from [www.tgsrtc.telangana.gov.in](http://www.tgsrtc.telangana.gov.in) website.  
 For further detail, please visit website <https://tender.telangana.gov.in> or [www.tgsrtc.telangana.gov.in](http://www.tgsrtc.telangana.gov.in) and also contact ATM (LM & C) on phone No. 910098229.  
 Sd/-  
 CHIEF TRAFFIC MANAGER  
 DIPR R.O. No. : 1051-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25 (COMMERCIAL & BUSINESS HEAD)

**JAWAHARLAL NEHRU PORT AUTHORITY**  
 (PORT PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT)  
 ISO 9001:2015, ISO 27001:2013, ISO 14001:2015, OHSAS 18001:2007 CERTIFIED  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
**Tender No.: JNPA/PPD/PSC/2025/T-06**  
**JNPA invites bids for Master Planning Support to Planning Division of JNPA.** The details of the tender are available at <https://www.jnport.gov.in/> and <https://eprocure.gov.in>  
 Email: [cmpppd@jnport.gov.in](mailto:cmpppd@jnport.gov.in), [rajeshphadke@consultant.jnport.gov.in](mailto:rajeshphadke@consultant.jnport.gov.in)  
**Chief General Manager (PP&D)**

**ASSAM URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE CORPORATION LTD. (AUIDFCL)**  
**No. AUIDFCL/GEN/91/2024 (Vol-II)/171**  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
**Invitation for Bids No. AUSDP/ADB/OCB-works/10**  
 Bids are invited under OCB for ADB funded AUSDP for Construction with 10Y O&M Water Supply Scheme for Gongaigaon Town in Assam.  
 Detailed IFB and Bid documents are available at [www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in), and deadline for bid submission is 28.03.2025.  
 Sd/-  
 Managing Director, AUIDFCL  
 Janasanyog/CF/3767/24/25-Feb-25

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**



General Public is hereby informed that one male person namely: **Rajesh, S/o: Shri Shyam Sunder R/o: H. No. 31A Ground Floor Gali No. 10 New Govind Pura Jagatpuri Delhi, Sex: Male, Age: 34 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Face: Long, Mentally: Normal Wearing: Blue Jeans & Yellow Winter Jacket, and Sport Shoes in feet.** has been missing since 22.01.2025 from H. No. 31A Ground Floor Gali No. 10 New Govind Pura Jagatpuri Delhi, from the Jurisdiction of Police Station Jagat Puri Delhi, In this regard **GD No. 75A Date: 18.02.2025** has been registered at **P.S.: Jagat Puri, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing male but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing male. Please inform to the following.  
**SHO P.S.: Jagat Puri Delhi Mobile: 8595868063, 9868648829**  
 Website : <http://cbi.nic.in> E-Mail ID: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) P.S.: Jagat Puri Delhi DP/2208/SHD/2025

**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 Unconscious on 22.02.2025 in Yamuna River bank, Opposite Indira Gandhi Limited Gas Plant, Near Yamuna Bank Metro Station, New Delhi.** He was shifted in LHMC Hospital where Doctor declared him brought dead. In this regard **DD No. 43A, dated 22.02.2025** has been lodged at Police Station Tilak Marg, New Delhi. The body has been shifted to LHMC Mortuary for further proceedings. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:  
**Name: Unknown, Age: about 25 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Built: Normal, Face: Long, Hair: Black, ID Mark: A Black thread in Right Hand, Wearing: Black Colour Jeans, Check Black & White Colour Shirt.** If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.  
**SHO P.S. Tilak Marg, New Delhi Ph.: 011-23385571, 8750870526**  
 DP/2292/ND/2025

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**



General public is hereby informed that a unidentified dead body of male, **Age: Approx 30-35 years, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'6", Injury Mark: Train Accident, ID Mark: 'KBD' tattoo on right hand, was wearing Green colour check Shirt, Black colour Jeans Pant and Navy Blue colour Jacket,** was found at PF No. 2, Palam Railway Station, Delhi. In this regard **DD No. 24A, dated 21.02.2025, has been lodged at P.S. Delhi Cantt. Railway Station, Delhi.** Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.  
**SHO P.S. Delhi Cantt. Railway Station, Delhi DP/2328/Rly/2025 Ph.: 011-25688505, 8750871309**

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**



General Public is hereby informed that one girl namely: **Tamanna, D/o: Sh. Ram Avtar, R/o: E-28/2, Thokar No. 6, Shaheen Bagh, Delhi has been missing since 23.01.2025 at about 11:00 AM from his home.** In this regard **DD No. 35A, Dated 13.02.2025, has been registered at P.S. Shaheen Bagh, Delhi.** The description of missing Male is as under:  
**Name: Unknown, Sex: Male, Age: About 50 Years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Injury Mark: Found in accidental condition, Identification Mark: A Tattoo mark on Left Side Chest, Wearing: Pink Color Shirt and Grey Colour Pajama.**  
 Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing /kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing /kidnapped girl, Please inform to the following.  
**Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Website : http://cbi.nic.in SHO P.S.: Nihal Vihar, Delhi DP/2258/OD/2025 Ph.: 7042245698, 7065036129**

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**



General public is hereby informed that a Male namely **Altaf Khan, S/o: Mahtab Alam Khan, R/o: E-28/2, Thokar No. 6, Shaheen Bagh, Delhi has been missing since 23.01.2025 at about 11:00 AM from his home.** In this regard **DD No. 35A, Dated 13.02.2025, has been registered at P.S. Shaheen Bagh, Delhi.** The description of missing Male is as under:  
**Name: Altaf Khan, Age:31 Years, Height:5'4", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Built: Thin, Wearing: Check Shirt with, Light Blue Colour Jeans and Brown Colour Sports Shoes in Feet.** If anyone have any information about this missing Male please inform **P.S. Shaheen Bagh, Delhi.**  
**Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO P.S. Shaheen Bagh, Delhi DP/2094/SE/2025 Ph: 011-26940691, 8750870926**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
 Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work:-

Sl. No.	Name of work with its Location	Periodic Overhauling (POH) of Auto Tension Devices (ATDs) over DLI Division.
1	Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 3,33,83,636.22
2	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 3,16,900/-
4	E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	06.03.2025 (00:00 Hrs.) to 20.03.2025 (15:00 Hrs.)
5	E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	20.03.2025 (15:00 Hrs.)
6	Fund Allocation	770-410-32
7	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

E-Tender No.: 28A-TRD-NDLS-2024-25 Dated: 24.02.2025 607/2025  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
 The Divisional Engineer/IV, Northern Railway, DRM Office, Delhi Division, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055, for and on behalf of the President of India invites open electronic-tenders for under noted works:-

S. N.	Name of work	Approx. Cost of work	Earnest money to be deposited	Completion period	Date of opening
1	H-Beam sleeper renewal TBSR on various steel girder bridges over DLI-BTI Section.	21479426.51/-	Rs.257400.00/-	9 Months	21.03.2025

The e-tender is to be submitted through railway website <https://www.ireps.gov.in>. The tenders can be submitted on website up to 15:00 hrs. on 21.03.2025 and shall be opened there after. No: 128-W/280/OET/2024-25/WV/NIT-120 Date:24.02.2025 612/2025  
**Serving Customers With A Smile**

**RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.**  
 O/o SE (TD-10), 605, Dreamax Plaza, Alipur, Email: [ca.10@rvnvl.com](mailto:ca.10@rvnvl.com)  
**E-TENDER NOTICE- TN-41 (RVU2425GLOB02086)**  
 Online tenders are invited Procurement of Sulphuric Acid required for CTPP-O&M, Chhabra/CSCTPP, Chhabra/ KSTPS, Kota/ KATPP, Jhalawar/ STSPS-O&M, Suratgarh/ SSCTPP, Suratgarh/ RGTPP, Ramgarh/ DCCPP, Dholpur power plants of RVUN as per specification. Tender details are available on websites <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> (for e-tender), [www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl](http://www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl) & [www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in)  
 Raj.Samwad/C/24/12162 RVUN/PR-4150 Superintending Engineer (TD-II)

**SKILL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM**  
**NOTICE**  
 Expression of Interest (EOI) for Empanelment as Training Partner under Sikkim INSPIRES Program  
 Skill Development Department (SDD), Government of Sikkim invites proposals from eligible training providers for empanelment as Training Partners under the Sikkim INSPIRES Program for conducting Comprehensive Skill Training for women and youth in Priority Sectors. These sectors are Tourism & Hospitality, Beauty & Wellness, IT/ITES, Creative Design, Green Jobs, and Child & Elderly Care.  
 This EOI is open to Private Training Providers (within and outside Sikkim), Government Training Providers and Industries interested in skill development initiatives under this Program.  
 Key Details:  
 • Last Date for Pre-Proposal Submissions: 03 / 03 / 2025 (15:00 hrs)  
 • Last Date for Proposal Submission: 19 / 03 / 2025 (15:00 hrs)  
 • EOI Processing Fee: Rs. 5,000/- (Non-refundable Demand Draft)  
 • Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): Rs. 2,00,000/- (Fixed Deposit Receipt)  
 • EOI Document & Guidelines: Available at <http://fedd.sikkim.gov.in/>  
 The proposal is to be submitted in a sealed envelope to the address listed by the date and time as mentioned in the EOI document. Any proposal received after the stipulated date and time shall not be considered.  
 (Samdup Bhutia) SCS, Additional Secretary-cum-Nodal Officer  
 Skill Development Department, Govt. of Sikkim,  
 Room No. 201, Shram Bhawan, Sukaythang, Gangtok - 737102.  
 email: [sdd.sikkiminspires@gmail.com](mailto:sdd.sikkiminspires@gmail.com)

**PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**  
 Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001  
 CIN : U40109PB2010SC033813 Website : [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in)  
 GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Limited  
 Regd. Office: Plot No. 10, Paigah Colony, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad-500003,  
 Telangana, India CIN : U40109TG1997PL032483  
 (A wholly owned subsidiary of Guru Amar Das Thermal Power Limited, GATPL)  
 (A step down wholly owned subsidiary of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, PSPCL)  
**Dept-HOD, Operation GATP, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for the work of:**  
 1 Tender Enquiry No. 016/GATP/DFA01/FY2526 dated 24/02/2025  
**"TENDER FOR LIFTING OF DRY FLY ASH"**  
 at 2X270 MW Guru Amardas Thermal Plant (GATP), Goindwal Sahib, Distt. : Tarn Taran, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications.  
 For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 24/02/2025 from 17:00 Hrs onwards.  
**Note :** Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>  
 GATP-08/25, DPR/Pb./76155/12/3949/2023/41984

**RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, KARNATAKA**  
 4th "T" Block, Jayanagara, Bengaluru - 560 041.  
 Ph.No.080-29601928  
**No:RGUHS/HELINET/2025 Date: 24.02.2025**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
 The Helinet, RGUHS invites proposals, directly from the Publishers of e-resources(from India and abroad) for Licensing / Subscription / One-time- purchase, based on the types of the materials like e-books, teaching-learning course materials, e-learning materials, multimedia learning materials etc.,related health sciences field (i.e., HELINET consortium). The proposals should include details to understand the products  
 The proposal from agents, channel partners or distributors are not accepted.  
 The proposal should include price for HELINET consortium. The proposal should be submitted in the name of the Registrar, RGUHS Bengaluru, shall be sent on or before March 4th, 2025 The envelop should be super-scribed as Proposals for HELINET, RGUHS, 2025  
 More details can be fetched from website [www.rguhs.ac.in](http://www.rguhs.ac.in)  
 Sd/-  
 REGISTRAR  
 DIPRS/5269/

**Berkshire Hathaway** has paid Uncle Sam more than **\$101bn in taxes over 60 years**, more than any other company in history



Chairman Warren Buffett said Berkshire Hathaway paid **\$26.8bn in taxes in 2024** alone — the figure amounts to roughly 5% of the total taxes paid by US cos last year

Buffett's comments come as US President Donald Trump has vowed to **cut corporate taxes further** after slashing them to 21% during his first term in 2017. Trump wants to reduce the corporate tax rate



### Vast Conglomerate

In his annual letter, Buffett said when he took control of Berkshire Hathaway in 1965, it was a **struggling textile co** that paid zero in income taxes that year, and hadn't for much of the previous decade

Today, Berkshire Hathaway is a vast conglomerate spanning more than 189 operating companies, a public equity portfolio worth **\$272 billion** and a **cash pile worth \$334 billion** as of the end of 2024

### Feb gold imports may hit 20-yr low on record high prices

Mumbai: India's gold imports are set to tumble 85% in Feb from year ago levels to their lowest in 20 years, with demand sapped by record prices for the precious metal, a govt official and three bank dealers said. Lower gold imports could help India narrow its trade deficit and support the rupee that is trading near record low against the dollar. India is the world's second biggest consumer of the precious metal. Gold imports in Feb are likely to fall to around 15 metric tons, the lowest for the month in at least two decades, from 103 tons in Feb 2024. REUTERS

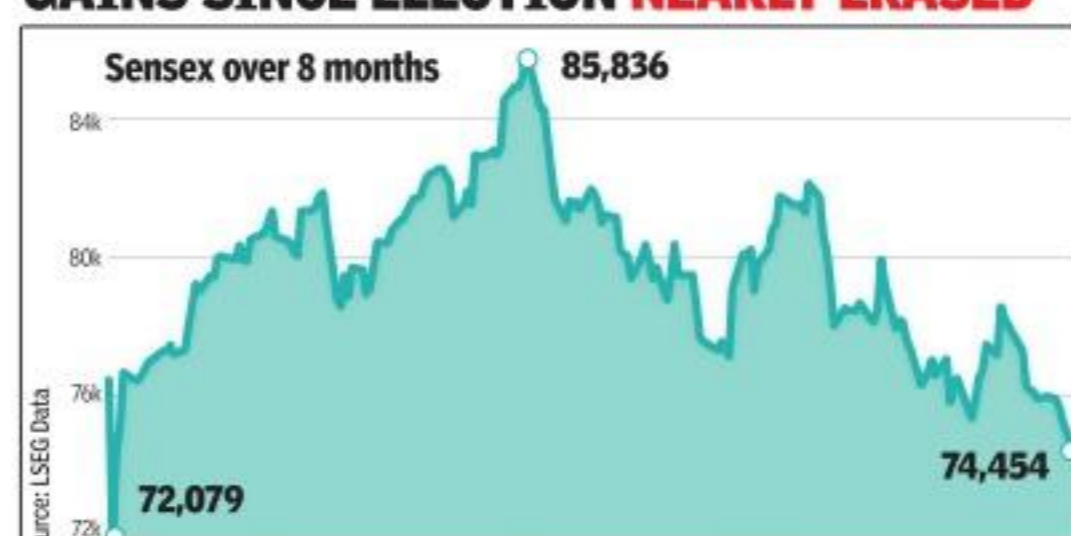
## Sensex slips below 75k mark, logs lowest level in 8 months

### D-St Disorder: Foreign Funds Continue To Sell Indian Stocks

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The sensex slipped for the fifth session in a row on Monday. The index dropped 857 points, or 1.1%, to close at 74,454 — its lowest point in over eight months. Weak global sentiment and foreign fund outflows weighed on Indian markets. Analysts pointed to US tariff policies and trade tensions as key concerns.

### GAINS SINCE ELECTION NEARLY ERASED



The broader Nifty too shed 243 points, or 1.1%, ending the day at 22,553. American stocks had closed sharply on Friday, with the S&P 500 and Dow losing 1.7%, and the Nasdaq dropping 2.2% after US business activity hit a 17-month low, and inflation expectations climbed to 4.3% from 3.3%, according to a University of Michigan survey. Weak consumer confidence in the US also hit IT stocks.

Higher tariff levies on exporting nations, which could impact developing countries, including India. Also, FIIs showing no signs of putting brakes on their India exit strategy continue to weigh heavily on markets, with expensive valuations driving investors to curb their equity bets here," said Prashanth Tapsee of Mehta Equities.

The selloff on Dalal Street on Monday was led by banking, IT, telecom, and metal

stocks. Foreign institutional investors pulled Rs 6,287 crore from equities on Monday, bringing the total outflow this month to Rs 23,710 crore. Over five sessions, the sensex has shed 1,542 points (2%), while Nifty has lost 406 points (1.8%). Investors have seen over Rs 4 lakh crore in wealth erased in a single day.

toral losses were led by IT, which fell 2.6%, followed by telecom (-2.3%), metals (-2.2%), and commodities (-1.5%). The auto and FMCG sectors posted gains.

Despite the recent selloff, Citi upgraded its outlook on Indian equities from 'neutral' to 'overweight,' forecasting that Nifty could rise to 26,000 by Dec, a 15% increase. The brokerage cited tax cuts, a recovery in public investment, and possible rate cuts as key drivers. RBI lowered rates by 25 basis points this month and further easing is expected.

Asian markets ended mostly lower, with declines in Seoul, Shanghai, and Hong Kong, while Tokyo remained closed for a holiday. European markets fared better, with Germany's DAX gaining 0.7%. In commodities, Brent crude slipped 4 cents to \$74.01, while the dollar strengthened against most currencies.

## India, UK resume talks for free trade agreement

### Eye Social Security Pact | Liberal Biz, Study Visa Regime For India May Get Green Light

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India and the UK on Monday announced the resumption of talks for a free trade agreement, which will also cover social security and investment, amid signals that New Delhi's demand for a liberal business visa regime, including for students, who want to work after completing their education, will be considered favourably.



CHAI PE CHARCHA: Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal with UK secretary of state for business and trade Jonathan Reynolds

"Our discussions focused on advancing the India-UK Free Trade Agreement negotiations and ensuring that the agreement is balanced, ambitious and mutually beneficial," commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said after meeting UK secretary of state for business and trade Jonathan Reynolds.

The minister also indicated that India had the flexibility and ability to reduce tariffs, a key demand from the UK. "Many of the tariffs that India has really to protect us from non-market economies, non-transparent economies, or economies which are known for predatory pricing or dumping of goods. Between the UK and India, we have much more flexibility and ability to significantly reduce tariffs to make business more competitive between the two countries."

for conclusion of talks, Goyal said: "It is never too early and never too late to conclude a good agreement... it is always good to conclude fast. So, we will have speed but not haste." While asserting that there was real urgency from the UK side, which was according to priority to the FTA, Reynolds added that his govt would prefer quality over speed.

Addressing questions over a liberal business regime visa, Goyal said India had never included immigration issues in the trade dialogue but added that when it came to students, who wanted to stay back and had job offers, which added to economic activity in another country, they were treated as business visas, as was the case

with the initial trade deal signed between India and Australia. He also said that with more services engagement and investment, the requirement for business visas would only grow.

Both ministers were hopeful that negotiators would build on the talks so far to conclude the deal early. While the UK got India to offer more concessions in services, New Delhi asked for the social security pact or the Double Contribution Convention Agreement in return. The idea is to help Indian professional working on limited term projects in the UK to avoid contributing the social security funds there as they do not receive the benefits when they return.



### Alibaba plans \$53bn AI spend in key pivot

Alibaba Group pledged to invest more than 380 billion yuan (\$53 billion) on AI infra such as data centres over the next three years. The internet company co-founded by Jack Ma plans to spend more on its AI and cloud computing network than it has over the past decade. That target marks one of China's biggest AI infra budgets. BLOOMBERG

### Lifetime Achievement Award for Kamath

New Delhi: EY Entrepreneur Of The Year jury has awarded Lifetime Achievement Award to KV Kamath for his contribution to the Indian financial services sector, and also gave the Special Jury Award to former ISRO chief S Somanath. TNN

### Adani plans \$13bn fresh investments

Billionaire Gautam Adani said his group is planning more than Rs 1.1 lakh crore (\$12.7 billion) of new investments in India, signalling the conglomerate's focus on growing in its home market while fighting corruption charges in the US. This will fund projects ranging from pumped storage to cement and mining to smart-meters and thermal energy, Adani said at an investment summit in Madhya Pradesh on Monday. The group is also in discussions for a greenfield smart city, an airport project and a coal-gasification project in the state at an additional investment of Rs 1 lakh crore, he added.

The India investment plans of Adani come amid legal challenges it faces in the US, and a string of project setbacks in countries including Kenya and Sri Lanka. BLOOMBERG

## 'RBI's loan prepay fee ban to hit NBFCs more than banks'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: PNB Housing Finance and Aditya Birla Capital are expected to be among the worst hit by RBI's proposal to remove foreclosure charges on loans to small businesses. Among banks, Axis, IndusInd & Kotak Mahindra may see a higher impact as fees account for a higher part of their total income compared to peers.

home loans and is expected to reduce profitability for retail loan against property (LAP), SME, and business loans due to increased competition. These segments account for 5-25% of the assets under management for non-banking financial companies and housing finance companies.

Last week, RBI announced plans to waive prepayment charges on floating rate loans up to Rs 7.5 crore per borrower. The new norms will apply regardless of the source of funds used for foreclosure or prepayment, whether partial or full.

The change could intensify competition, particularly in the fixed-rate non-housing loan segment of affordable housing finance companies, as larger NBFCs may compete on rates. The proposal removes prepayment charges without a minimum lock-in period for floating rate loans to individuals and MSMEs up to Rs 7.5 crore, including balance transfers. It also applies to dual-rate loans (fixed + floating) if the loan is floating at the time of

## Corp profits got cost-cutting boost in FY24: RBI report

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Corporate profits grew 15.3% in FY24, despite sluggish sales growth of around 5.5%, on the back of cost rationalisation, an RBI report said. The services sector outperformed manufacturing in both sales and profit growth, reversing the trend from FY23 when sales grew faster than profits.

the 4.2% growth in FY23. Cost rationalisation contributed to this profitability boost, RBI said. Operating profit in manufacturing rose 13.2%, while the services sector saw a 15.5% increase.

Despite sluggish sales, operating expenses rose 3.4% in FY24, mainly due to slower growth in manufacturing costs. Employee remuneration also grew at a slower pace, with the slow-down seen across both manufacturing and services. As a result, operating profits rose 15.3% in FY24, higher than

16.3% in FY24, with services sector PAT surging 38.1% and manufacturing PAT rising 7.6%. Operating and net profit margins improved across major sectors. RBI released financial performance data for non-government, non-financial public companies in 2023-24, based on audited accounts of 6,955 firms covering 2021-22 to 2023-24, with the ministry of corporate affairs as the primary source. Manufacturing sales were dragged down by a contraction in metals, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and coke and refined petroleum products. In FY23, manufacturing sector profits had declined 3.9%, while services had posted 16.8% growth. Profit after tax increased

### Apple set to invest \$500bn in US, create 20,000 jobs

Apple said on Monday it would spend \$500 billion in US investments in the next four years that will include a giant factory in Texas for artificial intelligence servers and add about 20,000 research and development jobs across the country in that time.

That \$500 billion in expected spending includes everything from purchases from US suppliers to US filming of television shows and movies for its Apple TV+ service. The company declined to say how much of the figure it was all.

### Tariff Threat?

ready planning to spend with its US supply base, which includes firms such as Corning that makes glass for iPhones in Kentucky.

The move comes after media reports that Apple CEO Tim Cook met President Donald Trump last week. Many of Apple's products that are assembled in China could face 10% tariffs imposed by Trump earlier this month, though the iPhone maker had secured some waivers from China tariffs in the first Trump administration. "This pledge represents a political gesture towards the Trump administration," said Gil Luria, analyst at DA Davidson. REUTERS

## Govt seeks merchant bankers for stake sales in PSU lenders

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) on Monday invited bids from merchant bankers for helping govt in the planned stake sale in select public sector banks and listed financial institutions.

govt will take up the privatisation of IDBI, two other state-run banks and one general insurance company. But so far, the progress has been limited.

The request for proposal (RFP) published by Dipam said govt intends to empanel book running lead managers, merchant bankers-cum-selling brokers for a period of three years (further extendable by one year) in the context of dilution of govt's equity in select public sector banks (PSBs), and listed public financial institutions (PFIs), using SEBI approved methods in accordance with the existing guidelines. The last date for submitting the bids is March 27.

After presenting her 2025-26 Budget, Sitharaman had said that privatisation will

In her 2021-22 Budget speech, finance minister Nirmla Sitharaman had said that

**Last date for submitting the bids by book running lead managers, merchant bankers-cum-selling brokers is March 27**

happen at least for those entities which are in the list approved by the Cabinet.

The merchant bankers will advise govt on the timing and the modalities of the transaction. The RFP said that merchant bakers can apply for empanelment for the stake sale under two categories. Category 'A+' would be for a transaction size of Rs 2,500 crore or more, and category A for transaction of Rs 1,000 crore.

"The bidders can apply for empanelment with Dipam under two categories, depending upon the capacity of the bidders in handling the capital market transactions," according to the RFP.

A two-stage selection process will be adopted for empanelment. The first stage will involve pre-qualification and short listing of successful bidders by an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) on the basis of bids and in accordance with the provisions of the RFP for empanelment, according to the details published by Dipam.

The RFP said that in the second stage, the eligible bidders would be required to demonstrate their credentials before the IMG through a presentation, covering the areas/criteria listed. The IMG would evaluate the bidders on the criteria mentioned based on their presentation and the proposals received and short-list them for empanelment.

## India's IT biz to grow 6% to \$300bn in next FY: Nasscom

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: India's technology sector is set to emerge as a \$300-billion business in the 2025-26 financial year, growing 6% over the previous year, tech industry body Nasscom said. The sector logged 5.1% growth, contributing an additional \$13.8 billion in revenue, reaching a total of \$282.6 billion in the 2024-25 fiscal year. Nasscom restated the tech sector number to \$268.8 billion in the 2023-24 financial year from the \$254 billion it called out previously.

### R&D, GCC DRIVE GROWTH

Key metrics		Export revenue split		Net hirer		GCC expansion	
Equal share between global MNCs (including GCCs) and Indian service providers		<b>50:50</b>		<b>5.8mm</b>		<b>1,760+GCCs</b>	
				Total employees 126K added in FY2025		Increased focus on high value services and ER&D	
India tech industry revenue FY24-FY25E (\$ bn)				FY 2025E (YoY growth)			
Domestic	269	5.1%	283	IT services	\$137bn	4.3%	
Exports	54	7%	58	BPM	\$55bn	4.7%	
	214	4.6%	224	Engineering R&D	\$56bn	7%	
				Software products	\$16bn	5.9%	
				Hardware	\$19bn	5.8%	
				(Some numbers have been rounded off)			
		\$13.8bn incremental revenue added		About 58% global sourcing share		Approx. 7.3% relative share to India's GDP	

India's tech sector, which has a 7.3% relative share of India's GDP, has played a significant role in shaping the country's economy. India's tech exports are expected to grow 4.6% to \$224.4 billion in the 2024-25 financial year compared to \$214.4 billion in the year-ago period. The domestic sector grew 7% to \$58 billion during the same period.

MNCs, and what the India-based IT services providers are doing. The fact is that they figured out a way to coexist. I know there was a time when there was always talk about IT GCC versus IT services providers and so on. However, most service providers that I know of have created a GCC practice within them, which means they're serving the GCCs in some sense. So, that's a good balance," said Nasscom president Rajesh Nambiar at the Nasscom Technology & Leadership Forum 2025 here.

India's tech sector hired 126,000 people in the 2024-25 financial year, taking the total talent base to 5.8 million. Nasscom has restated that it hired 90,000 employees during the year-ago period taking the tally to 5.6 million. This comes at a time when the large IT firms are seeing a decline in headcount, and much of the net addition last year was on account of GCCs. GCCs continue to dominate the hiring landscape, as Indian IT firms navigate a seismic shift in the tech landscape.

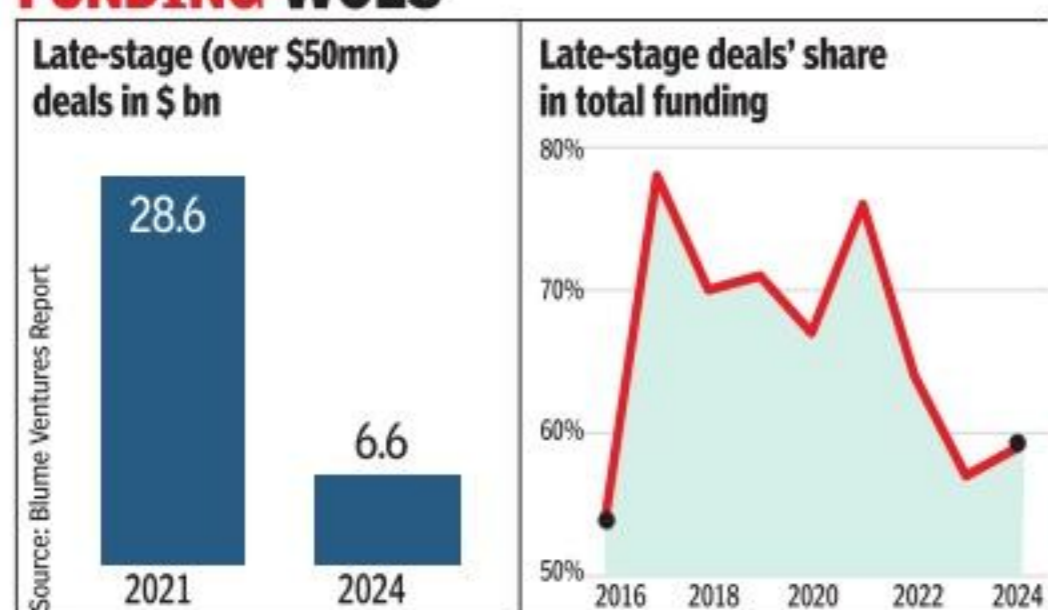
## Large 'late stage' deals elude startups

### Different Story Plays Out In US Amid AI Boom

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The share of late-stage deals in total startup funding has dropped to under 60% through 2024 and 2023, inching closer to levels seen in 2016 when the contribution of big-sized cheques—typically over \$50 million, stood at 54%. This is a far cry from the past few years when large deals easily made over 70% of total investments into startups—in 2021 when funding hit a peak amid the Covid-led surge, touching close to \$40 billion, the share of late-stage deals stood at

### FUNDING WOES



76%, a report by Blume Ventures showed. Funding rounds with a size of over \$50 million comprised the bulk of the share of late-stage investments for more than five years now.

Following the global tech downturn and a broader market correction, late stage funding into US startups have seen a sharp revival, thanks to the AI boom. AI funding alone made up about \$97 billion of total large deals worth \$120 billion in the market. In India, the flow of large-deals have been rather tepid except a few outlier funding

rounds like that of quick commerce startup Zepto which bagged a little over \$1 billion in capital from investors in 2024. "A thriving venture market like US has about 70%-75% late stage funding as more companies keep growing and require more growth capital," analysts at the VC firm said.

In all, Indian startups garnered \$11.2 billion in funding in 2024 of which late stage deals accounted for \$6.6 billion, a steep drop from \$28.6 billion seen at its 2021 peak. Global investment giants like SoftBank and Tiger Global have been going slow on new big India deals, leading to a drop in late-stage funding, TOI had reported. Even the time taken to close early stage funding rounds is getting longer.

## Tax notice: HC asks VW to go beyond 'delay'

Mumbai: The Bombay HC on Monday sought 'more convincing' arguments than grounds of delay from Skoda Auto Volkswagen India to entertain its plea against a show cause notice from Customs authorities alleging duty evasion of Rs 12,000 crore.

Justice Colabawalla orally remarked during the hearing that he "commends" the officer of the department for his dedicated efforts prior to issuing the show cause notice. "To say the show cause notice is without jurisdiction on the ground of delay is one thing... When the notice was issued only when all this was found via investigation after questioning your officers." The hearing will continue on Tuesday. TNN



### A thought for today

The drugs consume the sanity of those who abuse them like a fire burns when kerosene is poured on it

AN OFFICIAL IN GHANA

## Ballot Points

Poll results in Western countries hold lessons for politicians everywhere, including India

German voters didn't surprise in Sunday's election. Since no party has a clear majority, long coalition talks lie ahead, but far-right AfD will remain out of govt even though it has over a fifth of the vote, exactly double its 2021 share. When the far-right or a Trump-like leader surges, it means voters are hurting. And Germany's economic troubles are well-known. After shrinking for two straight years, the economy is back at its 2019 level. Low unemployment and moderate fiscal deficit are virtues ordinarily, but not when voters wake up feeling poorer every day. And voter pessimism certainly isn't conducive to re-election – ask Kamala Harris and Rishi Sunak.

Sunak called an early election counting on British economy's unexpected growth last year. Inflation was cooling finally, so were interest rates. But as far as voters were concerned, prices were about 20% too high and their EMIs had ballooned. A survey found only one in five Britons thought the economy was in good shape. The same popular mood ousted Democrats in US. Before the Nov election, about half of US voters said they were worse off than they had been at the end of Trump's first term, even though inflation had slumped from 9% in 2022 to around 2% by late last year. China, despite its one-party dictatorship, is also worried about public mood. A survey by Harvard-Stanford academics in 2023 showed less than 30% of Chinese felt they were better off than they had been five years earlier – a huge fall from 75% in 2014. China's trying everything to fire up the economy, with sub-5% growth predicted for 2025 and 2026.



It's time Indian leaders also paid heed to the public mood. Their increasing reliance on doles and direct benefit transfers to win polls is bad economics, even if it wins polls in the short-term. As state after state, from Himachal to Punjab, Maharashtra and Karnataka, has realised, delivering freebies – whatever form it takes – and generous cash handouts is hard to maintain. Maharashtra's 50% fare concession to women and senior citizens, for instance, is costing the state transport corporation ₹3cr a day. Besides, doles don't address voters' need to feel better off over a longer period of time. A cash transfer generates a small amount of feel-good. It doesn't buy economic security. Only rapid economic growth plus good jobs can deliver that.

## Opioid Warning

India's weak drug regulation is spreading a problem from Africa to America. Reputational damage can be big

India's drug regulators have been caught napping once again. Various pills made by Maharashtra-based Aveo Pharmaceuticals have been linked to the opioid mayhem in Ghana, Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire. But it took a BBC documentary for the state and central regulators to conduct a raid, then announce manufacturing and export curbs. These, however, hardly amount to the systemic overhaul that experts have been crying for, in the face of one regulatory fiasco after another. Remember that Indian cough syrups have also led to children's deaths in Gambia, Uzbekistan and Cameroon. At this rate, the days when India actually earned vast goodwill in Africa, by saving lives with cheap generics against AIDS, will soon become a distant memory.

The opioid story also risks putting India directly in Trumpian crosshairs. US has found Indian companies trafficking precursor chemicals for fentanyl, which ultimately kills Americans and devastates their communities. On the Africa front, Indian authorities have often taken the position that importing countries need to toughen regulations. But Indian regulators themselves have been shown up as incompetent at best, and compromised at worst, by US FDA. Even keeping aside the ethics, or business effects, of exporting substandard, even dangerous, drugs, the idea that the domestic market can be firewalled from such doctored, is silly.

A Haridwar lab supplies govt hospitals antibiotics that turn out to be just talcum powder mixed with starch, patients fear buying medicines from any but trusted pharmacies, significant proportions of officially tested samples are found to be substandard, repeatedly. As for fentanyl, with China taking US complaints on this more seriously, drug mafia will have extra incentive to source illegal precursors from India. Weaker governance here won't increase addiction in US alone. Proactive, as opposed to reactive, regulation, which needs better coordination between central and state agencies, is urgently needed to prevent fentanyl addiction from getting to Indians as well.

## Screen test

On keeping calm through a digital arrest

Anupam Srivastava



It started with an innocuous phone call and in no time I was face-to-face with a fearsome man on my laptop screen. "You are under digital arrest," he said.

Not one to run away from trouble, I collected my thoughts and replied that, not just me, everybody is under digital arrest. They have been for years. You talk to people, but they hem and haw, their eyes glued to their screens. Even young lovers sit together looking at their phones. Not just them, car drivers, traffic cops, walkers, sellers who should be looking out for customers, they are all under digital arrest. Nobody does a thing these days except that!

The man looked agitated. "You don't understand. This is far more serious than you think." Overcome by a wave of honesty, I admitted that I cannot go to sleep until I down two episodes of my ongoing series – neat, as in without a break or ads. The man shook his head and threw up his hands in the air. "You have no idea what you are talking about, and the trouble you are in," he said. Then he reached out for a piece of paper and read out that I had laundered money on foreign trips. That made me think. It seems on my recent trip to London and its neighbouring cities, supported by my generous wife, I had been under his watch. Even though I had avoided the pubs and taverns, perhaps I had made some errors of judgement. I had admired a few houses, and clean, quiet neighbourhoods like St John's Wood and Hampstead, but was that a crime? I had gambled a little at the pier and laid a few bets, so what? But I could be wrong. My knowledge of lawful actions could be outdated.

As he rattled off the gravity of my crime, I realised I had always been afraid of the authorities. Wasn't I aware of what went on in police stations? Which ordinary citizen in their right minds would want to have anything to do with any govt department? I would be bankrupt, paying legal fees to rich lawyers, or be behind bars in this just and fair country.

I paid up, and praised the govt. He said I was off the hook. Relieved, I at once switched on the TV to watch my favourite show and erase the memory of the arrest.

# Germane: Trump 2.0 Zeitgeist

That the incoming German leader spoke of 'independence' from US shows Europe can't any longer be only a lifestyle superpower. But acquiring hard power quickly will be hard

Rashmee Roshan Lal



Columnist based in London

Within hours of Germany's election results, its chancellor-in-waiting Friedrich Merz's first comment captured Europe's sentiment on Trump the Second. Merz, a long-time Atlanticist, spoke in terms never heard from a German leader.

He would seek "independence" from US, he said. From "Trump's latest comments in the last week, it is clear the Americans, or at least this portion of the Americans, this govt, care very little about the fate of Europe," he added. He even wondered if it were time "to establish an independent European defence capability much more quickly".

Once, Europe may have feared Germany rearming itself; now, it fears a future in which it doesn't. In short, it is pointless to wonder whether Europe is minded to work on defence rearmament and to re-school itself on the benefits of guns over butter. It has no choice.

The Ukraine conflict has entered its fourth year with Trump's America sweet-talking the Russians and talking tough to the Europeans and Ukrainians.

Trump's defence secretary Pete Hegseth has said his boss won't let anyone "turn Uncle Sam into Uncle Sucker". It is a harsh reference to Europe's propensity to pick butter over gun oil, all the while sheltering under the US nuclear umbrella and protected by America's conventional military power. Meanwhile, Trump's Vice-President JD Vance stood in Munich and plunged a dagger into Europe's heart. It is too weak, too liberal and too ideologically diverse to be worth protecting any longer, he said, deeming the primary threat to come "from within".

The European response has been a mix of shock, sadness and sharp anger, with the last emotion serving as a spur for lots of talk and limited action. As Europe sees it, Trump the Second is providing a masterclass in 21st century imperialism of the most unreconstructed sort.

This, in meekly acquiescing to Ukraine's territorial carve-up by Kremlin, whimsically upending 80 years of the transatlantic alliance and basely arguing for liberal democracy to be unmade by far-right nationalists.

The subtext is MAGAverse's war on 'woke' but Europe also fears a physical challenge beyond culture skirmishes. This involves the approximately 100,000 US troops stationed across Europe.

Long considered a major deterrent against Russia, it's thought that Europe would struggle to defend itself against attack if US suddenly pulled its forces. Despite having more than a million full-time troops of its own, Europe cannot be sure they'll be battle-ready and adequately equipped,

all at the same time, if needed.

How has it come to this? The real story is told in numbers.

After the cold war ended, EU countries made it a habit to pare military spending to the bone, even as they passed around generous pats of butter (spending on health, education, pensions etc) to fatten the welfare state. By 2014, today's 27 EU member states were spending under 1.4% of their collective GDP on defence.

Brexit or not, the British still largely adhere to this most European of traits. In 1945, UK spent over half its GDP – a massive 52% – on defence.



Chad Crowe (USA)

In 2025, it devotes roughly 2.3% to military matters. After the 1956 Suez crisis, when Egypt seized control of the canal from the British- and French-owned company that managed it, UK turned its face to the wall in metaphorical recognition it was no longer a global power, military or otherwise. Finding security in its so-called "special relationship" with Washington, it renounced much of its self-reliance. Indeed, its nuclear power rests on a delicate reality – those leased Trident missiles could technically be disabled by US.

Until now, Europe's public spending habits seemed like a prose version of John Lennon's poetic anthem of peace. Butter was the peace dividend, earned in the wake of two devastating world wars.

A bloodied continent, infamous for religious and sectarian wars, laboured over the world's biggest experiment in peacebuilding, creating a system for multinational exchanges, governance, regulation and trade. And European countries started to spend their money on schools and well-being schemes rather than soldiers and military supplies.

It made sense, so long as the Americans, with their vast resources and stated commitment to the western alliance, were willing to safeguard the status quo.

Now, those decades seem short-sighted, self-indulgent, sybaritic even. As an aphorism attributed to a high-ranking Nazi official put it, "guns will make us powerful; butter will only make us fat."

Clearly, Europe needs less Isigny Sainte-Mère, Kerrygold, Lurpak or any other of its many excellent brands of butter, but to invest in its own defence. Merz's defining mission – of "independence" from US – will need money. Discussions on how to raise European national military budgets and find new financial mechanisms have thrown up some ideas that could be viable.

These include an existing pandemic-era template for bond-issuance and a 'rearmament bank' modelled on European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to draw in non-EU members such as UK and Norway. The founder of Nato Innovation Fund has suggested another banking structure that would be open to partners beyond Europe.

Some countries are already shopping for hardware. Announcing its biggest military investment in half a century, Denmark recently took defence spending to more than 3% of economic output by dropping the usual tender processes for arms procurement. Britain has promised to swiftly raise its defence spending by at least £5bn a year, which is roughly equivalent to 10% of the core schools' budget in England.

Seeking hard power after decades of being a lifestyle superpower may not be an optional add-on to the European way any longer. It is an existential issue. With or without the butter.

## 'Not comfortable with stampede inquiry committee manned by officers from departments that'll be probed'

Former director general of Railway Protection Force (RPF), Arun Kumar, who was additional director general (law & order) in UP during purna Kumbh at Prayagraj in 2013, and served as DG-RPF at ardh Kumbh Prayagraj (2019), speaks to Dipak Dash on the recent stampede at New Delhi railway station that killed 18.

### There were serious lapses at New Delhi railway station.

Every nook and corner of NDLS is under CCTV coverage. So how was the build-up not noticed at the command centre? If it was noticed, was there a lack of coordination between RPF and operational staff? Why were red flags not raised at the right time to stop trains at previous stations? Why was the platform switched? These are questions the inquiry commission will be asking.



### Q&A

Any thoughts on the inquiry committee?

Sale of tickets is handled by the commercial department and safety of passengers is RPF's responsibility. Inquiry has been entrusted to the zonal head of commercial department and the committee includes a senior RPF officer of IG rank. How judicious is this, when there are so many senior experienced officers on railways board at Rail Bhavan.

Ministry must be sensitive to the dictum that justice not only needs to be done but must also be seen to be done, both internally and for public. I'm not comfortable with a committee of senior officers from the very departments whose actions are under the lens.

Given India's population, increased mobility & train travel, should RPF be overhauled?

Indian Railways has three tiers of security. District police, govt railway police (GRP) and RPF. District police are less mobile. RPF used to have only a watch & ward

role in protecting rail infra/property while GRP was more the law & order wing, tasked with passenger safety. Over the decades, RPF's role, under the railways, has taken on all aspects of security, while GRP has become redundant. GRP police stations can actually directly be supervised by district police – it's a state force and policing, law & order is a state subject, so it'll work better. The three-tier system is clearly creating more confusion as to responsibilities. It's high time to review railway security through a high-powered committee.

There's also a dire need for improved coordination



among various wings like commercial, operations and security. If 2,600 tickets were sold in a rush, did the command centre not know of it?

### Is RPF sufficiently staffed?

More than extra personnel, it has been policy to equip the force with tech aids for efficiency. CCTV cameras, their close monitoring and maintenance, body cameras, and other tech tools, are a force multiplier, better than more personnel. But, on occasion, like festivals for

instance, human resources will necessarily have to be supplemented.

### How can RPF improve station management in metros, on migrant routes and during festivals?

On special days RPF is supplemented with men from specialised armed unit railway protection special force (RPSF). Holding areas are set up at the outer sides of platforms. Every part is under CCTV coverage for 24x7 monitoring. Holding areas for passengers at stations in Prayagraj have been successful. Even during Chhath such arrangements are made to regulate passenger flow.

Where were the holding areas at NDLS? They should've been constructed both in the direction of ingress and egress of crowds. It's not unknown that crowds have to be monitored from their places of origin. It was evident Delhi was a huge place of origin. Did railways not anticipate such crowd pressure? After the 2010 Delhi station stampede, the whole system was revamped, platforms expanded. During Chhath and Diwali, holding areas are always created outside platforms and arrangements often overseen by railways minister himself.

### Delhi has several large stations. Should trains headed to Prayagraj have been decentralised?

Certainly. They should've been decentralised. It's all part of festival management process, particularly as the size of the crowds is anticipated.

### What has been your experience of Kumbh?

A challenge in those days (2013) was to manage the akharas as they were quite hostile to the then SP govt. On the day of mauni amavasya, all went well at the site but a stampede at Allahabad railway station was reported. More than 42 people were killed. It was finally attributed to the collapse of a railing at the station. The point is to learn from tragedies, and improve systems to avoid a repeat. Lessons have to be learnt.

## Calvin & Hobbes



## Perfect Master Serves The Whole Universe

Avatar Meher Baba

Selfless service is unaffected by results. It is like rays of the sun that serve the world by shining alike on all creation: grass, fields, birds, mankind; saint and sinner, rich and poor, strong and weak – wholly impervious to their attitude or reaction. It is of vital importance, however, that service, though utterly selfless, be guided by spiritual understanding, for even selfless service unintelligently handled often creates complications and chaos. To be a pure blessing to humanity, the most selfless act of service must be born of absolute understanding of life and governed by faultless wisdom.

Selfless service consists of rendering service to others without thought of gain, reward, or result; it is free from

the idea of placing others under obligation. One does not put him under obligation when serving a fellow human being in the spirit of spontaneous, selfless love. On the contrary, the one helped confers upon the helper the blessing of an opportunity to serve his true Self. There is complete disregard for one's convenience or welfare in selfless service; it is characterised by absolute subjugation of one's happiness – by unalloyed joy in sacrificing everything for the well-being of others. In selfless service, the comfort of others is one's convenience, health, healing, happiness, and delight. By giving one's life to others, one gains a glorious life for oneself. Sheltering others in one's heart makes one inhabit theirs. An act of helpfulness, a word of

comfort, the spontaneous warmth of selfless love, give to others what they greatly need. Their thoughts of gratitude and goodwill, the heightened surge of their spirit and the increased flow of God-love released by the selfless act bring to the giver infinitely more than he can ever give. From a spiritual point of view, the real danger in service lies more in the possibility of your rendering it from a false motive. If you render service to oblige a person and feel proud of doing it, you are doing spiritual harm to the recipient of your service and yourself. If, while serving, you take delight in it and develop pride in doing a good thing, you are getting attached to your act and thereby binding yourself. Hence, the way to remain free from karma is to stay com-

pletely detached in service. The consciousness that, 'I am obliging someone', is the first to occur during the process of serving; but it can be annulled by the contrary thought, 'I am obliged by being given this opportunity of serving.' This latter thought facilitates the attitude of detachment and secures freedom from bondage of actions. Service based upon comprehensive understanding is not only selfless and adjusted to the spiritual demands of the recipient but is rendered with complete detachment. Such a service takes the aspirant to the goal most rapidly. The perfect master serves the whole universe out of finality of his infinite consciousness; those who serve the master or submit to his guidance share in his universal work.

Today is Avatar Meher Baba's 131st birth anniversary

## Sacredspace



You speak of doing good to the world...And who are you, pray, to do good to the world?

First realise God, see Him by means of spiritual discipline. If He imparts power, you can do good to others; otherwise not.

Sri Ramakrishna

India's Ageing Warriors Virat & Rohit Seem To Have Turned The Clock Back At The Perfect Time

# OLD GUARD, NEW FIRE

THE TIMES OF INDIA IN DUBAI  
Gaurav.Gupta@timesofindia.com

Dubai: Before the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy began, there were plenty of question marks about the immediate future of two of India's modern-day batting greats — Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma.

The debate around their position in the team seemed justified. Across eight Tests in different conditions in the three-Test series at home against New Zealand last year, and in the following Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia, the duo failed consistently. Barring, perhaps, that one Kohli hundred in the Perth Test.

However, with the ball changing colour from red to white, and the format shifting to One-dayers, the 'RoKo' pair seems to have rediscovered their poise. In the preceding ODI home series against England and now in the Champions Trophy, both appear to be inching their way back to their vintage best.

After scoring one half-century (52) in the series against England, and succumbing for 22 while trying to cut leggie Rishad Hossain, Kohli, who was persistently dismissed by deliveries on the channel on or outside the off-stump, was criticised for being vulnerable to spinners too.

However, on Sunday night at the Dubai International Stadium, the 36-year-old, under pressure to deliver against Pakistan, cracked his 51st ODI hundred to help India romp to a 242-run chase with 45 balls left.

While he kept unleashing those exquisite cover drives, Kohli ran between the wickets at lightning speed and took a few sharp catches at point and in the deep, proving that he is still one of the fittest cricketers around in world cricket.

Meanwhile, Rohit, struggling at one point to even get into double figures and being forced to opt out of the Sydney Test, cracked 119 against England in Cuttack in the second ODI earlier this month to end off his horrible run.

Rohit then came up with handy cameos, a 36-ball 41 against Bangladesh and a 15-ball 20 against Paki-



POWER OF TWO: Rohit Sharma with Virat Kohli

## ACING THE BIG MOMENTS

**Rohit Sharma in ICC white-ball tournaments across formats**

Overall	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	SR
Vs Pak	14	13	1	451	140	37.58	1	2	104.15

**Virat Kohli in ICC white-ball tournaments across formats**

Overall	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	SR
Vs Pak	15	15	7	745	107	93.12	2	6	105.82

—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

stan, providing India with the kind of brisk starts which crack the game open right away.

Much to India's relief, the 37-year-old now seems to have rediscovered his timing. On Sunday, talking to reporters during the India versus Pakistan match, former India opener Shikhar Dhawan brushed off concerns about Kohli's low returns

during the last few months. "It's a normal phase which every cricketer has faced in his career. For someone who is about to complete 14,000 ODI runs, Virat has complete idea about his own game. He's also a human being. He's a very big player. He knows how to make runs. This is why his name is 'King Kohli'. He has earned that sobriquet," Dhawan said.

## 'COVER-DRIVING IS A CATCH-22 SITUATION'

Dubai: Virat Kohli admitted that his trademark cover drive puts him in a "catch-22" situation as it has been a weakness lately, but playing the shot gives him control over the innings. "It's a 'catch-22' (situation). I mean, it's (cover drive) kind of been my weakness as well over the years, but I've scored a lot of runs on that shot," Kohli said in a video posted by BCCI. "I think today was just about backing my shots and I think the first

couple of boundaries I got were cover drives on the rise, so I really had to just let it go a little bit and take a bit of risk and follow through with my shots. Because when I hit that kind of shot, then I feel in control when I bat out there. So, it was a good innings for me personally and it was a great team win," he added.

"I've always thought of batting at No. 3 is to minimise risk and make sure I put my team in a winning position, and if you have a chance to finish off the game in a chase, so much the better," he said.

## 'I WAS DOING MATHS FOR KOHLI'S CENTURY'

Dubai: As Virat Kohli neared his century against Pakistan, India's Axar Patel turned into a human calculator, crunching numbers and silently praying he didn't edge the ball at the other end to make sure the superstar reached his milestone.

Axar walked in to bat with India needing 19 runs to win and Kohli unbeaten on a fine 86.

"At the end, actually main bhi thoda maths kar raha tha unke

hundred ke liye (Even I was doing the math for his hundred towards the end). I was hoping that I don't edge the ball or something. So, it was quite fun," Axar said in video posted by ICC.

At one point, Axar was even booed for taking a single, as fans wanted Kohli to get maximum strike. "It was the first time I got to watch a high-pressure game from the dressing room where Virat bhaiya scored a century. I had a lot of fun, and the way he was running between the wickets after fielding for 50 overs is a testament to his fitness," he added.

# Ravindra ton powers NZ, India into semis

## Hosts Pakistan Knocked Out

Rawalpindi: Rachin Ravindra shepherded New Zealand's chase with a timely century as the team recovered from an early wobble to see off Bangladesh by five wickets and secure a place in the semifinals of the Champions Trophy here on Monday.

Victory for the Black Caps also confirmed India's slot in the semifinals while eliminating tournament hosts Pakistan and Bangladesh from the mega event. Both India and New Zealand have won their first two matches, including against Pakistan.

Before Ravindra's chancy hundred, allrounder Michael Bracewell did the star turn with a four-wicket haul as New Zealand restricted Bangladesh to 236 for nine.

In reply, New Zealand were off to a disastrous start as they lost the wickets of Will Young and Kane Williamson with just 15 runs on the board. But they rallied to complete the chase in 46.1 overs, with Ravindra making 112 off 105 balls with the help of 12 fours and a six.

Tom Latham struck 55 in 76 balls, while adding 129 runs for the fourth wicket with Ravindra which sealed the deal in New Zealand's favour. Bangladesh had their moments though with the ball.

Taskin Ahmed got rid of Young with a magnificent inswinger that crashed through the batter's defence to disturb the stumps with New Zealand yet to open their account.

Earlier, Bracewell, the left-handed batter who bowls off-spin, was measly as well as effective, finishing with excellent figures of 4/26 in 10 overs.

Captain Najmul Hossain Shanto top-scored for Bangladesh with a 77 that came off 110 balls, as the team's specialist batters seemed to have lacked a plan in the middle overs and did not have a target in mind in their must-win game.

No. 7 Jaker Ali chipped in with 45 off 55 balls, giving batting lessons to the ones who failed at the top of the order and in the middle.

Opting to field, New Zealand did not taste success



RAVINDRA

straightaway as skipper Shant and Tanzid Hasan put up 45 runs for the first wicket before the latter was dismissed for a run-a-ball 24 by Bracewell.

Bracewell tossed one up and Tanzid looked to attack but failed to connect, as Kane Williamson completed a diving effort at midwicket.

## SCOREBOARD

**Bangladesh:** T Hasan c Williamson b Bracewell 24, N Shanto c Bracewell b O'Rourke 77, M Miraz c Santner b O'Rourke 13, T Hridoy c Williamson b Bracewell 7, M Rahim c Ravindra b Bracewell 2, Mahmudullah c O'Rourke b Bracewell 4, J Ali run out 45, R Hossain c Santner b Henry 26, T Ahmed c Conway b Jamieson 10, M Rahman not out 3, N Rana not out 0; **Extras:** (lb3, w2) 25; **Total: (9 wkts) 236; FoW:** 1-45, 2-64, 3-97, 4-106, 5-118, 6-163, 7-196, 8-231, 9-236; **Bowling:** Henry 9-0-57-1, Jamieson 9-1-48-1, Bracewell 10-0-26-4, O'Rourke 10-1-48-2, Santner 10-1-44-0, Phillips 2-0-10-0.

**New Zealand:** W Young b Taskin 0, D Conway b Mustafizur 30, K Williamson c Mushtaq b Rana 5, R Ravindra c Suba b Rishad 112, T Latham run out 55, G Phillips not out 21, M Bracewell not out 11; **Extras:** (b4, w2) 6; **Total: (5 wkts, 46.1 overs) 240; FoW:** 1-0, 2-15, 3-72, 4-201, 5-214; **Bowling:** Taskin 7-28-1, Rana 9-0-43-1, Mehidy 10-0-53-0, Mustafizur 10-0-42-1, Rishad 9.1-0-58-1, Shanto 1-0-12-0.

**Result:** NZ won by 5 wickets

# Aus excited for SA challenge: Carey

Rawalpindi: Alex Carey said Australia were excited by the challenge posed by a formidable South Africa when they meet in the Champions Trophy for the first time in Rawalpindi on Tuesday.

Australia, winners in 2006 and 2009, chased down 352, the highest target in tournament history, against England in Lahore in a Group B game on Saturday. Carey made a brilliant 69 alongside man-of-the-match Josh Inglis, who scored his maiden ODI hundred, to seal a five-wicket win.

South Africa beat Afghanistan by 107 runs in a clinical performance in Karachi.

"I think South Africa are playing really well in One-day cricket and look like they've got a great balance across their 11 players," the 33-year-old Carey said on Monday. "So, another exciting opportunity for us coming off the back of a great game against England, play with a lot of freedom, take the game on."

Australia and South Africa have never met in the Champions Trophy, and the Proteas hold a clear advantage after winning nine of their past 12 ODIs against them. Australia are also missing world-renowned pace trio Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc.

"Look, it's an inexperienced bowling attack, there's no hiding away from that. In and around that we've got some experience with our leg-spinner Adam Zampa and Glenn Maxwell," Carey said.

**5/39** Marco Jansen's career-best figures in ODIs came against Australia in Johannesburg on Sept 17, 2023. He also scored 47 off 23 balls which helped South Africa to a 122-run win.

**139.53** Josh Inglis' strike-rate during his knock of 120\* against England in Lahore on Feb 22, 2025 is the highest for batters with 100-plus runs in the CT.

**FACE-OFF**

AUS VS SA

TV TIME: 2:30 PM

STAR SPORTS

JIOHOTSTAR

**HEAD TO HEAD**

AUS	SA
51	55

**LAST FIVE MATCHES**

AUS	W	L	L	L	L
SA	W	L	L	L	L

**VENUE: RAWALPINDI**

AUS	SA
6/10	5/4

**WEATHER**

We are in for a stop-start game with 60% chance of rain. The constant cloud cover means temperature will be around 15 degrees throughout.

**Klaasen in race to be fit**

South Africa are sweating on the fitness of middle-order batter Heinrich Klaasen for the match. Klaasen missed the opener with an elbow injury. "We still have to assess his fitness, he will practice today and then the medical team will make a decision," captain Temba Bavuma said. AGENCIES

**1** Wicket needed by Lungi Ngidi (99 at 29.42 in 65 matches) to become the 13th South African bowler to take 100 wickets in ODIs.

# Mastering the death overs

## Kuldeep Stamps His Presence, Stifles Pakistan's Late Charge

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Dubai: Among the three wickets that Kuldeep Yadav took to derail the second half of Pakistan's innings on Sunday night at the Dubai International Stadium, Kapil Pandey particularly enjoyed the dismissal of Shaheen Shah Afridi. Afridi looked clueless as he fell leg-before-wicket on the back foot against a googly.

Sitting in his home in Kanpur, Pandey, the left-arm wrist-spinner's childhood coach, said, "The batter thought that the ball would spin away from him, but it came back in as Kuldeep changed his wrist position at the last minute for a googly.

"This is exactly how he dismissed Joe Root in Nottingham while taking 6-25 (his career-best ODI haul in 2018), who too was trapped LBW on the back foot. I also enjoyed the way he got Salman Agha's wicket — the batter tried to hit him to mid-wicket, but the ball went to cover. This is what Kuldeep can do. When he's at his best, the batters try to do something against him, but something else happens," Pandey told TOI.

Indeed, Kuldeep is emerging as one of the many success stories of India's surge in the Champions Trophy. Completing a solid comeback after a groin injury forced him to miss the tour of Australia, Kuldeep — facing stiff competition from mystery spinner Varun Chakravarty for the role of India's third spinner — justified the team management's faith in him by taking 3-40 in nine overs and playing a crucial role in his team's six-wicket win.

"I called him up a day before the match against Pakistan. I told him that he bowled well in the previous game (0-43 in 10 overs against Bangladesh). I told him to bowl on the right spot and vary the pace of his deliveries. Importantly, I told him to stay relaxed, and not panic at all. Pakistan's batters were defensive against him at the start.

"I would credit captain Rohit Sharma for using him in short bursts



KULDEEP YADAV

## KULDEEP YADAV'S ODI CAREER

	Mt	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Ave	Best	4WI	5WI	SR	ER
Overall	110	931.3	30	4646	177	26.24	6/25	7	2	31.5	4.98
In wins	78	681.3	27	3228	140	23.05	6/25	7	2	29.2	4.73
Vs Pak	7	54.0	1	210	15	14.00	5/25	1	0	21.6	3.88

(three spells). He trusted him to take wickets in the slog overs, and the move paid off. If Pakistan scored 280-plus, it could've been a difficult chase," said Pandey.

Surely, Kuldeep is blessed with the ability to take wickets in the death overs, a make-or-break phase in ODI cricket. On Sunday, Kuldeep returned to the attack for his second spell in the 40th over and finished with three for 17 in four overs, leaving the Pakistan lower-order batters boozed to extinguish all their hopes of a late flourish.

Talking about his splendid show in the slog overs, Kuldeep revealed

# India were braver than us: Rizwan

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Dubai: Struggling to conceal a resigned look on his face after his team suffered a comprehensive six-wicket defeat at the hands of India on Sunday night, Pakistan captain Mohammad Rizwan had no qualms admitting that the defending champions' campaign was over.

"For now, we can say that it's over. This is the truth. As a captain, I don't like depending on others. If you are good enough, you show it by winning and keeping things in your hands. Waiting on other teams, I don't like worrying about their results. What matters is that India and New Zealand beat us. We accept it. They played strong and we didn't play well. If we get a chance (to sneak through) then so be it," Rizwan told reporters.

Their exit from the tournament was confirmed on Monday when New Zealand beat Bangladesh in Rawalpindi. It is the third ICC white-ball tournament in a row in which they've been shown the exit door before the knockouts begin — the 2017 Champions Trophy winners also crashed out at the league stage in the 2023 ODI World Cup and the 2024 T20 World Cup.

One of the biggest reasons why Pakistan lost the match was because they ended up with a sub-par total batting first. "When you lose, you're obviously disappointed and it's a difficult time, difficult questions come up. We made mistakes in all three departments, that is why we



DOWN AND OUT: Pakistan captain Mohammad Rizwan and teammates after Sunday's defeat

lost today. In our team meeting before the game, we said we'll target 270-280, given the outfield and the pitch was slow. If we'd got 280, the result might have been different. Saud and I started building up a partnership, over which we took some time, but after that our shot selection was poor. That gave them a chance to take wickets and put pressure on our middle order," Rizwan said.

Pakistan were let down by their fielding too, as they dropped a couple of important catches. "India's effort was greater, they were braver than us. That is why they got the result. When we had to show enough bravery in some moments, we didn't do it. In our fielding, we needed to show more energy, but we were lacking in that as well," Rizwan said.

## PAK GREATS SLAM TEAM AFTER LOSS

Karachi: Stalwarts of Pakistan cricket stood united in describing the current team as "insipid" and "uninspiring" after it was outplayed by India in Dubai. The Pakistan players were critical of the team's approach, attitude, and planning, with Wasim Akram calling for an overhaul of the white-ball squad before the 2026 T20 World Cup. Shoib Akhtar even went to the extent of calling star batter Babar Azam a "fraud", while Muhammad Hafeez called for the axing of three pacers — Shaheen, Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah.

# HOW BAGAN ENJOYED A FULL BLOOM

## Coach Molina Enjoys The Spotlight After Teaching Mariners Winning Mantra

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**Kolkata:** Sometimes you need a big bang to claim your world. Something radical and explosive, like a new birth. The big bang moment for Mohun Bagan SG came right at the outset of the season. And it was served in fashion typical of the famed Maidan culture, by showing the existing coach the door—in this case an ISL Shield winner in Antonio Lopez Habas, no less!

In another outside-of-the-box flourish, in came Jose Molina. But his return to Indian football eight years after guiding ATK to their second title in a nascent league, was anything but smooth. His reign began with defender Anwar Ali's controversial switch to crosstown rivals East Bengal FC. More setbacks followed—a loss to NorthEast United in the season-opening Durand Cup final and then a shoddy defence of the ISL Shield title.

Bagan were looking shaky and the call for Molina's head

—especially after East Bengal FC decided to give Carles Cuadrat the sack—gained ground.

Then, everything changed between Sept 28 when Bagan lost 0-3 to Bengaluru FC away and Oct 5, when they blew away Mohammedan SC 3-0 at home. The win over old Maidan rivals set in motion their all-conquering run at home this season. "I'm not worried about a sacking. If it has to happen, it will happen," Molina had said on the eve of the match. "I think the team is getting closer to where I want it to be. Takes time, but I'm happy."

On Sunday, an almost packed and febrile Salt Lake Stadium witnessed a different Molina when Bagan rode a Dimitrios Petratos' stoppage-time goal to edge Odisha FC 1-0 and become the first team to defend the ISL Shield. Usually restrained, a stoic face betraying little, the 54-year-old let his hair down — the celebration began with a leap and punch in the air, and a triumphant run in manic delight.

The ambush completed, the Shield defended, the man needed that show-stealing stage to realize his moment of truth. "To win a trophy, you need to be a team. It's not just about 11 players. You have to be a team, everybody has to feel important," Molina would tell everyone an hour later.

This is perhaps what has set Molina's Bagan apart from the rest this season. Take for example Petratos. The Australian striker played an inspirational role in helping Bagan



SAVOURING THE MOMENT: Mohun Bagan players celebrate with skipper Subhasish Bose on Sunday

lift its first Shield last season but lost his starting place with the arrival of Jamie Maclaren. His last goal had come in a losing cause over two months ago, when Bagan went down 1-2 to Goa for only their second league defeat this term.

"The last two months is not a failure. You only fail when you stop, so I never gave up," Petratos pointed out. Maclaren also provided another insight. "We've shown that we don't rely on one goal scorer

with Rodriguez chipping in with five more. Five months ago, it was a different battle for Molina who appeared to be in the firing line. Yet, he believed in his project, transformed Bagan into a winning machine and helped them find their place in the sun. In doing so, Molina reclaimed his world in Indian football.

Even more, Subhasish now has most goals by a defender in an ISL season (6),

**52** Molina's team clinched the ISL Shield with 52 points from 22 matches, becoming the first team to breach the 50-point mark.

**16** The win over Odisha FC was Bagan's 16th win, the highest by any team in a single season of ISL.

**14** The win was their 14th clean sheet in the season, also becoming the first team to keep 6 clean sheets in a row.

**20** Number of goals scored via set-pieces, also the most by a team in a single season.

## GALLERY

### Indian cagers record 26-year low

**Nagpur:** Indian cagers missed the Asia Cup bus for the first time in 26 years on Monday, reports Amit Sampat. Despite giving an improved performance in the later stage of the qualifiers, Indian men's team will not participate in the biannual basketball tournament where they have been playing on a regular basis since 1999. In their FIBA Asia Cup qualifier game, Qatar beat India 81-61 and consequently qualify for the Asia Cup along with table toppers Iran from Group E.

**CSK rope in Sriram as asst bowling coach:** Former India allrounder Sridharan Sriram will be the assistant bowling coach of Chennai Super Kings in the upcoming IPL, the five-time champions announced.

**Cyclist Froome breaks collarbone:** Four-time Tour de France champion Chris Froome suffered a broken collarbone in a crash during the final stage of the UAE Tour on Sunday.

**Pelicans rally to rout Spurs:** Zion Williamson scored 22 points, Kelly Olynyk had a double-double, as hosts New Orleans Pelicans defeated the San Antonio Spurs 114-96 on Sunday. AGENCIES

## ACTION TODAY

**CRICKET:** Champions Trophy, Australia vs South Africa, 2.30 pm (Star); WPL, Delhi vs Gujarat, 6.30 pm (Star); Zimbabwe vs Ireland, 3rd T20, 10 pm (Fan-code); **FOOTBALL:** ISL, BFC vs Chennaiyin FC, 7.30 pm (Star); I-League, Dempo SC vs Sreenidi Deccan FC, 4.30 pm; Aizawl FC vs Gokulam Kerala FC, 7 pm (Sony); **TENNIS:** Dubai Open, 3.30 pm; Acapulco Open, 5.30 am Wednesday (Eurosport)

## REDS ON A ROAR

Liverpool Have Been Unstoppable This Premiership Season. They Are 11 Points Clear After Just 27 Games, All But Ensuring That The EPL Title Race Is As Good As Over...

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Seldom, in recent years has the English Premier League title been all but sealed as early as February. But such has been Liverpool's supremacy in a season where otherwise perennial winners Manchester City slipped into oblivion, and closest challengers Arsenal have endured untimely setbacks in the title race, that it looks good as done. Arne Slot's side, who made a thumping statement with the league double over defending champions City on Sunday, enjoy a 11-point cushion at the summit with about one-third of the season remaining. TOI analyses the key factors for the Reds dominant run among Europe's elite leagues this term...

### FITTING IN THE SLOT

While Kop favourite, Jurgen Klopp established a base for future success and left behind a fine squad for Slot to inherit, the Dutchman has surprised the sceptics by seamlessly adapting to the English game. In his maiden EPL season, Slot has gone toe to toe with the best, thanks to his flexibility and tactical tweaks — the 'relocation' of Cody Gakpo for one. The Dutch international is relishing his current role on left wing after being used primarily as a striker under Klopp. "It felt a little bit like the 'old me'. I feel really good in this position," Gakpo,

### NEYMAR RESPONDS TO JEERING FANS BY SCORING DIRECTLY FROM CORNER

**Santos:** Jeering International Limeira fans provoked Neymar to score the first 'olimpico' of his career, the Brazil international

owner of eight EPL goals this season, said. On Sunday, Slot showed his tactical nous again, employing midfielders Curtis Jones and Dominik Szoboszlai up front in the absence of an out-and-out striker.

### RUN LIKE THE EGYPTIAN

Mohamed Salah has been enjoying an extraordinary season, forever raising an already high bar. With 25 goals and 16 assists in 27 appearances, the north African has been the league's most productive player by a distance. For perspective, Salah's closest rivals (Alexander Isak (Newcastle) and Haaland (City)) trail him by six goals in the standings. "He gets the ball and does something special, that is sometimes difficult. But not many things seem difficult for Mo," Slot said of his 32-year-old spearhead. "We need another title. Me and the big guys in the team, we need another title," Salah, whose current deal is set to expire at the end of the season, has said.

### RYAN'S GIG

Ryan Gravenberch has proved indispensable to Slot's system, so much that even a slight dip in form has been overlooked. Forging a strong partnership with Alexis Mac Allister in the middle of the park, the Dutch

said on Sunday after guiding Santos to a 3-0 win in the Paulista Championship. Neymar netted directly from a corner in the 27th minute, bending in a right-footed shot which struck the far post and ended up in the goal. "They teased me and I said, now I'm the one who's going to score the goal," Neymar told TNT Sports.

### AIFF WARNS I-LEAGUE 2 CLUBS AGAINST SKIPPING MANIPUR TIES

**Panaji:** The AIFF has told I-League 2 clubs that they will have to forfeit their games and face sanctions if they boycott matches in Manipur, reports Marcus Mergulhao. Six non-Manipur clubs held a meeting in Kolkata last week to discuss their concerns about travelling to Manipur due to security issues. They then officially wrote to the

### LEAD OF 11 OR MORE POINTS AFTER 27 MATCHES. ALL WENT ON TO WIN THE EPL

Season	Team	Lead
1993-94	Man United	16
2000-01	Man United	13
2004-05	Chelsea	12
2005-06	Chelsea	15
2012-13	Man United	15
2017-18	Man City	16
2019-20	Liverpool	22
2020-21	Man City	15
*2024-25 (ongoing)	Liverpool	11

midfielder has shone in his deep-lying defensive role. The 22-year-old has been handed a start in every EPL match thus far and Slot has used like-for-like replacement in Wataru Endo off the bench. "When you come to Liverpool, you always want to be in the first XI," Gravenberch had said. "When Slot told me that he sees me as a No. 6, I knew what I had to do. Of course, I have had to adapt a little bit, but it has been going really well," the youngster has said.

### MODERATE MEANS MORE

Where everyone simply splashes the cash, Liverpool did not spend big in the last two transfer windows. The only senior arrival was the Italian forward, Federico Chiesa. Yet, despite not possessing a luxurious squad depth, Slot has managed available resources admirably. Liverpool have reaped the rewards of their emphasis on injury prevention, hardly losing key players to long-term injuries — nine players have made 25 appearances or more so far this season. Training sessions not being as intense as they were during Klopp's era and Slot's "patient" and "possession-based" style have greatly helped in this regard.

### VIRGIL'S VIGIL

Led by their talismanic centre-half Virgil van Dijk, Liverpool have the second-best defensive record in the league; they are behind Arsenal having conceded 26 goals. The Reds are perched at the top of the 'clean sheets' table with 11 shutouts, despite not being at their best defensively in recent fixtures. "Clean sheets are one of the reasons why you win a lot. Sometimes, you need a win by keeping a clean sheet and scoring one or two goals," is the Slot maxim.

AIFF to "reconsider any plans requiring travel to Manipur". The AIFF, however, has told the clubs they must travel to Manipur, which has three clubs — TRAU, Neroca FC and KLASA — taking part in I-League 2. KLASA is scheduled to host FC Bengaluru United at the Khuman Lampak Main Stadium in Imphal on Tuesday.

"The clubs should travel. We have got clearance from the security in-charge and the DGP himself," AIFF secretary Anilkumar P told TOI.

## 'Lost' Rublev finds his way back after battling burnout, depression

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**Dubai:** Andrey Rublev turned away as he spoke, eyeing the lush lawns at the picturesque Irish Village, before pointing at various parts of his anatomy, wrist, finger, and forearm, even his gear. It might have something to do with the 27-year-old's catchphrase 'responsibility' which has him turning inward.

Rublev is back at the Dubai Duty Free tennis championships, where he was defaulted 12 months ago, following an animated rant at a lines judge at the end of the semifinals. The Russian, known as much for his mercurial temper as for his penchant for self-harm, beating himself with his racket and leaving his hands and legs bleeding, spoke about his struggles with burnout and depression.

"I was completely lost. I was thinking what's the purpose of living," said Rublev, who has battled in the dark for a few years now. "The thing is when it happens for a few months, you still have patience (that you can overcome), but when it goes on for years you



BEING RESPONSIBLE: Andrey Rublev won the Qatar Open title last week

feel you cannot take it anymore. "It's like a pain," he said, pointing at his arm. "It starts to grow more and more, and you want to cut the arm."

Rublev, who fell in the first round of the Australian Open, won his 17th career title in Doha last week. "I was taking antidepressants, but after one year of taking antidepressants, I realized that in the beginning you feel a bit better, then nothing afterwards," he said. "After some time I realized that while it's not getting worse, something was weird. I didn't like that feeling so I stopped taking the medication."

With the help of his charismatic compatriot Marat Safin, a former World No. 1, Rublev started finding his way back. "Marat made me understand myself, that was a bit of a restart from the bottom. From there, little by little, I started to move in a better direction," he said, adding, "I'm not in a good or a bad place (now), but I'm not feeling any more stress, I'm not feeling anxious, I'm not having depression. I'm just neutral. Not happy, not bad, but I have found a base and that's a beginning."

"The main thing is to be honest with yourself," the World No.

9 said. "All of us think that we (may not be) honest with people, but with ourselves we are honest. This is a huge lie because most people are not even honest with themselves. I was the same. I (thought) I have no problem saying if I'm wrong, if I'm right, if I made a mistake."

"I was lying to myself about many things. I didn't even want to understand or notice it. You need someone who can make you see yourself in an honest way."

"People put masks on, they make excuses for that, I'm doing that because someone hurt me or I don't want them to see the real me," he said. "They are already lying, running away from the problem, finding an excuse. They don't want to face themselves. The first thing is to be honest with yourself, then start to be more aware."

This search for his true self is stirred by a one-word reminder — responsibility — which Rublev writes on his shoes. Every time he looks down the word stares back at him. "I'm putting that word there to remind myself that I'm the one, it's not because of anything or anyone. If something bad or good happens to me, it's not because of luck but because I made a mistake (or did something right). You cannot blame anything or anyone, this is a reminder to myself not to complain."

## K'taka HC dismisses petition by Lakshya, others in age-fraud case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** In a setback for ace shuttler Lakshya Sen, his family members, and his coach U Vimal Kumar, Karnataka high court has refused to quash the proceedings in a criminal case lodged against them for age fraud. "When prima facie materials are placed on record which constitute the offences, I don't find any reason either to stall the investigation or quash the initiation of criminal proceedings. There are sufficient materials placed before the court by the complainant, which are documents obtained under the Right to Information Act from the appropriate authority. Under such circumstances, I don't find any reason to entertain the petitions," Justice MG Uma observed in her order.

The matter is now pending before the 8th additional chief metropolitan magistrate court, Bengaluru. On Dec 22, 2022, the high court had stayed the investigation.

According to the complaint filed by one MG Nagaraj, the accused fabricated the birth certificates of Lakshya Sen and his brother Chirag Sen, showing their age as less by about 2.5 years to enable them to take part in badminton tournaments, thereby claiming benefits illegally. The petitioners claimed the complaint and the FIR filed were wholly baseless and an abuse of the process of law with the aim to harass them.

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## Boxing put under IOA ad-hoc panel

Sabi.Hussain@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Monday placed the Ajay Singh-led Boxing Federation of India (BFI) under ad-hoc committee's governance following the latter's inability to conduct its elections, which were scheduled on or before Feb 2.

The action also stemmed from the IOA "receiving numerous complaints from stakeholders, including athletes, coaches and concerned authorities regarding the non-participation of Indian boxers in various significant national/international competitions in recent months".

In response, the BFI said it would be filing a petition for quashing IOA's order before the Delhi High Court. Of late, Indian boxers have been missing out on several major competitions partly owing to BFI's internal administrative discord pending its elections and because of its alignment with the new breakaway faction — Switzerland-headquartered World Boxing (WB) — which is yet to secure permanent recognition from the International

Olympic Committee (IOC).

The country's elite boxers were aggrieved after they weren't sent to the prestigious Strandja Memorial international meet in Bulgaria, which commenced on Monday and an important fixture on the international calendar, coming after the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The IOA noted: "The committee shall take immediate steps to address the grievances raised by the boxing community, facilitate athlete participation in upcoming international competitions, and work towards conducting the IBF elections at the earliest."

The BFI president Singh said, "At the outset, I must state that the issuance of this office order is legally untenable, lacks any valid authority in law, and is in clear violation of due process. The IOA has no jurisdiction over the conduct of elections for NSFs. It gives an impression that extraneous factors are at play in this decision-making process."

The five-member committee will be headed by Madhukant Pathak as its chairman and Rajesh Bhandari as the vice chairman.

## India put up fine show on Savita's big day, but lose

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**Bhubaneswar:** It was a special day for Savita Punia playing her 300th match for India. Her teammates played their hearts out against the Olympic champions Netherlands at the Kalinga here on Monday. They wanted to make it a memorable outing for their goalkeeper, but despite their good show, the hosts — who won 15 penalty corners — went down 2-4 to the world No. 1 side.

It was India's fourth loss of the tournament in regular time but certainly one of their better performances.

Coach Harendra Singh was incredibly happy with the performance. "I can't ask for more than this. I think today (Mon-

day) they put their best foot forward. The girls gave their hearts out and it wasn't about winning and losing," he said.

**India men go down to England:** Sam Ward scored a brace as the England men's team beat India 3-2. The two teams were facing off for the first time since the Olympics and it was a thrilling encounter from the word go.

Jacob Payton first put England in the lead late into the first quarter. Abhishek soon equalised but Ward scored twice in a matter of 10 minutes to make it 3-1. India pulled one back in the 39th minute through Sukhjeet Singh but England held on for the win despite India winning many PCs.

## Ecclestone stuns RCB in Super Over win

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**Bengaluru:** Royal Challengers Bengaluru's WPL face-off against UP Warriorz on Monday was full of twists, turns and high-voltage drama — not meant for the faint-hearted. Set a target of 181 by the home side, Warriorz stumbled in the death overs, but Sophie Ecclestone (33; 19b; 1x4; 4x6) took her team to the cusp of victory before falling a few feet short of the winning run, sending the contest into the first-ever Super Over of the competition.

Ecclestone was not done yet. What she couldn't finish with the bat, she did with the ball. First up, RCB pacer Kim Garth conceded eight runs in the Super Over she bowled. In search of nine for victory, RCB pair of Richa Ghosh and Smriti Mandhana faltered, accumulating just four runs. This was the home team's second consecutive loss.

Earlier, there were no Monday blues at the Chinnaswamy Stadium as spectators packed the venue. They were in for a treat with an Ellyse Perry special. The RCB top-order batter struck a 56-ball unbeaten 90 (9x4; 3x6) and



Sophie Ecclestone reacts after bowling Warriorz to victory

shared a 94-run second-wicket stand with Danni Wyatt-Hodge (57 off 41b; 4x4; 3x6) as the duo steered the defending champions to 180/6.

In reply, Warriorz opener Kiran Navgire (24) ensured a fiery start, getting off the mark with consecutive boundaries off Renuka Singh and then going after Garth. Renuka accounted for the openers — Navgire and Vrinda Dinesh. Warriorz, however, lost a flurry of wickets as Sneha Rana (3/27) — making her RCB debut — claimed a three-wicket haul.

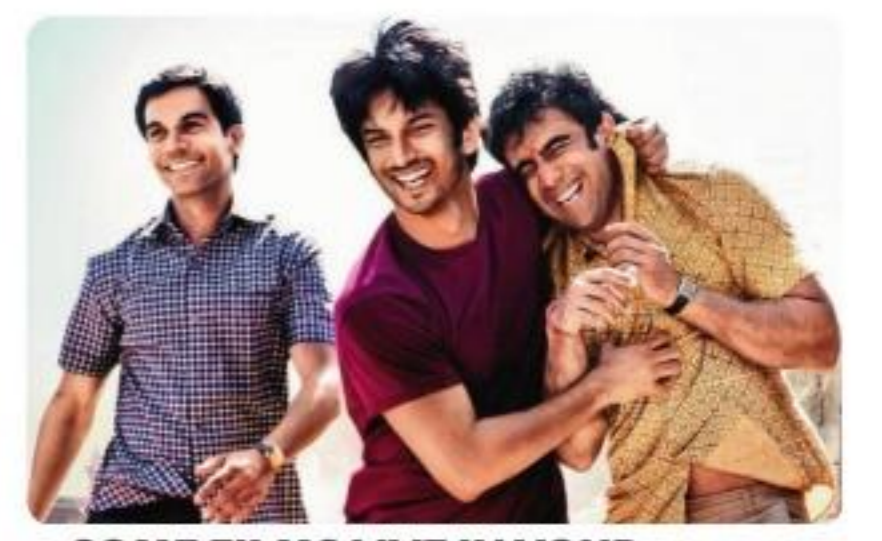
**Brief scores:** Royal Challengers Bengaluru 180 for 6 in 20 overs (Ellyse Perry 90 not out, Danni Wyatt-Hodge 57; Tahila McGrath 1/30) vs UP Warriorz (Sophie Ecclestone 33, Shweta Sehrawat 31; Sneha Rana 3/27, Renuka Singh 2/36).

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P3



# Delhi Times

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025  
ADVERTORIAL, ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY  
PROMOTIONAL FEATURE



**SOME FILMS LIVE IN YOUR HEART: DIRECTOR CELEBRATES 12 YRS OF KAI PO CHE!** P4

OF INDIA

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Ranjit Kumar



🔥 Demi Moore continued her strong awards season run for *The Substance* by taking home the SAG for Best Female Actor in a Leading Role

🔥 In her opening monologue, Kristen Bell sang a *Frozen* parody song titled *Do You Want To Be An Actor?* while showcasing some of the very early roles of the stars in attendance

## A made-for-TV SAGs

In a departure from previous award shows, the SAGs kept the focus on entertainers, celebrating and awarding the most-loved shows, actors, and fan favourites

🔥 "Thank you SAG-AFTRA for this very heavy award. No one can hold it for 45 seconds. That's the allotted time Adrian Brody," said *Succession* star Kieran Culkin as he accepted the SAG for the Best Male Actor in a Supporting role for *A Real Pain*



🔥 "I'm really in pursuit of greatness. I know people don't usually talk like that, but I want to be one of the greats. I'm inspired by the greats," said Timothee Chalamet as he accepted the SAG for best actor for *A Complete Unknown*

## VOICES

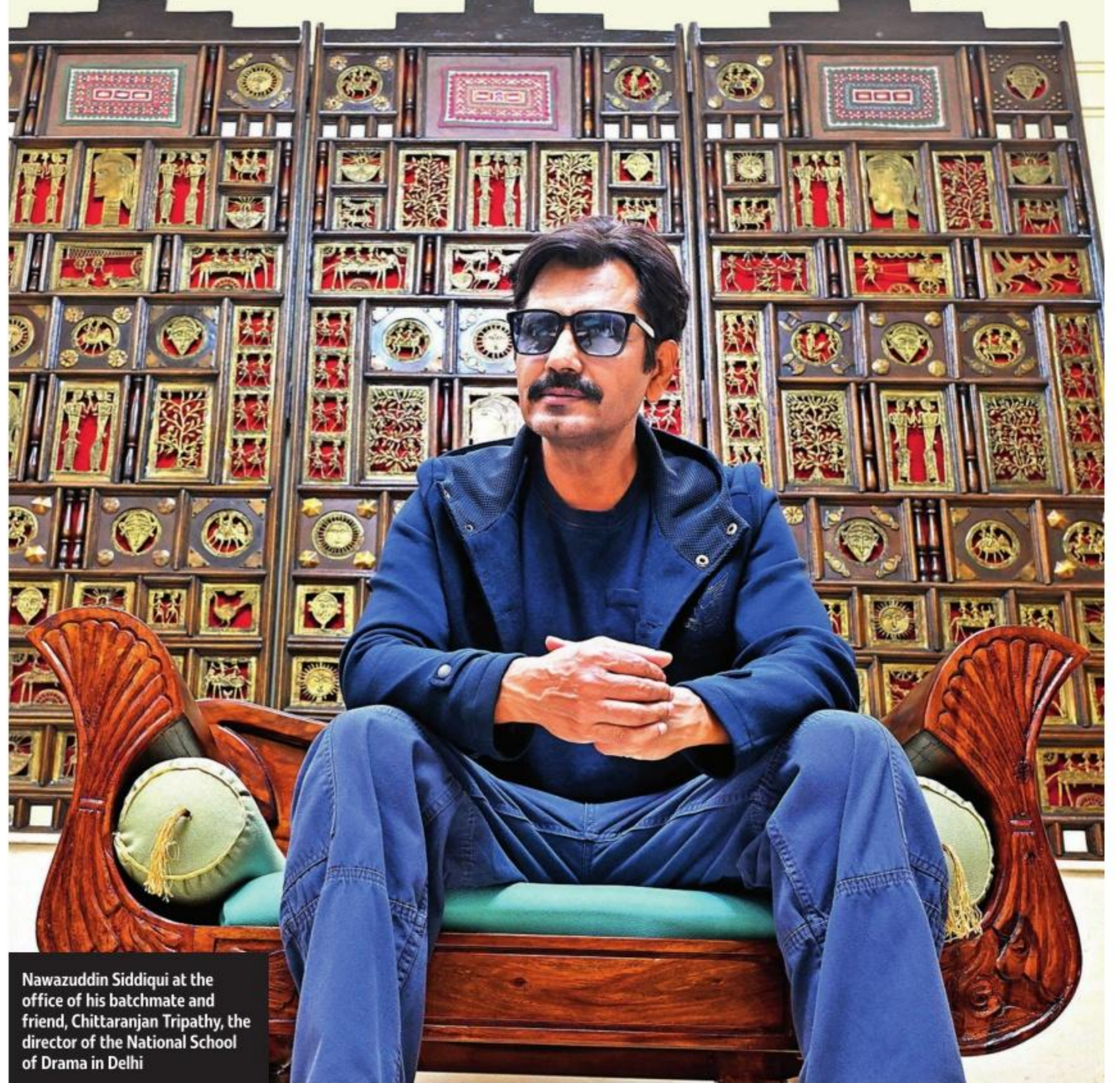
Make no mistake, empathy is not weak or woke and by the way, woke just means you give a damn about other people... A whole lot of people are going to be really hurt by what is happening, what is coming our way. And even if they're of a different political persuasion we need to call upon our empathy and not judge but listen from our hearts... We must not isolate. We must stay in community. We must help the vulnerable. We must find ways to project an inspiring vision of the future

— Jane Fonda was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award



P2

## It was in NSD that I realised I could be a serious actor, says Nawazuddin Siddiqui



Nawazuddin Siddiqui at the office of his batchmate and friend, Chittaranjan Tripathy, the director of the National School of Drama in Delhi

Niharika Lal

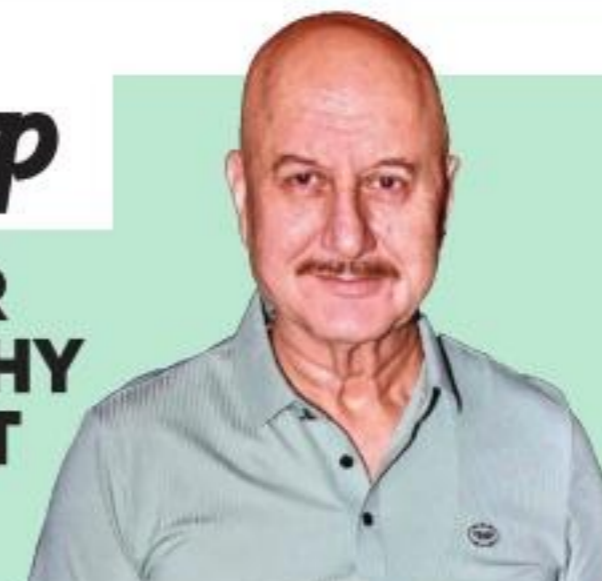
**N**awazuddin Siddiqui has long been praised by critics, for slipping seamlessly into intense, serious, complex roles. But as he stood on the stage of the National School of Drama (NSD), the actor spoke of a time when serious roles weren't even in the picture, until a Russian director visiting NSD saw something sharper in him. From then to now, the actor has spent several decades in the industry and played characters that shook him to his core. In a conversation with NSD director Chittaranjan Tripathy at a recent event, the actor spoke fondly about his campus days and more.

CONTINUED ON P3

🔥 At NSD, we didn't want to do what felt easy. It is important to play characters differently, and I believe absurdity exists somewhere inside us. Bringing that out while performing is essential

## Buzzstop

**ANUPAM KHER ASKS MUSK WHY HIS X ACCOUNT WAS LOCKED**



Anupam Kher tagged Elon Musk on X as he enquired about why he was locked out of his account. The actor wrote, "Dear X! Even though my account has been restored I was surprised to see it locked. I have been on this platform since September 2007. Have always been mindful of rules of #X. Or for that matter any social media copyright rules. So found it a little absurd. Would love to know which post of mine did violate your rules? Thanks @elonmusk" Agencies

## Miranda House files complaint against Ziddi Girls makers



After the "objectionable portrayal of the college," Miranda House has now filed a police complaint against the makers of *Ziddi Girls*

🔥 The producers have released a new trailer which seems to be balanced. However, the earlier objectionable trailer continues to circulate. Secondly, they have not responded to the other two points raised by the college. The college, therefore, had no other option but to file a police complaint — College authorities

P3

## CELEBS CHEER INDIA TO ITS WIN

As a record-worthy century from Kohli cemented India's win against Pakistan at the ongoing Champions Trophy, celebs including Sonam Kapoor, Chiranjeevi, and more cheered for the Men in Blue



Chiranjeevi with Abhishek Sharma and Tilak Varma



Atif Aslam extended his support for Team Pakistan



Sonam Kapoor



Gossip Girl actor Ed Westwick with Orry





Ranjit Kumar

# Mujhe aise characters chahiye jismein kharabiyan bhi ho: Nawaz



Nawazuddin Siddiqui says, "Characters have their own mistakes, their own shades, and I like doing such characters"

CONTINUED FROM K 1

## 'I WAS CAST IN A SERIOUS ROLE BASED ONLY ON MY EYES'

When he was at NSD, a Russian theatre director, who had a "unique" casting process visited the campus. "He didn't meet any of the students from my batch. Instead, he looked at our photos and focused only on the eyes. He decided to cast us based on that," recalled Nawaz, adding, "That was the first time I was given a serious role in a play. Until then, I had only done comedy at NSD. That was the moment I found a certain tone in my acting. It was the first time I realised I could make that my base and build on it."

## 'MUJHE NAFRAT HAI AISE CHARACTERS SE JINKI HAR CHEEZ ACHCHI HAI'

Talking about his characters, Nawaz said, "Even during our NSD days we would search for layers within the characters to perform them differently - kuch alag sa ho, cliched na ho, absurd na ho, unpredictable ho. We constantly tried to

avoid what came naturally to the character; we didn't want to do what felt easy. I believe absurdity exists somewhere inside us. Bringing that out while performing is essential. *Aaj bhi main usi ko le kar pareshan hoon.* Characters have their own mistakes, their own shades, and I like doing such characters."

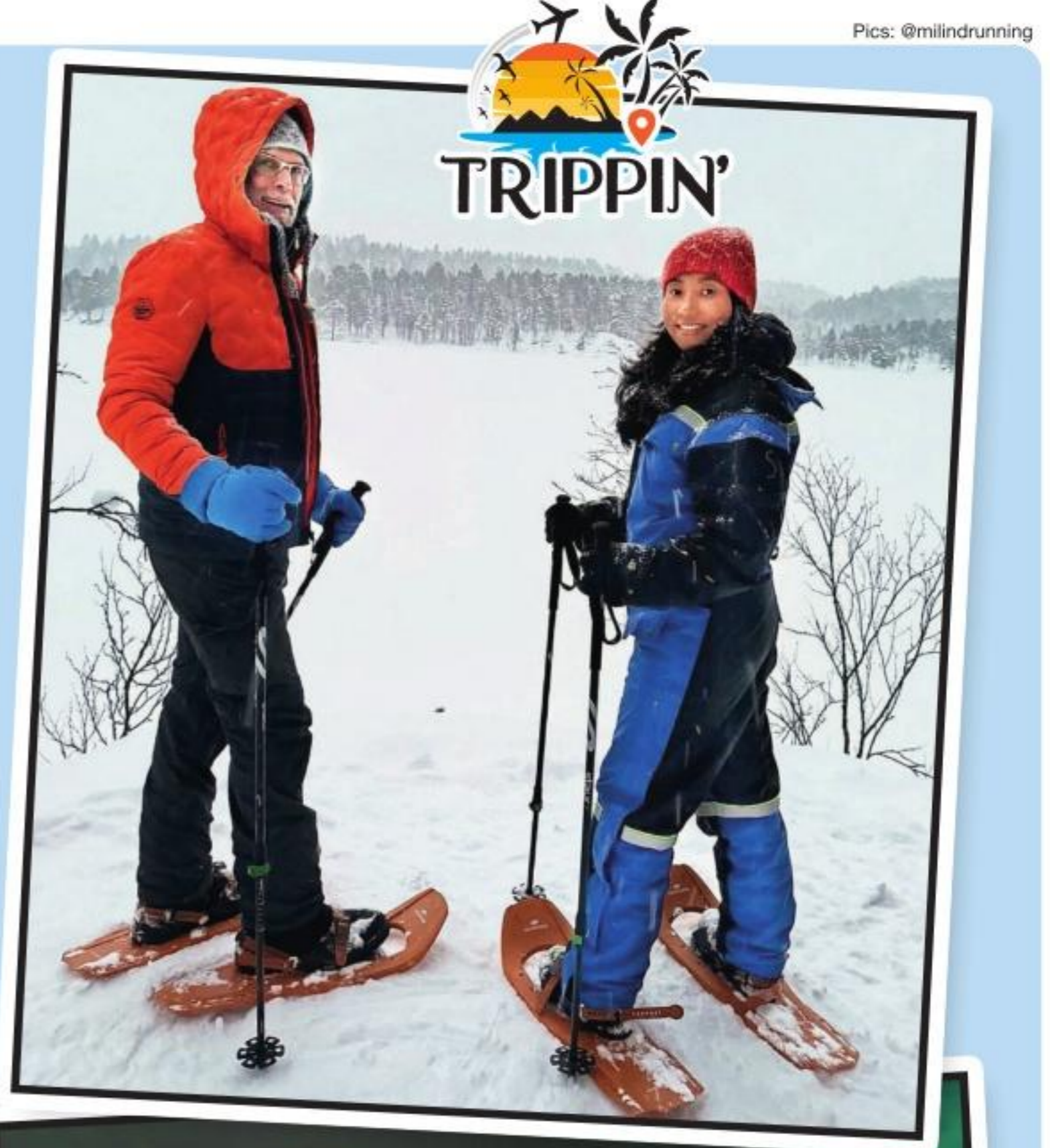
Giving an example of the hero in Hindi films, he said, "*Woh characters jinki har cheez achhi hai, mujhe nafrat hai aise characters se.* He has no crisis, no troubles in life. He looks good, talks nicely. *Khoobsurat ladki uss par marti bhi hai. 12-15 logon ko maar bhi deta hai woh. Mujhe aise characters chahiye jismein kharabiyan bhi ho, achhaiyan bhi ho. Ab aap decide kariye kaisa hai woh? Main usi ko le kar pareshan rehna hoon ki kaash hamare yahan aise kirdar likhe jayein jo cliches ko break karein. Kahaniyaan ek se ek achchi hain hamare yahan, lekin kirdaar waise likhe nahi jaa rahe.* A lot of people ask me, 'Are you doing a good story?' I don't want a good story - I want a nuanced character."

Adding that we are surrounded by various offbeat stories, but we are bound by our perception, Nawaz shared "*Le-kin hum log samaaj se bandhe hain aur woh stories mar jati hain phir. Mujhe shauq hai waise kirdar karne ka. Main uske liye aaj bhi bhookha hoon,*" he said.

**Kahaniyaan ek se ek achchi hain hamare yahan, lekin kirdaar waise likhe nahi jaa rahe. A lot of people ask me, 'Are you doing a good story?' I don't want a good story - I want a nuanced character**

## 'Manto was a character that shook me up'

Talking about the characters that left an impression on him, he said, "The most difficult character for me so far has been Balasaheb Thackeray (*Thackeray*, 2019) because I didn't want it to feel like mimicry. I wanted to look like myself and him at the same time. Apart from Balasaheb Thackeray, *Manto* (*Manto*, 2018) was a character that shook me up internally. *Usne mere body mein hulchul kar di.* It even brought changes to my life. For a few years, I started speaking the truth too often, and that created some problems for me. *Maine jhela sach bol ke, usse maine seekha - sach bolo lekin jagah aur time dekh ke.*"



MILIND SOMAN and ANKITA KONWAR enjoyed a quick vacay to NORWAY. "Just on a whim, we took off for Tromso for three days. Super happy to see the Northern Lights again..." wrote Milind

## MIRANDA HOUSE FILES A POLICE COMPLAINT AGAINST THE MAKERS OF ZIDDI GIRLS

# 'Plan to send a legal notice to the makers'



A still from Ziddi Girls trailer

Riya Sharma

21 FEBRUARY

## What happened

In the process of formulating policies for film shoots at Miranda House after the *Ziddi Girls* trailer showed the college in an objectionable manner, college authorities have now filed a police complaint against the show's trailer and plan to send a legal notice to the makers of the web series.

## Background

- The upcoming web series *Ziddi Girls* is set in a fictional college Matilda House, and is referred to as MH in the show
- The series was shot at DU's Miranda House (also popularly referred to as MH) and is helmed by Miranda alumna Shonali Bose
- The first trailer came under fire from the college authorities, student union, and alumni for its depiction of the college with many calling it a "defamatory and inaccurate representation of the college"

**ZIDDI GIRLS TRAILER BACKLASH**  
**'We are strengthening our film shoot policies to protect the dignity of Miranda House'**

## Makers released a disclaimer

As the trailer starts, a voice over says, "*Aaj MH mein padhai nahi, porn chalta hai.*" While the college authorities, students and alumni fumed at the trailer, the makers released another trailer recently with the disclaimer, "This series is a work of fiction. It's based on a fictional institution and characters. It's not intended to defame any person, organisation or educational institution. Viewer's discretion is advised."

## 'The second trailer seems balanced, but the first objectionable trailer is still up'

Though the second trailer is "balanced", as per the college authorities, they demand to take down the first trailer and an urgent preview of the series before it is released. "Miranda House as an institution and its extended alumni have been shocked and outraged by the misrepresentation of the institution in the series *Ziddi Girls*. It is far more anguishing since the series is directed by celebrated alumna Shonali Bose and parts of which were shot in the college building. The college has written to the director and producer for three main things - to take down the objectionable trailer, to

desist from using the acronym MH for the fictional institution and to have a preview of the series on an urgent basis for the college, before it is released," inform the college authorities. They add, "The producers have released a new trailer which seems to be balanced. However, the earlier objectionable trailer continues to circulate. Secondly, they have not responded to the other two points raised by the college. The college, therefore, had no other option but to file a police complaint asking the same and is sending a legal notice on similar lines."

## A canvas of climate in the streets of Delhi

Pics: Lokesh Kashyap



India Meteorological Department, in collaboration with Delhi Street Art, inaugurated the Mausam Bhawan special art showcase as a part of its 150th-year celebration at Lodhi Road

The murals also depict diverse themes, from Rabindranath Tagore and Kalidasa, to the depiction of cyclones and climate



GALLERY



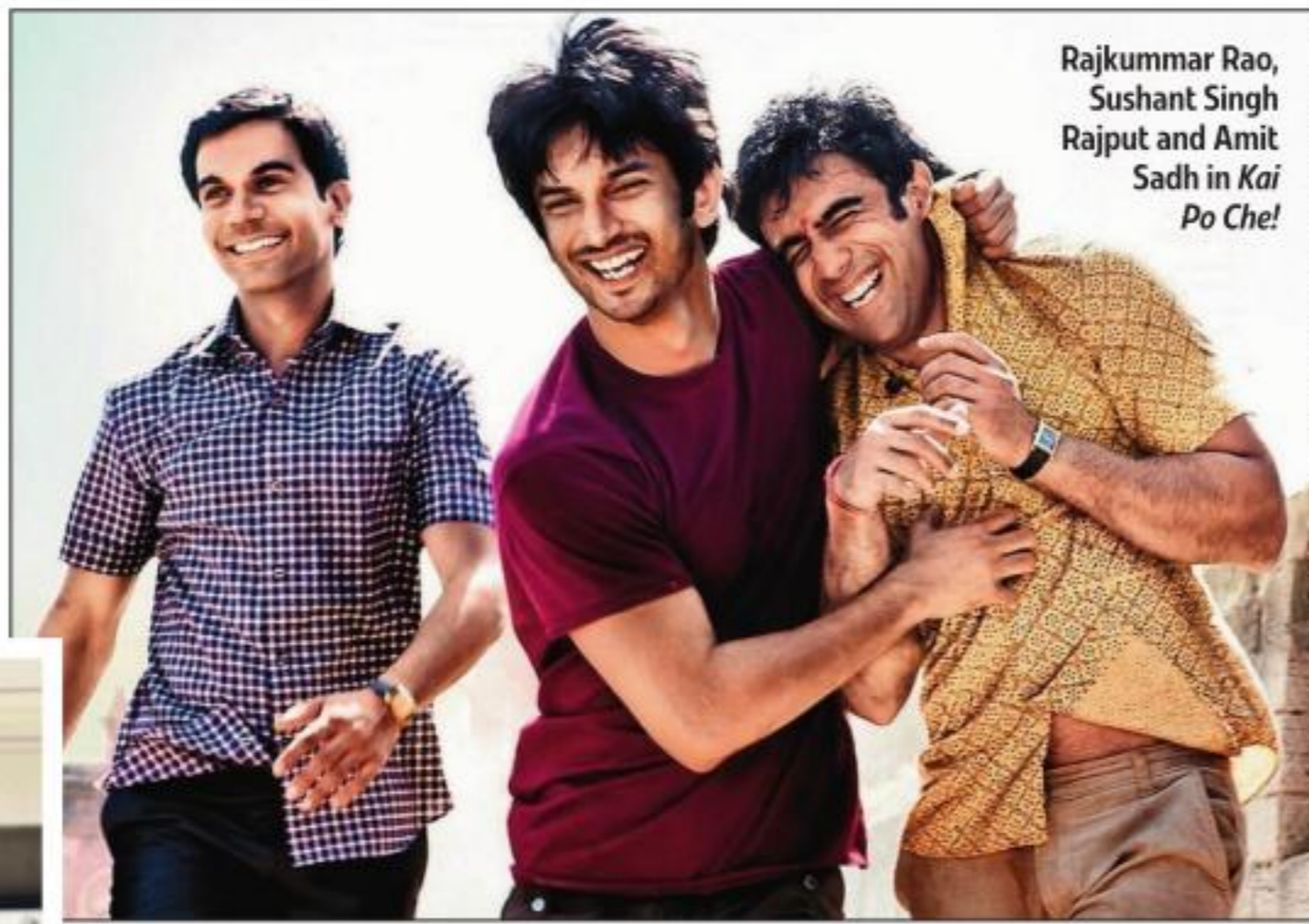
Jitendra Singh, Minister of State, Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, reviews the art along with Mayuri Saini, Director of Delhi Street Art



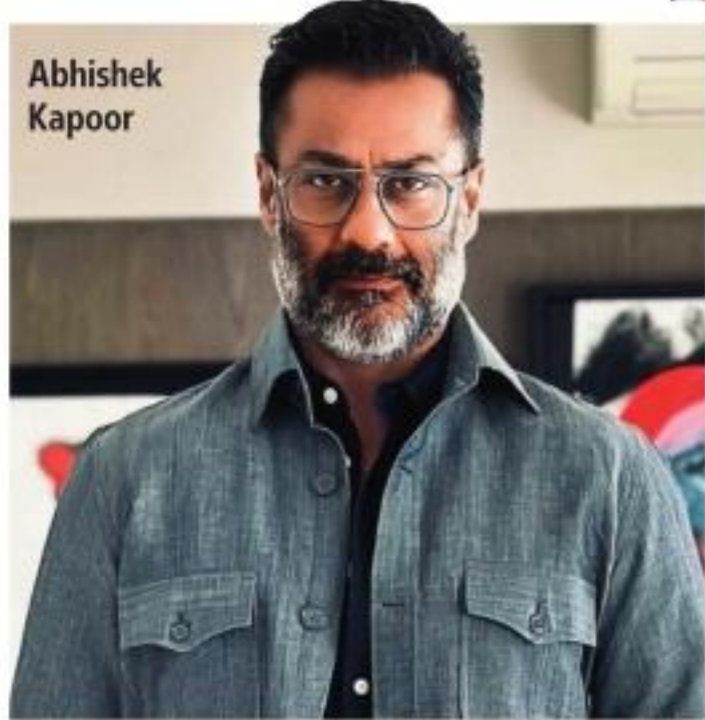
The art showcase features 38 murals illustrating the role of IMD in safeguarding lives

# Some films live in your heart: Director on 12 yrs of Kai Po Che!

**A**bhishek Kapoor shared a heartfelt post and BTS photos to mark 12 years of his film *Kai Po Che!* The movie was headlined by Sushant Singh Rajput, Rajkumar Rao and Amit Sakh. The filmmaker wrote, "Some films don't just live on screen, they live in your heart, in your bones, in the spaces between memory & time. *Kai Po Che!* was one of those films. A story of friendship, dreams, & the unforgiving ways life can change in an instant. I remember the dust on set, the heat of Ahmedabad, the sound of laughter



Rajkumar Rao, Sushant Singh Rajput and Amit Sakh in *Kai Po Che!*



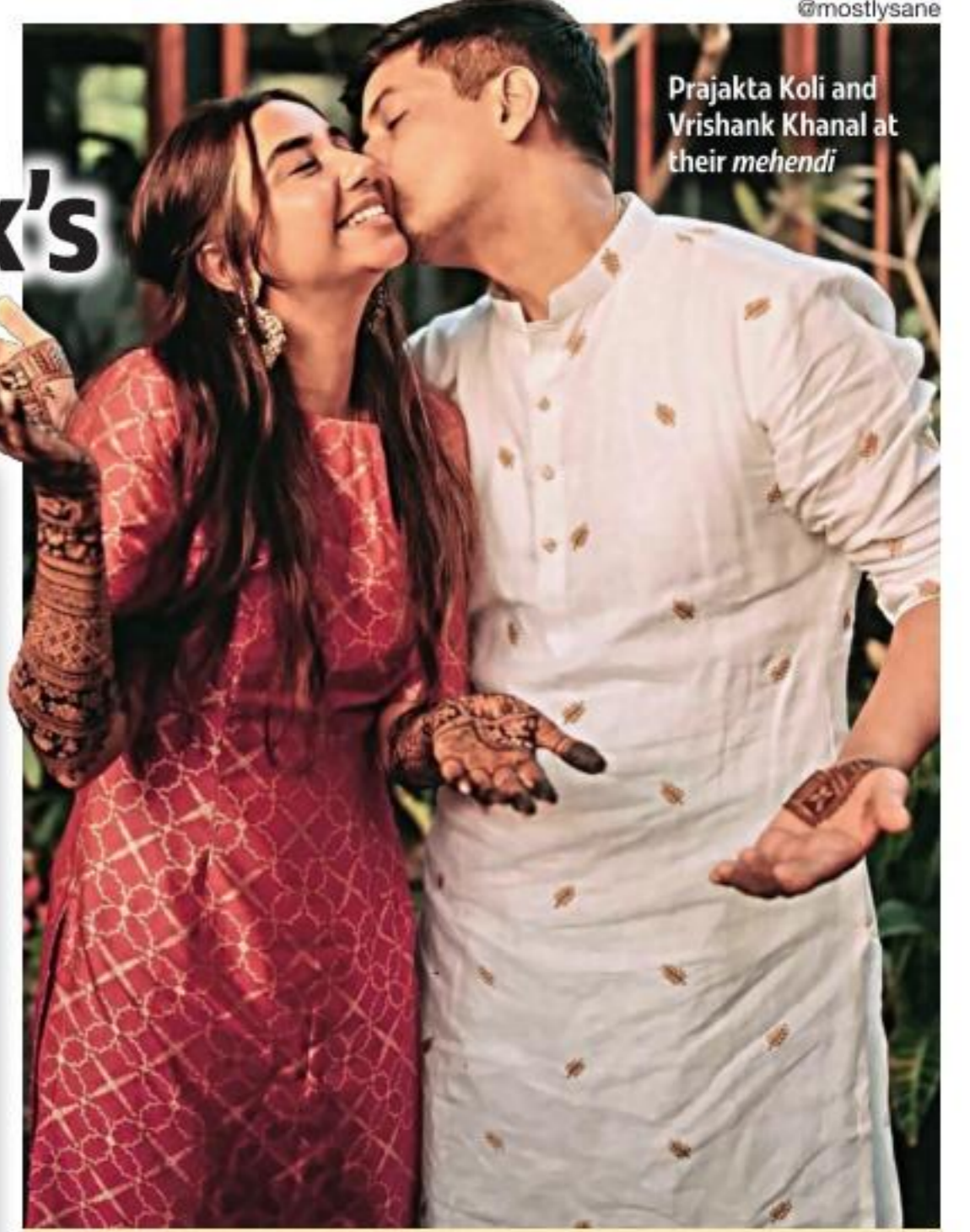
between takes, & the quiet intensity when the cameras rolled. I remember the fire in the three boys; young, hungry, & raring to go. Fully prepared in their craft, ready to serve their characters. @sushantsinghrajput, @rajkumar\_rao & @theamitsakh weren't just playing best

friends, they became them. I was convinced they were Ishaan, Govi, & Omi. The master performer @manavkulkarni who walked on set and owned it. A film isn't rich by its scale but by the people who make it. @amupuri (Amrita Puri) who worked her magic (sic)."

# Nature and love: Prajakta-Vrishank's wedding theme

**A**ctress and content creator Prajakta Koli will tie the knot with her long-time beau Vrishank Khanal today. The two met through a mutual friend years ago and have been together since. We have learnt the theme of the wedding is nature and love.

A source revealed, "The wedding festivities are being held at a resort in Karjat. Both Nepali and Maharashtra traditions are being followed. The celebrations kicked off on Sunday with *mehendi, haldi* and musical night. The wedding and reception will take place on 25th."



Prajakta Koli and Vrishank Khanal at their *mehendi*

The wedding festivities are underway at a resort in Karjat. Both Nepali and Maharashtra traditions are being followed

- Source

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**OPTIONAL TOURS:-**

- Euro Disneyland Paris Tour Option Available
- Experience High Speed Train Option Available

**SWISS PARIS WONDERS 5 Nts**  
SUPERIOR ₹1,74,999/- ₹1,49,999/-  
Airfare, 2 Nts Paris, 3 Nts Switzerland, Breakfast & Dinners, Paris City Tour with Eiffel Tower & Seine River Cruise, Orientation Tour of Zurich, VFS Charges & Tip.

**SWITZERLAND, FRANCE, NETHERLANDS 7 Nts**  
SUPERIOR ₹1,99,999/- ₹1,64,999/-  
3 Nts Switzerland, 2 Nts Netherlands, 2 Nts France, Breakfast, Dinner, Paris City Tour with Eiffel Tower & Seine River Cruise, Orientation Tour of Zurich & Amsterdam with Canal Cruise, Visit of windmills & village of Zaanse Schans, Airfare, VFS Charges & Tip.

**SPAIN & PORTUGAL 9 Nts**  
SUPERIOR ₹2,04,999/- ₹1,69,999/-  
2 Nts Madrid, 2 Nts Lisbon, 1 Nt Seville, 1 Nt Granada, 2 Nts Barcelona, Breakfast, Dinner, City Tour of Barcelona, Lisbon, Madrid with Visit to Prado Museum, Valencia, Seville, Orientation Tour of Marbella, Airfare, VFS Charges & Tip.

**CZECH REPUBLIC, HUNGARY, AUSTRIA, SWITZERLAND 8 Nts**  
SUPERIOR ₹1,94,999/- ₹1,75,999/-  
2 Nts Vienna, 2 Nts Budapest, 2 Nts Prague, 1 Nt Salzburg, 1 Nt Switzerland, Breakfast, Dinner, City Tour of Vienna with Schonbrunn Palace, Shopping Stop at McArthur Glen Premium Outlet, Entrance to the Sea Grotto, City Tour of Prague, City Tour of Budapest with 1 Hour Danube River Cruise, Tour of Cesky Krumlov, Orientation Tour of Bratislava, Salzburg & Hallstatt, Airfare, VFS Charges & Tip.

**FRANCE, SWITZERLAND, VATICAN CITY & ITALY 9 Nts**  
SUPERIOR ₹2,24,999/- ₹1,90,999/-  
2 Nts Paris, 3 Nts Switzerland, 1 Nt Austria, 1 Nt Venice, 1 Nt Rome, 1 Nt Pisa, Breakfast, Dinner, Paris City Tour with Eiffel Tower & Seine River Cruise, Orientation Tour of Zurich & Innsbruck, Venice Island Tour, Leaning Tower of Pisa, Rome City Tour, Visit Vatican City, Airfare, VFS Charges & Tip.

**BEST OF SCANDINAVIA 9 Nts**  
SUPERIOR ₹2,54,999/- ₹2,22,999/-  
2 Nts Copenhagen, 2 Nts Stockholm, 2 Nts Oslo, 1 Nt Gellio, 1 Nt Bergen, 1 Overnight Cruise To Copenhagen, Breakfast, Dinner, Flam Rail Tour, One Way Fjord Trip from Flam to Gudvangen, Copenhagen Orientation Tour, Floibanen Funicular, Stockholm, Myrdal, Karlstad, Bergen, Oslo with City Hall, One Way Cruise to Drottningholm with view of Drottningholm Palace, Visit Bergenhus Castle, Airfare, VFS Charges & Tip.

**ENGLAND, SCOTLAND & IRELAND 9 Nts**  
SUPERIOR ₹2,74,999/- ₹2,32,999/-  
Airfare, 3 Nts London, 1 Nt Lake District, 2 Nts Scotland, 1 Nt Belfast, 2 Nts Dublin, Breakfast & Dinner, Full Day London Tour with the Change of Guard at Buckingham Palace, Excursion to Edinburgh, Visit Edinburgh Castle, Glasgow Orientation Tour, Glasgow Cathedral, Giant Causeway, Belfast Orientation Tour, Dublin Orientation Tour, Ferry from Scotland - Ireland, UK Visa, Tip & GST.

**LONDON, NETHERLANDS, FRANCE, SWITZERLAND, ITALY & VATICAN CITY 13 Nts**  
SUPERIOR ₹2,99,999/- ₹2,57,999/-  
3 Nts London, 1 Nt Overnight Cruise London to Hook of Holland (Amsterdam), 1 Nt Netherlands, 2 Nts Paris, 3 Nts Switzerland, 1 Nt Venice, 1 Nt Pisa, 1 Nt Rome, Breakfast, Dinner, London City Tour with Change of Guard, Paris City Tour with Eiffel Tower & Seine River Cruise, Orientation Tour of Zurich, Brussels & Amsterdam with Canal Cruise, Venice Island Tour, Leaning Tower of Pisa, Rome City Tour, Visit Vatican City, Airfare, VFS Charges, UK Visa Charges & Tip.

Spain Value Pack worth ₹13,999/- in just ₹8,999/-: • River Cruise at Seville • Lisbon Tram Ride • Flamenco Show • Montserrat Rail Tour

London Value Pack worth ₹18,999/- in just ₹11,999/-: • Visit Tower of London • London Eye • 1 Dinner • Madam Tussauds

Euro Value Pack worth ₹33,999/- in just ₹24,999/-: • Mt. Jungfrau Tour with Interlaken • Mt. Titlis Tour with Ice Flyer & Lucerne Tour • Paris Illumination Tour

## JAPAN & KOREA 10Nts

Travel Valid: May & Jun 2025  
SUPERIOR ₹2,89,999/- ₹2,34,999/-

Travel Valid: Mar & Apr 2025  
SUPERIOR ₹2,99,999/- ₹2,74,999/-

Airfare, 2Nts Seoul, 1Nt Busan, 3 Nts Osaka, 1 Nt Hiroshima, 3 Nts Tokyo, Breakfast & 9 Dinners, Full Day Tokyo City Tour With Sumida River Cruise, Tokyo Skytree & teamLab, Mt. Fuji Trip Till 5th Station, Hakone Sightseeing, Lake Ashi Cruise & Owakudani Ropeway, Hiroshima City tour with visit to Atomic Bomb Dome and Museum & Ferry to Itsukushima and Torii, Bullet Train Journey (Hiroshima to Tokyo), Full Day Trip To Nara And Kyoto, Visit Todaiji Temple, Visit Kinkakuji Golden Pavilion, Visit Haendae Beach, Visit Haedong Yonggungsa & Songdo Skywalk or Cheongsapo Daritdol Skywalk, Seoul City Tour, DMZ zone tour at South and North Korea Border, Transfers, Visa, Tip & GST.

Optional Tours:  
• Universal Studios Tour @ ₹9,999/- • Tokyo Disneyland Tour @ ₹14,999/-

## AUSTRALIA 8Nts

SUPERIOR ₹2,69,999/- ₹2,39,999/-

Airfare, 3 Nts Gold Coast, 3 Nts Sydney, 2 Nts Melbourne, Breakfast & Dinners, Sea World Tour, Movie World Tour, Orientation Tour of Sydney & Melbourne, SEA LIFE Sydney Aquarium, Sydney Tower, Blue Mountain Tour, Great Ocean Road Tour, Visa, Transfers & GST.

## KUALA LUMPUR 5 Nts

Standard ₹29,999/- Superior ₹34,999/- Deluxe ₹39,999/-  
Airfare, 4Nts + 1Nt FREE Kuala Lumpur, Breakfast, Kuala Lumpur City Tour, Transfers & GST.  
DPauls Value Pack in Just ₹5,999/-  
• KL Night Tour + KL Tower Entrance (Observatory Deck only) • Day Trip to Genting Highland with 2 Way Cable Car only  
Travel Valid till Mar 2025

## BALI 5 Nts

Budget ₹46,999/- Standard ₹49,999/- Superior ₹59,999/- Deluxe ₹64,999/-  
Airfare, 5Nts Bali, Breakfast, Full Day Kintamani Volcano Tour with Ubud Village - Includes Mount Batur Viewing Only, Tegenungan Water Fall, Bali Swing - Alas Harum Agro Wisata, Transfers & GST.  
Travel Valid till Apr 2025

## DUBAI 5Nts

Standard ₹65,999/- Standard Plus ₹70,999/-  
Airfare, 5Nts Dubai, Breakfast, Desert Safari with Dinner, Marina Dhow Cruise with Dinner, Half Day Dubai City Tour, Visa, Transfers & GST.  
Travel Valid till 29<sup>th</sup> Mar 2025

• Book in Advance & Get Discount Up To ₹10,000/- • Pay through UPI & Get Cashback Up To ₹2,000/-

Singapore Value Pack: Pay ₹20,999 & Get  
• Gardens by the Bay (Cloud Forest + Super Tree Observatory) + Marina Bay Sands Sky Park-observation deck.  
• Universal Studios Tour • Sentosa Island Tour with Wings of the Time, Trick Eye Museum, 4D Adventure, 2 Way Cable Car, S.E.A. Aquarium.

## SINGAPORE 5 Nts (Standard Package)

60 Days Advance	30 Days Advance	21 Days Advance
₹71,999/-	₹71,999/-	₹71,999/-
₹59,999/-	₹64,999/-	₹67,999/-

Airfare on Singapore Airlines, 5Nts Singapore, Breakfast, Singapore City Tour, Transfers, Visa & GST.

## SINGAPORE with CRUISE 5 Nts (Standard Package)

60 Days Advance	30 Days Advance	21 Days Advance
₹85,999/-	₹85,999/-	₹85,999/-
₹73,999/-	₹78,999/-	₹81,999/-

Airfare on Singapore Airlines, 2Nts Cruise with All Meals, 3Nts Singapore, Breakfast, Singapore City Tour, Transfers, Visa & GST.

Gratuity Fees extra to be paid onboard | Travel Valid till Apr 2025

## SINGAPORE & MALAYSIA 6 Nts (All Inclusive | Standard Package)

60 Days Advance	30 Days Advance	21 Days Advance
₹98,999/-	₹98,999/-	₹98,999/-
₹86,999/-	₹90,999/-	₹93,999/-

DPauls Advantages • Book Standard Package & Get FREE Upgrade to Superior Package Worth ₹1,03,999/-

Airfare on Singapore Airlines, 3 Nts Singapore, 3 Nts Kuala Lumpur, Breakfast, Dinners, Singapore City Tour with Gardens by the Bay, Marina Bay Sands Sky Park - Observation Deck Ticket, Sentosa Island Tour with Wings of Time, Trick Eye Museum, S.E.A. Aquarium, Cable Car, Singapore Shopping Tour, Kuala Lumpur Night Tour with KL Tower Ticket (Observation Deck), Genting Highland Tour with Cable Car & Outdoor Theme Park Ticket, Batu Caves Visit, Transfers, Singapore Visa & GST.  
Travel Dates: 16<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> Apr & 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025

## SRI LANKA 4Nts

Standard ₹49,999/- Superior ₹57,999/-  
Airfare, 3Nts Bentota, 1Nt Colombo, Breakfast & Dinners, Galle Excursion Tour, Galle Fort, Madhu River Boat Ride, Turtle Farm, Colombo City Tour, Transfers & GST.  
Travel Valid till Mar 2025

## BHUTAN 6Nts + 1Nt FREE at Jaldapara

Standard ₹59,999/- Superior ₹73,999/-  
Airfare, 1Nt Phuentsholing, 2Nts Thimpu, 1Nt Punakha, 2Nts Paro, 1Nt Jaldapara, Breakfast, Dinners, Bengal Safari & Tea Garden Enroute Phuentsholing, Thimpu - Memorial Chorten, Takin Zoo, Trashig Chho Zong, Kaja Throm, Buddha Statue, Wanditse Nature Trail 45 min hike in Thimpu, Hindu Temple, Punakha Dzong, Dochula 108 Drukwangyel Chorten, Paro Dzong, Transfers & GST.  
Travel Valid Mar - Jun 2025

## ALMATY 4Nts

SUPERIOR ₹66,999/-  
Airfare, 4Nts Almaty, Breakfast & 3 Dinners, Almaty City Tour & Kok Tobe Gondola, Shymbulak Gondola, Green Bazaar + Rakhat Chocolate Factory, Transfers & GST.  
Travel Valid till Jul 2025

## BAKU & SHEKI/GABALA 5Nts

SUPERIOR ₹84,999/- ₹69,999/-  
Airfare, 4Nts Baku, 1Nt Sheki / Gabala, Breakfast & Dinners, Baku City Tour, Absheron Peninsula Tour, Cable car ride to Tufandagh Mountain, Transfers, E-Visa for Baku & GST.  
Travel Valid till 18<sup>th</sup> Mar 2025

## VIETNAM 5Nts

Starting From ₹81,999/-  
Airfare, 2Nts Ha Noi, 2Nts Ho Chi Minh, 1Nt Ha Long Bay Cruise, All Meals on Cruise, Breakfast, City Tour of Ha Noi & Ho Chi Minh, Transfers, E-Visa & GST.  
Travel Valid till Mar 2025

**NO HIDDEN COST ALL ABOVE MENTIONED INTERNATIONAL PACKAGES INCLUDE: AIRFARE, STAY, BREAKFAST, TRANSFERS & GST.**

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