

THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUSIVE OF DELHI TIMES (CIRCULATED ONLY IN DELHI NCR) | *APPLICABLE ONLY ON MONTHLY PURCHASE (IN DELHI NCR)

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Paris St Germain take a big step towards reaching the Champions League final as Ousmane Dembele's early goal seals a 1-0 win at Arsenal in a tense first leg of the semifinal, P 18

Iran executes man convicted of espionage for Israel and involvement in the killing of a Revolutionary Guard but activists say he was sentenced to death after an unfair trial and a confession obtained by torture, P 16

Former India shooting coach Sunny Thomas, under whose tutelage the sport achieved some historic highs, including multiple Olympic medals, dies after suffering a cardiac arrest, P 19



Trump, whose admin has insisted it can't bring Kilmor Armando Abrego Garcia back from El Salvador, says he has the ability to help wrongly-deported Maryland man return, but is not willing to do so as he believes Garcia is a gangster, P 16

Ggn woman's headless body found in U'khand

The headless body of Jharna Kumari (38), a Gurgaon woman who had gone missing nearly a week ago, was found under a bridge in Uttarakhand's Udham Singh Nagar district on Wednesday. Mushtaq Ahmed (32), her live-in partner, was arrested after he confessed to the crime and revealed the location of the body, police said, adding the breakthrough came after they tracked his movement. **P 3**

Andhra temple wall collapses, 7 devotees killed

Seven people, including four of a family, were killed after a wall collapsed on devotees queuing up at Simhachalam temple in Andhra's Visakhapatnam in the early hours of Wednesday. Thousands of devotees had gathered to witness an annual event. The wall built last week as a barrier against landslides caved in after a heavy 40-minute downpour accompanied by thunderstorm and gale. **P 12**

5 med students among 6 dead in Nellore car crash

Five students of a private medical college died in an accident on Chennai-Mumbai national highway in Andhra's Nellore district on Wednesday when the car being driven by one of them rammed a shop and a house at high speed. Another student is critical. A man, 50, who was inside the house died. The six second-year MBBS students were returning to Nellore after attending a function. **P 10**

Forces fly tricolour at 'Maoist hill' top

After a nine-day operation, Chhattisgarh govt sources said security forces had cleared a portion of the Maoist bastion at Koragutta Hills in Bijapur and reclaimed the hilltop, hoisting the tricolour there at 5,000 feet. However, top Maoists — Hidma, Deva & Damodar — managed to flee. **INSIDE JACKET**

3 PIOs found dead at home in US

Three Indian-origin people were found dead after a shooting at a home in Washington, according to local media reports. The incident took place on April 24 in Newcastle. While deaths of Shwetha Panyam and Dhruva Kikkeri were ruled as homicide, Harshvardhana died by suicide, they said. **P 16**

Court relief for Sherwood principal

Finding "no negligence" on their part, a district court in Nainital has acquitted Sherwood College principal Amandeep Sandhu and two staffers in the case of the death of a Nepalese student in 2014. Earlier, a lower court had sentenced them to two years in jail. **INSIDE JACKET**

In US, reinstated int'l students at risk again

International students in the US whose SEVIS records were recently reinstated may once again find themselves in trouble due to a new internal memo issued by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), reports Lubna Kably. Charles Kuck, founding partner of immigration law firm Kuck Baxter, explains, "It turns out that ICE did not 'unrevoke' the SEVIS registration to the date of their mess up (date of termination of the record). They reinstated it as of April 24. That means these international students now have a gap in their SEVIS records, which, according to ICE's new policy renders them out of status during that time." SEVIS is a web-based system maintained by US authorities to track and monitor foreign students. **▶ New memo, P 16**

Caste count to be held along with census, decides govt

Bid To Nullify Oppn Plank In Bihar Election?

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New Delhi: In a politically significant and surprising move, the Modi govt Wednesday decided to include caste enumeration in the upcoming decennial census, a first such exercise

▶ EDIT: Not Who But What ▶ BJP's bid to stop erosion of Hindu unity, P 10

in more than 90 years. The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA) decision should also clear the way for the much-awaited census.

It comes ahead of elections in caste-sensitive Bihar and amid a govt-opposition tussle over leadership of the numerically predominant and politically significant

2011 DATA WAS DECLARED FLAWED

▶ The last time caste data was published as part of national census was in 1931

▶ In 1970s, Mandal Commission extrapolated from 1931 data to come up with a religion/caste break-up, as follows:

Dalit & Tribal	OBC	Upper Caste	Religious Minority
SC 15.1	Hindu 43.7	Brahmin 5.5	Muslim 11.2
ST 7.5	Other religions 8.7	Rajput 3.9	Other 5
Total 22.6	Total 52.4	Other 8.2	Total 16.2
		Total 17.6	

*All figures as %age of popn. Total exceeds 100% due to overlaps

▶ In 2011, socio-economic caste census was conducted but data wasn't released as it was found to be 'flawed'

▶ Karnataka, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh & Telangana have conducted respective statewide caste surveys

OBC community. It also snatches a major talking point from Congress, especially with Rahul Gandhi repeatedly taking it up and making it virtually the chief issue in the opposition's armoury.

At a press conference, I&B minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said Congress talked about it — with then PM Manmohan

Singh telling LS that the matter will be considered by the cabinet — but did not act. During UPA tenure, a socio-economic and caste census had been done and later, some states, including Bihar, Telangana and Karnataka, have undertaken surveys.

▶ After Bhagwat meet, P 12

Shah hails move, oppn says 'we forced govt hand'

The decision to include caste in next census triggered a battle among parties to take credit, with each claiming that it was pressure mounted by them that forced Centre's hand. BJP hailed the move as "historic", with Amit Shah saying the decision will "empower backward classes and pave new paths for progress".

Rahul Gandhi dubbed it "a first step...a big step" in changing the development paradigm while demanding a timeline for completion and abolition of the 50% limit on quotas.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav said the move was "a cent per cent victory" of PDA while BSP chief Mayawati called it an "extremely delayed" step in the right direction. **P 10**

Saudi, Qatar urge India, Pak to defuse tensions

Rubio Speaks To Sharif, Calls For Restraint

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Amid the threat of a military conflict between India and Pakistan, there was renewed pressure from the international community on both countries to not escalate the situation, with important Gulf partners like Saudi Arabia and Qatar expressing concern about the rising tensions and urging both to resolve the situation through diplomatic means. Riyadh said it was also concerned about the continued exchange of fire along the border areas.

Gulf countries have remained in touch with both the Indian and Pakistani leadership in the past few days.

US secretary of state Marco Rubio called Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif and is reported to have called for restraint and de-escalation. Rubio was also expected to call foreign minister S Jaishankar late on Wednesday.

According to Business Recorder, Sharif criticised what he termed as India's "escalatory and provocative behaviour" and said such actions could undermine Pakistan's counter-terrorism ops.

▶ Diplomatic means, P 12



Sara Khan with her 2-week old infant at Attari-Wagah border. The POK resident has been living in India since 2017. 'I had a C-section, my stitches haven't healed, but I wasn't even given time to pack,' she said. Her plea to let her stay, citing her baby's Indian citizenship and her fragile health, went unheard

PM TO SKIP RUSSIA, SEND RAJNATH

- ▶ Lt Gen Pratik Sharma will be new chief of Army's Northern Command in J&K, Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari will take over as IAF vice-chief
- ▶ Defence minister Rajnath Singh will represent India at Russia's Victory Day parade in Moscow on May 9. Russia had invited PM Narendra Modi
- ▶ PM must not dilly dally, must take exemplary action that acts as deterrent: Rahul
- ▶ Indian Army asks Pak Army

REPORTS: P 11 & 20

ACB registers case against Sisodia, Jain in '₹2,000cr classroom scam'

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New Delhi: After conducting an exhaustive preliminary enquiry, Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) has registered a case against former deputy CM Manish Sisodia and ex-minister Satyendar Jain, alleging corruption in the construction of classrooms. The investigation allegedly reveals a scam of Rs 2,000 crore in the construction of over 12,000 classrooms during AAP govt's tenure in Delhi.

The ACB has invoked the Prevention of Corruption Act against the accused besides IPC sections 409 and 120B pertaining to criminal breach of trust by a public servant and hatching a criminal conspiracy.

ACB chief, joint commissioner Madhur Verma said that a comprehensive investigation was under way to unearth the

1 BASELESS CASE AFTER ANOTHER: AAP

▶ Case involves alleged scam of ₹2,000cr in construction of 12,748 classrooms during AAP govt's tenure in Delhi

▶ Tenders floated and contracts awarded for ₹860.6cr, with contract values escalating by 17% to 90% due to 'richer specifications'

▶ Work worth ₹42.5cr allegedly executed without proper tenders in five schools



In a statement, AAP says it is clear that BJP govt is incapable of doing any real work. 'All they know is to file one baseless case after another against Manish Sisodia and other AAP functionaries'

conspiracy and fix the role and culpability of the accused ministers besides 'known/unknown govt officials and contractors'. The ACB is likely to summon the accused and move for arrests in the case at the earliest, sources confirmed.

The construction of semi-permanent structure classrooms with a 30-year lifespan was allegedly done at a cost equivalent to RCC classrooms with a

75-year lifespan, resulting in no apparent financial benefit, the probe revealed. The project was reportedly awarded to contractors associated with AAP without following due procedure. "Significant deviations and cost escalations were observed, and not a single work was completed within the prescribed time period.

▶ 'Consultant hired...', P 5

US economy shrinks 0.3% in first quarter

The US economy contracted at the start of the year for the first time since 2022 on a monumental pre-tariffs import surge and more moderate consumer spending, a first snapshot of the ripple effects from President Donald Trump's trade policy. Inflation-adjusted gross domestic product (GDP) decreased an annualised 0.3% in the first quarter, well below average growth of 3% in the prior two years, according to govt's initial estimate published Wednesday. **P 17**

IOC pauses oil sourcing talks with Rosneft

India's largest oil refiner-fuel retailer IndianOil has hit the pause button on talks for a term deal for sourcing oil from Russia's Rosneft amid New Delhi's efforts to ramp up energy imports from the US with the aim of reducing its trade surplus. In another development, IndianOil signed a five-year gas contract valued at \$1.4 billion with global energy trader Trafigura for LNG at prices benchmarked to Henry Hub (US rates). **P 17**

Khemka, officer who endured 57 transfers, retires

Haryana bureaucrat Ashok Khemka retired from service Wednesday after a career marked by an astonishing 57 transfers. Khemka's decision in 2012 to cancel a controversial Gurgaon land deal involving Robert Vadra & DLF cemented his reputation as a stickler for rules. He retired as additional chief secretary of transport dept. **INSIDE JACKET**



19-yr-old dies in 'escape bid' from police vehicle; family cries foul

A 19-year-old youth was found dead under mysterious circumstances. Ravi Sahni alias Ravi Kaliya and his friend Vikas alias Majnu, both residents of Samalka, were being taken by police for questioning after a weapon was allegedly recovered from them.

However, Ravi Sahni died on the way to lockup in southwest Delhi's Kapashera, police said on Wednesday.

Cops said the youth and his friend jumped from the police vehicle to escape and sustained injuries in the process. However, their families alleged that the two were beaten by police, leading to the death of one of them in custody.

Police denied beating anyone and also claimed to have footage showing the duo tried to flee custody. **P 6**

Digital access part of fundamental right to life and liberty, says SC

New Delhi: Ruling that right to digital access is an intrinsic part of the fundamental right to life and liberty, Supreme Court on Wednesday said it is a constitutional imperative for the Centre and its authorities to bridge the digital divide faced by large sections of the country's rural population, senior citizens, economically weaker communities, linguistic minorities and differently-abled persons.

SC passed a slew of directions to revise the current KYC process for visually- and hearing-impaired users, and to develop alternative formats — including Braille and voice-enabled services — to ensure accessibility for all, reports Amit Anand Choudhary.

▶ Equitable, P 11

IN THE COURTS

- ▶ In a 4:1 majority ruling, SC says courts can modify arbitral awards | **INSIDE JACKET**
- ▶ Delhi court gives bail to gangster, cites violation of his constitutional rights | **P 2**
- ▶ In relief for Nitin Gadkari, SC junks SLPs on his 2019 election win | **INSIDE JACKET**
- ▶ HC steps in, officer gets promotion a day before retirement | **INSIDE JACKET**
- ▶ HC: Axe civil judge who acquitted man without writing order | **INSIDE JACKET**
- ▶ SC seeks Centre's response on alleged illegal clinical trials in Guj hospital | **INSIDE JACKET**
- ▶ Live-in partners can claim domestic violence relief, says Mumbai court | **INSIDE JACKET**

14 killed as massive blaze turns Kolkata hotel into gas chamber

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: A six-storey hotel nestled within central Kolkata's congested Mechhua wholesale fruit market caught fire on Tuesday evening, quickly turning into a gas chamber that killed 14 people trapped inside, 13 of them guests.

All the victims, barring a staffer who jumped to his death in a bid to escape the smoke and another who suffered fatal burns, died of asphyxiation, officials said. Three of the deceased were from a Chennai family that had returned the previous night from a holiday in Darjeeling and Sikkim.

Malfunctioning smoke detectors and sprinklers in the 42-room Rituraj Hotel with 88 guests accentuated

BIG DILLI HAAT FIRE GUTS MANY STALLS



Scores of stalls were gutted & goods worth several crores lost after a fire swept through INA Dilli Haat Wednesday evening. It took 15 fire tenders to tackle the blaze. No casualties were reported | **P 2**

how unsafe the building was, police said. The hotel had been allegedly functioning over the past three years without the stipulated NOC from fire services department. **▶ Windows sealed, P 11**

Man killed, dumped in drain in city road rage

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A body that was discovered in a drain in Ranhola on April 27 turned out to be that of a motorcyclist missing since April 13. Police say Jagvinder Singhania, 40, a resident of Gopal Nagar, was allegedly bludgeoned to death by a motorist who confronted him after a collision.

Police have since arrested the accused, Rohit Kumar Singh, 28, who works as a cashier in Vasant Kunj. Inquiry into a discussion over a drink. After Singhania got intoxicated, Singh allegedly struck him with a heavy stone and dumped his body in a drain.

SUV DRIVER HELD

- ▶ CCTV footage shows biker interacting with SUV driver. Biker identified as victim Jagvinder Singhania by wife
- ▶ Carrying his helmet and bag, biker then enters SUV
- ▶ Singh plies Singhania with alcohol before murdering him. He is later arrested

▶ CCTV footage, P 4

Bail for B'desh monk, but govt opposes release

Bangladesh high court granted Chinmoy Krishna Das, a Hindu monk, bail on Wednesday, five months after his arrest on charges of defaming the national flag.

Hours later, Bangladesh govt filed a petition seeking a stay on his release. The plea is scheduled to be heard on Sunday, reports Ahsan Tasnim. The court issued its verdict following the final hearing on Das's bail application in a sedition case filed on Oct 31, 2024.

The monk was arrested at Dhaka airport on Nov 25. A Chittagong court jailed him after rejecting his bail plea. Another bail petition was denied on Dec 11. **P 16**

Pahalgam victim's daughter, who saw carnage, clears ISC with 87% marks

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Kolkata: Subhangi Guha had to watch her father Samir Guha shot dead before her eyes during the terrorist attack in Pahalgam on April 22. The trauma left her numb. But just days later, 17-year-old Subhangi has found renewed resolve to honour her father's dreams for her. A student of the arts stream, she received her ISC (class 12) results Wednesday, scoring 87%.

Though she had aimed for over 90%, lower-than-expected marks in psychology and political science pulled her average down. "I want to study psychology honours at Loreto College," she said at her family's Sakher Bazar home in Kolkata. Subhangi said she has chosen to focus on her education —



Students celebrate the ISC results in a Lucknow school

a goal her father championed. Her mother Sabari Guha added: "Her dreams, she feels, will be fulfilled once she concentrates on her higher education."

▶ 'Don't spread...', P 11

HC frees man after 19 yrs' jail for daughter's murder

Lalmohan Patnaik | TNN

Cuttack: Orissa high court acquitted Tuesday a 69-year-old man serving a life term for the 2005 murder of his 19-year-old foster daughter due to insufficient evidence. It ordered his immediate release unless required in another case.

Rajendra Jain, imprisoned for over 19 years in Sambalpur jail, was convicted in 2006 for allegedly stabbing Pinky multiple times while she was alone at their home in Jharsuguda district. A trial court had sentenced him to life in prison on Nov 28, 2006. Pinky and her newlywed husband were living with Rajendra and his wife Manju — her foster parents at the time.

LAST SEEN THEORY

- ▶ HC overturns Rajendra Jain's conviction, ruling that circumstantial evidence fails to conclusively establish his guilt
- ▶ Says 'last seen' theory is unproven, blood-stained trouser allegedly recovered was not shown to belong to Rajendra, and supposed motive is speculative, especially since autopsy rules out sexual assault

Rajendra allegedly fled from his home and surrendered at Brajrajnagar police station on Jan 2, 2006. He had been incarcerated since.

▶ Prosecution failed, P 11

Father loses girl's interim custody over home food

Supreme Court has stopped a man from getting the interim custody of his eight-year-old daughter for not being able to provide home-cooked food even for a day during the fortnight stay with him, reports Dhananjay Mahapatra. Kerala HC had ordered the daughter to stay with the estranged parents alternatively for 15 days in a month. **▶ Mom can't be accused of abducting kid, INSIDE JACKET**

ter interacting with the child, SC found several reasons — girl not getting home-cooked food, separated from her brother, & no one except dad for company — for quashing the HC order. **INSIDE JACKET**



Light rain and thunderstorms likely in city for 3 days | 6

TIMES CITY 198
AQI IN DELHI ON WEDNESDAY (MODERATE)

City sees 21,000 weddings in a day | 9

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

TEMP ON WEDNESDAY
38.1° MAXIMUM
25.8° MINIMUM

FORECAST: Cloudy sky. Max and min temperatures on Thursday would be around 37°C and 26°C

MOONSET 11.17PM (THU) SUNSET 6.56PM (THU)

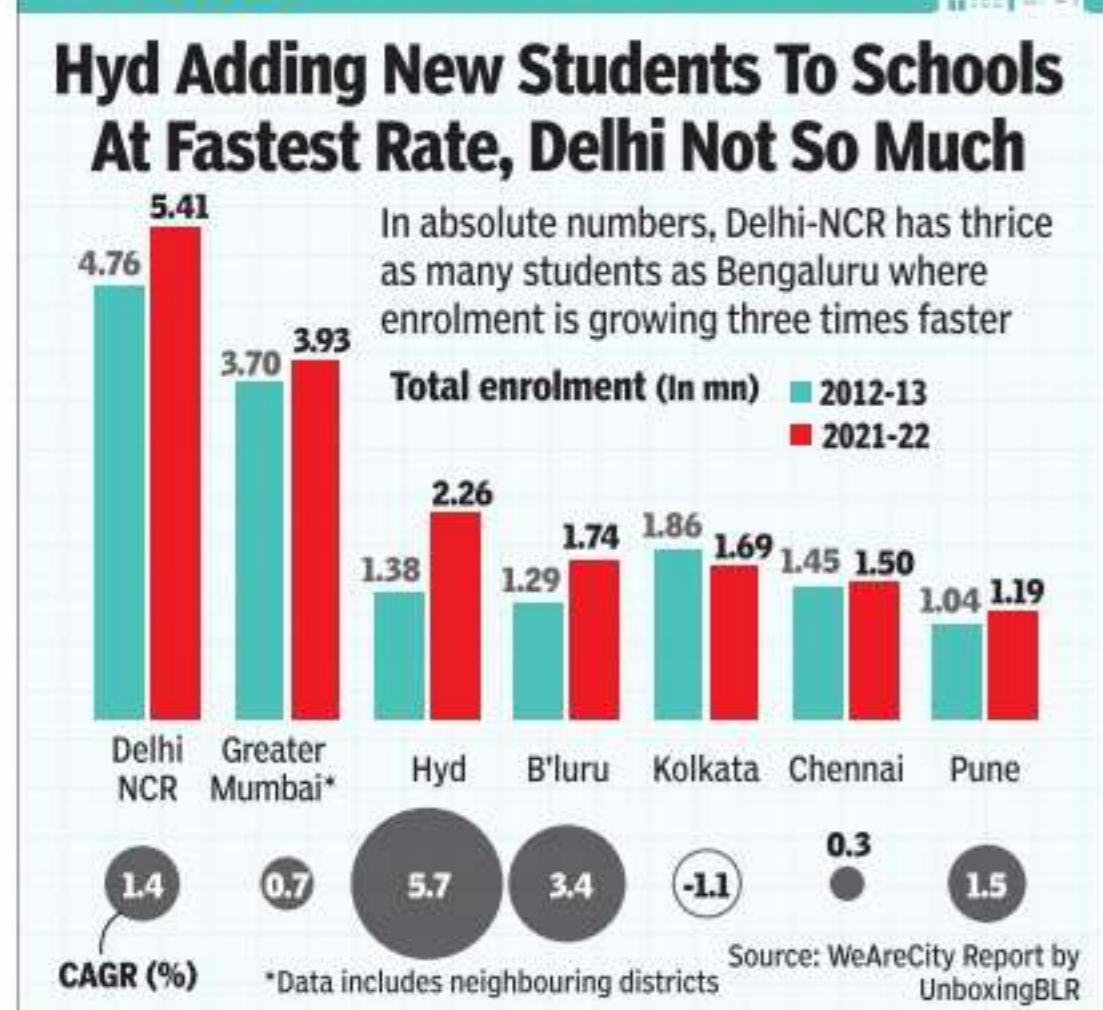
MOONRISE 9.29AM (FRI) SUNRISE 5.40AM (FRI)



Girls outshine boys in CISCE results - in and outside Delhi | 8



CITYSTICS Charting Change In Urban India



Reasons for arrest not communicated, court grants bail to gangster

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court has granted bail to a gangster, observing that his constitutional rights were violated due to the failure to inform him of his arrest grounds.

The court of additional sessions judge Sumit Dass outlined police obligations regarding arrest communication whilst considering the bail application of Ata Ur Rehman, who stands accused in the 2023 Tihar Jail murder of rival gangster Prince Tewatia. However, the offence of the consequence of the offence remains as it is for which the accused shall face trial or continue to face trial, the court stated in its April 15 order.

According to prosecution, Rehman, who leads a south Delhi gang, faces multiple murder charges, including the 2018 killing of a BJP councillor's brother. Delhi Police's Special Cell arrested him in 2021 following a police encounter. Tewatia, the deceased, was a rival gang leader in south Delhi.

In April 2023, Tewatia was killed with a sharp weapon during a violent clash between ri-

val gangs in Tihar Prison's Jail No 3. Rehman stands as a primary accused. The case continues with charges framed against Rehman and other co-accused inmates.

The court criticised a magistrate court's order that did not document arrest memo details during remand proceedings. This stage was deemed vital for verifying whether arrest grounds were properly communicated to the accused.

The defence counsel highlighted that a primary basis for seeking bail was the authorities' failure to inform the accused about his arrest reasons.

The court said, "In the application seeking formal arrest and police custody, in the order passed by the court - at all the places there is nothing which could give a solace that the constitutional mandate incorporated in the CrPC has been adhered to". It expressed concern over both the investigating agency's and magistrate's failure to follow legal requirements regarding arrest grounds documentation.

Rehman furnished a personal bond of Rs 50,000.

Losses Could Run Into Crores As Fire Guts Scores Of Stalls At INA Dilli Haat

DEVASTATED: 15 Fire Tenders Deployed At Scene To Tackle Blaze; No Casualties Reported

NEW DELHI: A massive fire broke out at Dilli Haat, a popular open market in south Delhi, on Wednesday evening. There were no human casualties but several stalls were gutted and goods worth crores of rupees were lost.

Delhi Fire Service received a call at 8.55pm, upon which 15 fire tenders were sent to the spot at INA Market. Police also rushed there. A massive plume of thick smoke billowed into the sky, entrancing the people who shared photos and videos on social media. According to a fire officer, the blaze spread quickly due to the presence of ample combustible material.

Stalls that were gutted include the ones of Kashmiri businesses selling pashmina shawls.

The market, which hosts craftspeople from across the country and offers cuisines from different states of India, is learnt to have suffered a huge loss. "Around 30 stalls have been reduced to ashes. Firemen are still trying to extinguish the remaining flames," said a shopkeeper who broke down while talking about the huge loss he had incurred.

Altaf, a worker at a handicraft shop, recounted the terrifying moment when he first learnt of the blaze. He said he was packing up for the day when he suddenly heard people screaming about a fire. "Initially I thought it was a minor blaze, but within moments, large flames erupted and panic spread everywhere," he said, adding that there was chaos and devastation.



had already caused extensive damage by then. Around 80 firefighters were deployed to tackle the massive blaze. Due to the intensity of the fire and chaos at the entrance, the fire teams had to enter from the rear of the market. "We began dousing the flames from four to five different spots," a fire officer revealed. "The wind was a major hindrance to our operations, pushing the flames further and faster than expected."

The officer also pointed out that the area contained a significant amount of combustible material such as wood, cloth and plastic which acted as fuel and intensified the fire. The officer, however, gave the happy news that nobody had suffered injuries. "The blaze was controlled within an hour. The scale of loss of property will be determined after the cooling operation gets over," he said.

Chief minister Rekha Gupta said the fire at Dilli Haat was "unfortunate" but was grateful that the teams of firefighters had brought the inferno under control. "No casualties have been reported so far. We are closely monitoring the situation and ensuring all necessary assistance to those affected," she posted on social media platform X.

Dilli Haat is a popular paid-entry, open-air market and craft bazaar in south Delhi, managed by the Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation. Spread over six acres across the road from INA Market, the crafts and cuisine complex features thatched cottages and kiosks that evoke a village atmosphere. While some shops are permanent, others crop up at various times of the year. In Sept 2019, a fire had broken out late at night at the market. Around a dozen fire tenders brought the blaze under control in about an hour.

DELHI DISTRICT COURTS in Coordination with **DELHI TRAFFIC POLICE** is organising

SPECIAL EVENING COURTS

5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM

for disposal of **CHALLANS OF DELHI TRAFFIC POLICE**

in District Courts of Delhi on all Working Days of Courts

Challan upto 31/12/2022 pending in Virtual Court are now included

Challan prints can be downloaded directly through the website <https://traffic.delhipolice.gov.in/evecourtdc> or scan through QR Codes

QR Code 1 Scan for step by step guide

QR Code 2 Scan to download Challan

For more details, Follow us on: @dtptraffic

DELHI ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Viniyamak Bhawan, C-Block, Shivajik, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110 017.
Website: www.derc.gov.in. Telefax: 41080417

PUBLIC NOTICE

Inviting comments/suggestions/objections on Draft Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (Supply Code and Performance Standards) (Seventh Amendment) Regulations, 2025

Pursuant to the directions received from the Govt. of NCT of Delhi under Section 108 of the Electricity Act, 2003, the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission, in exercise of the powers conferred by Regulation 87 of the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (Supply Code and Performance Standards) Regulations, 2017 and all other powers enabling it in this behalf, hereby proposes to amend the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (Supply Code and Performance Standards) Regulations, 2017.

The said Draft Regulations are available on the website of the Commission i.e. www.derc.gov.in.

Stakeholders are requested to forward their suggestions/comments/objections on the Draft DERC (Supply Code and Performance Standards) (Seventh Amendment) Regulations, 2025 to the Commission, within 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice. The comments/ suggestions/objections may be forwarded to Secretary, DERC either by post on the address given above or through email to secy@derc.gov.in.

Dated: 28.04.2025
DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0029/25-26 **Rajesh Dangi, Secretary**

AMARAVATI DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (ADCL)
Request for Proposal

NIT No. 214/ADCL/IPD/2025 (2nd Call) Dated: 30.04.2025

Request for Proposal for Appointment of Consultant for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Amaravati Iconic Bridge over River Krishna, Connecting NH-65 (Near Mulapadu) to N13 Road of Amaravati Capital City, Andhra Pradesh.

The RFP can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from 01.05.2025 to 15.05.2025 up to 15.30 Hrs. Due date for submission of Bid is 15.05.2025 up to 16.00 Hrs. Technical Bid opening is on 15.05.2025 @16.30 Hrs. For further details please refer to www.approcurement.gov.in and www.adcl.in

Sd/- Chairperson and Managing Director, ADCL, Vijayawada

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in Phone No. 96461-18774,
Email id : semeteringpatiala@gmail.com

Tender Enquiry No. MQP-248/2025-26/PO(M) dated 28.04.2025

Chief Engineer/Metering, C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites e-tender for Procurement of LT Ring Type, Resin cast, Metering Current Transformers (CTs) of ratio 100/5A, 200/5 and 400/5A of Accuracy Class-0.5S conforming to IS: 16227 Part-I & II with latest amendments.

For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 28.04.2025, 11:30AM onwards.

Note :- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY, (UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)
3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court, the Special Officer & Competent Authority is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'.

The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

Short Description of the Immovable Property

Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004. (Khata stands in the name of Competent Authority and Auctioning Authority)

Sl. No.	DETAILS OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY (Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC No. 692/2019)	Minimum Bid Price (Rs)	EMD (Rs)	Bid Increase Value (Rs)
1.	No. 2/3, PID No.78-8, Spencer Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore-05, measuring East to West 52.6 ft and North to South 38 ft aggregating 1998.8 Sq.ft, (Ground + 4 Floors) Location: https://maps.app.goo.gl/G9R8LcTotsY6jpdA			
(a)	Ground Floor, Flat No. GF-01, UDS-399.67, SBA- 1602 Sq.ft	1,70,00,000/-	17,00,000/-	1,70,000/-
(b)	1st Floor, Flat No. FF-01, UDS-399.76, SBA-1602.50 Sq.ft	1,72,00,000/-	17,20,000/-	1,72,000/-
(c)	2nd Floor, Flat No. SF-01, UDS-399.76, SBA-1602.50 Sq.ft	1,74,00,000/-	17,40,000/-	1,74,000/-
(d)	3rd Floor, Flat No. TF-01, UDS-399.76, SBA-1602.50 Sq.ft	1,71,00,000/-	17,10,000/-	1,71,000/-
(e)	4th Floor, Flat No. FRF-01, UDS-399.76, SBA-1602.50 Sq.ft	1,71,00,000/-	17,10,000/-	1,71,000/-

Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place	Date of Inspection & time	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission	Date & Time of E Auction
2nd June 2025, 3 pm to 4 pm Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visvesvariah Tower, Bengaluru-01	3rd June 2025, 11:00am to 05:00pm	5th June 2025, Before 5pm	6th June 2025, 11 am to 1 pm

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visvesvariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: splocaeauction@gmail.com or Contact Mob. No 6364403715.

Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority

Date: 22-04-2025
Place: Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/418/Zen/2025-26 (Under KPIDFE -IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.

By 2028, Sewer Lines In All Unauthorised Colonies: CM

Says There Will Be No Compromise On Efficiency Of STPs

'One Nation One Election' race held at DU's stadium

New Delhi: Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Wednesday flagged off the 'One Nation One Election' race at Delhi University's rugby stadium, underscoring the importance of political stability in building a developed India.

"If Bharat has to become a developed nation and a world superpower by 2047, then political stability in the country and states is necessary," he said.

Pradhan noted that DU has historically played a leading role in new national initiatives and highlighted how frequent elections disrupt governance and drain resources. "The 'One Nation One Election' race is not just a race, but it is a race to make Bharat the strongest country in the world by 2047," he added.

Delhi chief minister Rekha Gupta congratulated students for their participation and said, "Due to repeated elections, thousands of crores of rupees are spent every year. Development work is affected due to repeated imposition of the model code of conduct."

DU vice-chancellor Yogesh Singh said, "DU is playing an important role in the 'One Nation One Election' programme. This is the third programme in April being organised in DU on this subject."

Thousands, including students and faculty, took part in the event. **TNN**

Abhinav Rajput
@timesofindia.com



File Photo

Rekha Gupta instructed officials to use the latest technologies for building new STPs to enhance their effectiveness and also ensure the water purification process is environment-friendly

New Delhi: Delhi govt intends to lay sewer lines in every unauthorised colony in the city by 2028, chief minister Rekha Gupta said on Wednesday. An action plan involving the laying of sewerage network in 1,799 unauthorised colonies and 639 JJ clusters has been drawn up, CM said.

While sewer lines have been laid in 1,224 of these colonies, work is in progress in another 159. The Rs 3,140-crore project will include decentralised STPs and a 10 MGD STP at Delhi Gate, along with their maintenance, she said.

The CM's office said during an inspection of the command-and-control centre, Gupta assessed water distribution management through real-time tanking tracking. "Immediate action will be taken on complaints related to tankers; every needy person will get water on time," she said, adding, "Old water pipelines and sewer lines will be replaced under phase-wise planning, and instructions have been issued to build new STPs with modern technology."

Moreover, 27 new decentralised STPs are being installed for Yamuna cleaning.

Gupta conducted a review meeting at the Delhi Jal Board headquarters on Wednesday to assess the action plan for Yamuna cleaning. During the meeting, she issued several directives regarding departmental functioning, wa-

ter supply and the sewerage system. Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh was also present.

"Delhi faces significant challenges concerning water supply. Along with this, fixing the sewer system and cleaning the Yamuna are interconnected issues," she said.

"GPS implemented for tanker water supply was examined in detail and tanker movements across the city were monitored in real time at the command-and-control centre to ensure timely and transparent distribution," she said.

Stating that there would be no compromise on the quality and efficiency of sewage treatment plants (STPs), CM directed third-party audits to be conducted to ensure transparency in their functioning. Transparency and accountability, she added, would also be ensured in DJB operations.

CM noted that many parts of Delhi still rely on decades-old water pipelines and sewer lines. "Given the rapidly growing population and increasing water demand, dependence on these outdated systems is no longer feasible," she said.

Officials were directed to replace all old lines under phase-wise planning with mo-

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Atishi targets BJP on fee regulation bill; Sood hits back

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Atishi on Wednesday wrote a letter to chief minister Rekha Gupta, claiming that opaque processes were adopted by Delhi govt in introducing the 'Delhi School Education (Transparency in Fixation and Regulation of Fees) Bill, 2025'. She said that the BJP govt did not follow any transparent or consultative process in drafting it.

In the letter, Atishi stated, "It is ironic that while the bill seeks to establish a 'transparent procedure', the whole process till now has been completely non-transparent." She added, "Delhi govt has neither shared any details of any consultative process through which the aforesaid bill was drafted, nor has the draft bill been shared with the public so far. Till now, we only know what is being reported; we have no authentic document to refer to and comment upon."

Delhi govt passed a draft bill to set guidelines for all private and govt schools in the city to regulate school fees. The bill, approved by the cabinet on Tuesday, seeks to establish a clear and transparent procedure for school fee structures, preventing arbitrary hikes and ensuring fairness for parents.

Once the bill becomes an act, schools raising fees without permission will face fines up to Rs 10 lakh, and their recognition may also be revoked, as per the draft. A fee regulation committee will be formed in every school, giving parents direct decision-making power, said Gupta. A three-tier committee system will be implemented for appeals regarding fee disputes, with committees formed at school, district, and state levels.

Atishi stated, "The draft bill was necessitated due to a sudden spurt in the unregulated and arbitrary fee hike by many private schools immediately after the formation of BJP govt in Delhi."

"In the beginning of April 2025, large numbers of private schools increased fees between 30 and 80% for the academic year 2025-26. Also, schools introduced arbitrary and high charges for facilities such as air-conditioning, swimming classes, and activity classes. Parents are being made to buy highly overpriced books and uniforms from specific shops," she claimed in the letter.

"What will happen to all the parents who are facing these problems in the current academic year, 2025-26? Will they be forced to pay the arbitrary fees and charges introduced by schools in April 2025?" Atishi questioned. Education minister Ashish Sood earlier said the move was aimed at creating transparency. "Through this bill, we have empowered all stakeholders—management, teachers, students, and their parents. They will now take the decisions. In the decision-making meeting, whoever is part of the revision committee formed in the school will be involved. These things will happen democratically. The schools will now have to follow the norms."

Coercive action will be taken, ranging from fines to more serious legal action, if the violations are more severe, he added. Criticising the previous govt, Sood said, "They made a law to give a bottle free with another bottle. We made a law to give justice to the parents and students. It has been going on for decades, and we brought a law within 60 days."

Ggn woman's headless body found in U'khand

Aakash Ahuja@timesofindia.com

Rudrapur: The headless body of a 38-year-old woman who went missing from Gurgaon nearly a week ago was discovered under a bridge in Uttarakhand's Udhampur Singh Nagar district on Wednesday, ending a six-day search for her. Her live-in partner has been arrested after allegedly leading police to the site where the body was dumped.

Jharna Kumari, also known as Pooja, had last been seen in Gurgaon, where she was residing. When she failed to return home, her sister filed a missing persons report at Sector 5 police station.

The investigation eventually led Haryana Police to Khatima, where her dismembered remains were found beneath the Nadanna bridge underpass, later identified by her elder brother.

Sub-inspector Pramod Kumar, who led the team from Haryana, said the breakthrough came when they traced the mo-

vements of Mushtaq Ahmed, 32, a driver by profession and resident of Sitarganj in Udhampur Singh Nagar. Mushtaq had allegedly been in a relationship with Pooja, but when their relationship turned bitter, he took her to Sitarganj under false pretences and killed her.

While the precise motive remains unclear, police said Mushtaq confessed and revealed the location of the body. "Based on the information provided by Mushtaq, we recovered the body from Khatima. Forensic teams have collected evidence from the site, and a post-mortem examination is being conducted," sub-inspector Pramod Kumar said.

Station sub-inspector Vinod Joshi of Khatima police station said the probe is now being led by police from Gurgaon. "We are extending full cooperation to our counterparts from Gurgaon."

Further investigation will be carried out by Haryana Police," he said.

UNBELIEVABLE OFFERS

1st May - 4th May

FOOD & GROCERY

ALMOND 1kg ₹815 CASHEW 500g ₹435	SOYA OIL ₹134// MUSTARD OIL ₹140//	FIRST CROP ROZANA BASMATI RICE 5kg MRP ₹675 ₹365	INDIA GATE ROZANA BASMATI RICE 5kg MRP ₹675+ ₹419	DAAWAT ROZANA BASMATI RICE 5kg MRP ₹575+ ₹399
DESI GHEE ₹525// COW GHEE ₹539//	FIRST CROP NAMKEEN 900g/1kg MRP ₹350+ ₹159	BIKANO NAMKEEN 1kg MRP ₹290+ ₹100 OFF	FULL BLOOM TEA 1kg MRP ₹540+ ₹181 OFF	TATA TEA PREMIUM/RED LABEL 1kg MRP ₹540+ ₹181 OFF
FIRST CROP BUTTER BISCUIITS 1kg MRP ₹280+ ₹109	FIRST CROP/ BRITANNIA/ PARLE/ SUNFEAST/ CADBURY/ UNIBIC/ ORION/ LOTTE BISCUITS & COOKIES MRP ₹200+ 120g+ BUY ANY 1 GET ANY 1 FREE	Choco-Pie Lotte ChocoPie Chocoloch	FULL BLOOM JUICE 1/ MRP ₹85 BUY 4 AT ₹149	
TROPICANA JUICE 1/ MRP ₹110+ BUY 2 GET 1 FREE	FIRST CROP MASALA CHILLI/ ATTA NOODLES 280g/ 420g MRP ₹21+ BUY 1 GET 1 FREE	YIPPEE MASALA / TOP RAMEN/ MISSIN GEMI KOREAN / KNORR KOREAN NOODLES MRP ₹35+ BUY 2 GET 1 FREE	BESAN/ MAIDA/ SUJI/ CORNFLAKES/ OATS/ SAUCE/ HONEY/ PASTA/ COFFEE/ VERMICELLI/ PEANUT BUTTER BUY 1 GET 1 FREE	
OUTSHINE SHAMPOO 180ml MRP ₹132 ₹39	COLGATE DENTAL CREAM 500g MRP ₹335+ 33% OFF	SHOWER GEL / COCONUT OIL CLEANERS/HANDWASH/ DISHWASH BUY 1 GET 1 FREE	HOME NINJA DETERGENT 4kg/ 5kg/2/ MRP ₹435+ 50% OFF	
YELLOW HIPPO BABY DIAPER JUMBO PACK MRP ₹79 50% OFF	PAMPERS BABY DIAPER JUMBO PACK MRP ₹89 33% OFF	TIDE 5kg 35% OFF SURF 7kg 40% OFF SURF/ ARIEL 4/ 40% OFF DETERGENT MRP ₹659+		
EQUALIFE SANITARY 20 PADS, MRP ₹80 BUY 1 GET 1 FREE	WHISPER ULTRA SANITARY XL+ 3 X 15 PADS, MRP ₹480 ₹299	OUTSHINE SOAP 100g/ 125g MRP ₹43+ BUY ANY 4 AT ₹99	DOVE/ PEARS/ LUX SOAP MRP ₹189+ 40% OFF	

HOME NEEDS & APPLIANCES

DOOR MAT, MRP ₹169/ ₹199/ ₹299 BUY ANY 3 GET 1 FREE	KING SIZE DOUBLE BED SHEET + 2 PILLOW COVER MRP ₹999 BUY 1 GET 1 FREE	CURTAINS, MRP ₹269+ BUY 8 GET 10% OFF	SINGLE FOLDING MATTRESS MRP ₹999 BUY 1 GET 1 FREE	STEEL WATER BOTTLE MRP ₹199/ ₹249 BUY 2 GET 10% OFF	PRINTED MUGS 6 UNITS SET MRP ₹199 BUY 2 AT ₹179 EACH	TUMBLER 6 UNITS SET, MRP ₹199 BUY 2 AT ₹179 EACH	PLASTIC CONTAINER 4 UNIT SET MRP ₹399 BUY 2 AT ₹179 EACH	
MELAMINE DINNER SET 40 UNITS MRP ₹1280 ₹599 SAVE ₹601	USHA DRY IRON 1000W MRP ₹960+ ₹599 SAVE ₹301	CEILING FAN 52W MRP ₹1199 ₹1199 SAVE ₹1000	3-PLY STAINLESS STEEL COOK & SERVE 3/ WITH LID MRP ₹1999 ₹899 SAVE ₹1100	INDUCTION COOKWARE SET 3 UNITS WITH LID MRP ₹2645 ₹1399 SAVE ₹1246	INDUCTION COOKTOP 1200W, MRP ₹2895 ₹1499 SAVE ₹1396	BAJAJ MIXER GRINDER 2 JAR MRP ₹2499 ₹1099 SAVE ₹1400	EGG BOILER MRP ₹599 ₹299 SAVE ₹300	GARMENT STEAMER MRP ₹1499 ₹1900
UPRIGHT TROLLEY BAG MEDIUM SIZE MRP ₹2280+ ₹2399 SAVE ₹4801	SET OF 2 UPRIGHT TROLLEY BAG (CABIN + MEDIUM SIZE) MRP ₹4850+ ₹3979 + Duffle Trolley FREE	SET OF 3 UPRIGHT TROLLEY BAG (CABIN + MEDIUM + LARGE SIZE) MRP ₹18910+ ₹5499 SAVE ₹12511	<h3>FREE GIFT</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ₹3000 DISCOUNT COUPON ON ₹7500 ₹1000 DISCOUNT COUPON ON ₹5000 ₹300 DISCOUNT COUPON ON ₹1500 (APPAREL & FOOTWEAR) 					

'500Ha Encroachments On Floodplain'

DDA Says Working On Fast-Tracking Demarcation And Removal Of Squatters

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Development Authority (DDA) informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that over 500 hectares of its Khasra land in Zone-O has been built upon, with around 25 hectares falling within the Yamuna River's one-in-25-year active floodplain. The DDA said it is working to accelerate the removal of encroachments and demarcate the one-in-100-year floodplain.

In a preliminary tabletop analysis, the Khasra data from Geospatial Delhi Ltd (GSDL) was overlaid to identify DDA

land falling within Zone-O and the 1:25-year floodplain. Built-up areas were then marked on this land—about 562 hectares in Zone-O and around 25 hectares within the floodplain, the DDA stated in its April 29 report to the NGT.

The report said the DDA would soon conduct a field survey to verify the nature of these built-up areas on DDA Khasras falling in the 'O'-zone, and necessary actions will be taken. It added that the agency had recently reclaimed encroached land, including 24 acres within the Yamuna Vanasthali project.

The DDA would soon conduct a field survey to verify the nature of these built-up areas on DDA Khasras falling in the 'O'-zone

The tribunal had in Oct 2023 set up a high-level committee led by Delhi's chief secretary to inspect and draft an action plan to conserve Zone O-II of the Yamuna floodplain. This followed the NGT's suo motu response to a TOI report titled 'Why flooding has forced

DDA's master plan rethink', published in Aug 2023, and asked the committee to chalk out a plan on how the encroachment could be removed from the zone. That report highlighted how the Yamuna's water level reached a record 208.6 metres during the monsoon, flooding low-lying areas such as Raj Ghat and ITO.

As per the DDA's Master Plan 2041, the O zone is split into two parts—Zone O-I, which is highly encroached and forms 35% of the total floodplain, and Zone O-II. The O zone, one of about 15 delineated zones, includes riverfront areas

and ecologically sensitive floodplain that are officially no-construction zones but remain heavily encroached.

While TOI reported that officials might regulate encroachments in O-I and adopt a zero-tolerance stance in O-II, experts expressed scepticism. "Dividing the O zone may not address the core problem," experts noted, warning that the actual floodplain is far broader than the 10,000 hectares classified under the 'O Zone'. A comprehensive study, they said, is needed to mitigate future flood impacts.

Road rage: CCTV footage leads cops to SUV driver

► Continued on P

Police said Jagvinder worked at his father's kirana store at R K Puram. On April 13, he left home at 10am and was expected back by 11pm.

"After finishing work, he left for Gopal Nagar on his motorcycle but never reached home. His phone was switched off, raising concerns. The following day, wife Anju and her relatives informed police that they found Jagvinder's motorcycle parked on Firni Road, Najafgarh, in front of an institute. He was missing since the previous night," police said.

CCTV footage from the ar-

ea showed a motorcycle rider interacting with the driver of a black SUV. Carrying his helmet and bag, the biker entered the SUV, which then drove off towards Nanjloi. Anju identified the motorcyclist in the footage as her husband.

Singh allegedly took Singhania to Indira Market, where they bought more liquor, and the intoxicated SUV driver offered Jagvinder a drink, which he accepted, police said.

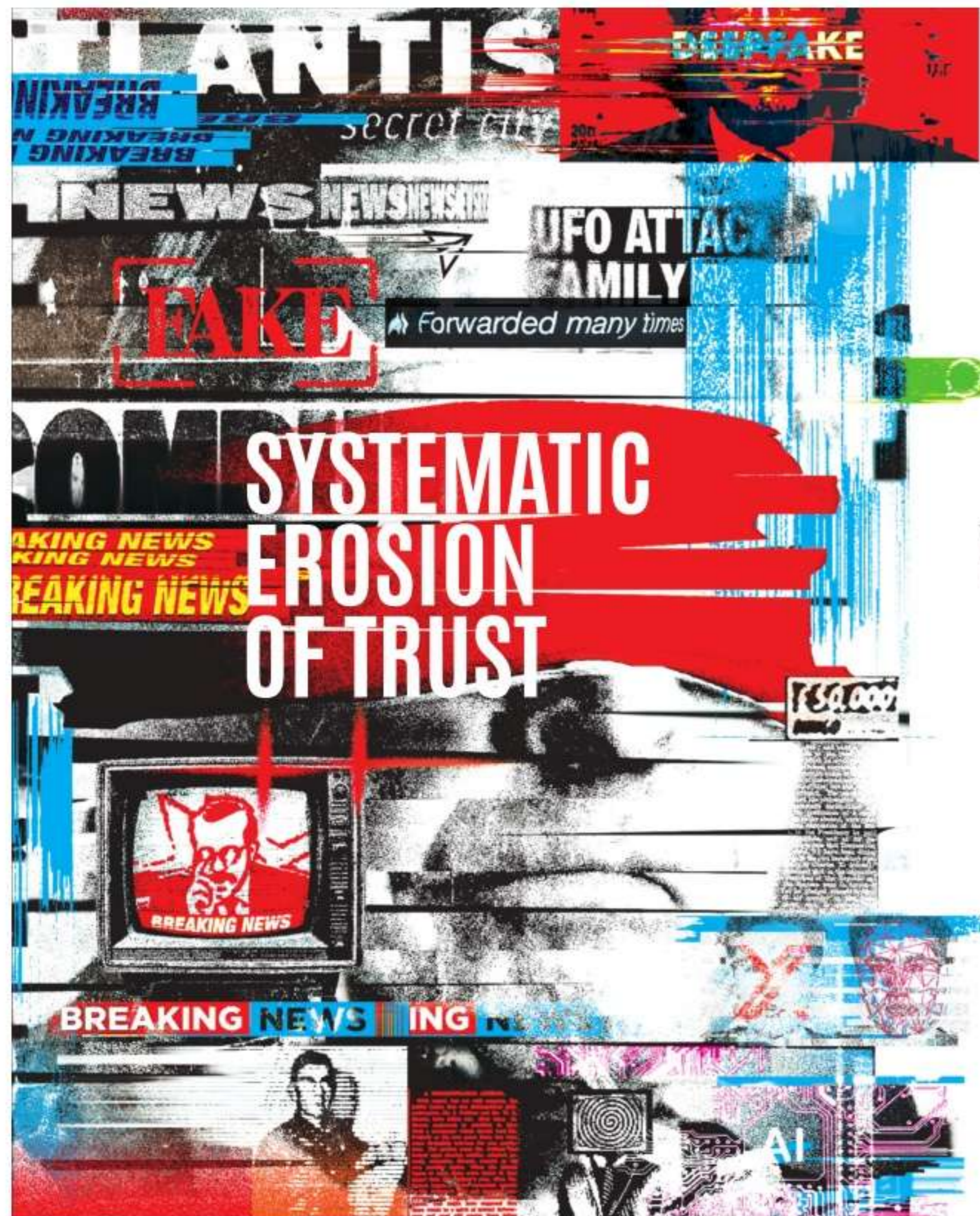
The SUV was later traced to Bakkarwala, and Singh was arrested. During questioning, Rohit initially misled investigators but eventually confessed to the crime. Singh had purchased the SUV in Nov.

Water stagnation issue in GK-1 drain resolved, NGT told

New Delhi: DJB and MCD have told NGT that they have resolved the problem of stagnant water in the GK-1 drain, which was leading to the breeding of mosquitoes in the area. DJB has said that it broke a six-foot wall, which was identified as the cause for the silt accumulation and water stagnation.

NGT took suo motu cognisance of a TOI report published in April last year on how the drain was a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

In a report DJB said: "During the inspection, the height of the wall as well as the issue of stagnation was observed, and deliberations were held regarding the modus to reduce the height of the wall." TN



VS

SYSTEMATIC INTELLIGENCE PLAN

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IN WITH THE NEWS



CHANGE Begins Here

PUBLICATION NOTICE
NATIONAL CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION
Under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019

Telephone No. : 011-2468801-04
Fax No. : 011-24651505
Email : ncdrc[at]nic[dot]in
Website : www.ncdr[dot]nic.in

Uphokta Naya Bhawan
F-Block
General Post Office Complex,
INA, New Delhi - 110023

Revision Petition No. 1155/2021 with IA/0598/2021/IA/16671/2023
(Against the order dated 05 May 2021 in Appeal Number 824/2013 of the State Commission Delhi)

HDFC BANK LIMITED & ANR, Versus ... Petitioner/Appellant ...
SUDESH KUMAR & ANR, Opposite Party/Respondent(s)

To
1. SUDESH KUMAR
142/3, SECTOR - I, PUSHP VIHAR
SAKET, NEW DELHI - 110017, (R-1).

2. M/S. INDIA INFOLINE,
201, ASHOKA ESTATE,
24, BARAKHAMBA ROAD,
NEW DELHI - 110001 (R-2).

NOTICE

WHEREAS HDFC BANK LIMITED & ANR, vs SUDESH KUMAR & ANR, has filed a Revision Petition No. 1155 of 2021 against the order dated 05.05.2021 in First Appeal No. 824 of 2013 of the state Commission, Delhi. The abovementioned Revision Petition is pending before the National Commission New Delhi wherein you have been arrayed as Respondent.

WHEREAS This Commission has ordered vide dated 10.03.2025 to effect service upon you by this Publication returnable on 26.05.2025.

NOW, THEREFORE TAKE NOTICE that you are hereby directed to appear before this Commission in person or through your counsel/authorised representative on 26.05.2025 at 10:30 a.m., failing which the Petition will be disposed of ex-parte on merits.

Dated this 27th March, 2025.

SECTION OFFICER

Copy to: M/S PRL, Advocates, Address :- #M-24, LGF Lajpat Nagar - III, New Delhi - 110024. You are required to publish this Notice two Daily Newspapers "Navbharat Times" in Hindi Newspapers & "Times of India" in English Newspaper which has a wide circulation in state/District New Delhi and its proof thereof.

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SECTION OFFICER



सत्यमेव जयते

राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र, दिल्ली सरकार



आज, मजदूर दिवस के अवसर पर, उन असंख्य श्रमिकों को नमन है जिनकी कड़ी मेहनत और संकल्प ने देश के विकास में बड़ी भूमिका निभाई है - श्रमेव जयते।

श्री नरेंद्र मोदी
माननीय प्रधानमंत्री

श्रम मंत्रालय एवं
निर्माण श्रमिक बोर्ड के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में

श्रम दिवस 2025

के उपलक्ष्य में आयोजित

श्रमिक सम्मान समारोह

दिनांक : 01.05.2025 | समय : 08:00 पूर्वाह्न

स्थान : निर्माण स्थल, 1 न्यू रोहतक रोड, ब्लॉक 67, करोल बाग, दिल्ली-110005

मुख्य अतिथि

श्रीमती रेखा गुप्ता
मुख्यमंत्री, दिल्ली सरकार

गरिमायुी उपस्थिति

श्री कपिल मिश्रा
श्रम मंत्री, दिल्ली सरकार



'CVC Report Kept Under Wraps For 3 Yrs'

ACB Action Based On Report That Pointed Out Several 'Anomalies' In Classroom Construction Project

Rajshekhara Jha
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The Anti-Corruption Bureau's action on the construction of classrooms in the capital comes in the wake of a report by the chief technical examiner of the Central Vigilance Commission besides the enquiry carried out by the agency and the department of vigilance (DoV), sources said.

The CVC's report pointed out several anomalies in the classroom construction project, but it was kept under wraps for about three years, said Madhur Verma, joint commissioner of police and ACB chief, on Wednesday. "During enquiry, it was found that the examination report of the chief technical examiner, CVC, in the matter was issued on Feb 17, 2020, with the approval of the competent authority but it was suppressed for about three years," he said.

In April 2015, then CM Arvind Kejriwal had directed construction of classrooms in govt schools. PWD was entrusted with the initial task of constructing 2,405 classrooms in 193 schools. It carried out a survey and projected a total requirement of 7,180 equivalent classrooms in 194 schools, almost three times the initial figure, sources said.

It was decided that semi-permanent structures (SPS) would be cost effective for the project. The CVC report, however, observed that ultima-

WHAT THE 'SCAM' IS ABOUT

Case Overview

- The case involves a 'scam' of approximately ₹2,000 crore in the construction of 12,748 classrooms during AAP gov't tenure in Delhi
- Anti-Corruption Branch files FIR against former deputy CM Manish Sisodia and former minister Satyendar Jain for alleged corruption



Probe Findings

- Construction of semi-permanent structure (SPS) classrooms at a cost equivalent to RCC classrooms, with no apparent financial benefit
- Project awarded to contractors associated with AAP without following due procedure
- Significant deviations and cost escalations observed, with no work completed within the prescribed time period
- Consultant and architect appointed without following due procedure, leading to cost escalation
- Actual cost of SPS almost equal to the cost of permanent structures



CVC Report

- Tenders floated and contracts awarded for ₹860.6 crore, with contract values escalating by 17% to 90% due to richer specifications
- No fresh tenders invited to reflect changes, contrary to CVC guidelines
- Work worth ₹42.5 crore executed without proper tenders in five schools

Details of FIR

- Case registered after receiving permission under Section 17-A Prevention of Corruption Act from President of India
- FIR registered under Sections 13(1) Prevention of Corruption Act, besides IPC sections of 409/120-B pertaining to breach of trust by govt servant, and criminal conspiracy
- Ministers, govt officials, and contractors under the scanner of ACB, says joint CP Madhur Verma

tely the actual cost of the SPS classrooms was more or less equal to the cost of permanent structures. Due to adoption of richer specifications, the construction cost of these classrooms almost matched the cost of pucca classrooms and apparently no financial benefit of adoption of SPS

construction was achieved, the report concluded.

"The actual cost per sq ft ... as worked out in the CVC report is Rs 2,292 per sq ft against the cost of pucca structure model schools @ Rs 2,044-2,416 per sq ft," the report says.

ACB also observed that

contracts were awarded after the tenders for work worth Rs 860.6 crore. However, contract values eventually escalated by 17-90% due to richer specifications. "The escalation amounted to Rs 326.2 crore, of which Rs 205.4 crore was attributable to richer specifications, com-

prising 23.8% of the award value," Verma said. Contrary to CVC guidelines, no fresh tenders were invited to reflect these changes.

Additionally, construction work worth Rs 42.5 crore was executed in five of the schools without proper tenders and under existing contracts, the investigation of CVC and ACB revealed. Verma said, "The report of CTE/CVC flagged violations of various clauses of the CPWD Works Manual 2014, GFR 2017, CVC guidelines and other irregularities and alleged that various decisions taken after the award of tenders were not in accordance with the guidelines of CVC and other manuals, resulting in financial loss," Verma said.

ACB has communicated its findings to DoV, which has examined the probe report and observed that the construction cost of classrooms in different zones and districts of the education department was revised despite the expenditure and finance committee's clear instructions in its first meeting in Oct 2015 that no change would be considered in future.

DoV also said that the construction was not completed within the prescribed deadline of June 2016 and in some cases, general financial rules were not followed, thus giving undue advantage to contractors. The vigilance directorate has recommended "fixing responsibilities" of the officials concerned in PWD and the education department.

BJP hails FIR; AAP says it's one baseless case after another

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Referring to the anti-corruption branch's FIR in an alleged classroom construction scam, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said on Wednesday that a decisive moment had come to the fore in the fight of Delhiites against the corruption of AAP and its govt.

"ACB initiated an investigation against former ministers Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain, who are accused of a scam in classroom construction under the guise of educational and infrastructure reform," he said. "As soon as Arvind Kejriwal came to power in 2015, he began laying the foundation for various corrupt practices. At that very time, BJP started raising its voice against these irregularities," he added.

Sachdeva said Kejriwal govt had allocated Rs 2,892 crore for the construction of 12,748 classrooms in govt schools, meaning approximately Rs 24.86 lakh for one room. "According to CPWD manual estimates, the cost should have been around Rs 5 lakh," he claimed.

Hitting back, AAP said it was now clear that this BJP govt was incapable of doing any real work. "All they know is to file one baseless case after another against Manish Sisodia and other AAP functionaries," claimed the party. "At this rate, one shouldn't be surprised if BJP's agencies register a case tomorrow saying, why... did Manish Sisodia forget to put a comma or a full stop in an official document? That's the level of absurdity this has reached."

It added, "It is no coincidence that as soon as Durgesh Pathak is appointed sahpabrari of Gujarat, an FIR is registered against him and his house is raided. The moment Sisodia and Jain are given roles in Punjab, fresh FIRs appear against them," it added. "This is pure political vendetta."

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HC slams ASI and MCD over delay in school construction

Abhinav.Garg@timesofindia.com

the bench of Chief Justice DK Upadhyay and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela said.

New Delhi: Delhi High Court on Wednesday said that it was "astonished" that an order it had passed a year ago regarding the construction of a school had still not been complied with by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and MCD.

The bench castigated the two authorities for their failure to reconstruct the corporation school in south Delhi.

The school was demolished in 2012 and was to be reconstructed by MCD but had been in a limbo as it was located in a prohibited zone of a monument. ASI objected to the construction as it shared a wall with the tomb of Yusuf Qattal in Khirki village.

"It is beyond our comprehension how both the authorities are risking contempt proceedings for not complying with an order passed about a year ago in which court directions were to be complied with in six weeks. It has taken about a year and still not complied (with). We can't approve of such a situation. Having regard to the interests of the students in the school, a joint meeting should be held,"

When the petitioner pointed out that no progress had been made since the court's May 2024 order, the court said: "Both authorities don't appear to be serious..."

ASI said that it had sought some documents from MCD but was yet to get them. The municipal blamed ASI for being unresponsive to the needs of 350 students.

Identifying the officials involved—Anil Kumar Tiwari and Rahul Maurya from ASI and Anita Nautiyal from MCD's education wing—the court said that it will hold them "personally responsible" for any "lacunae or deficiency". "We hope and trust the issues between the two authorities will be sorted out within a fortnight of the meeting and permission shall be accorded by the next two weeks," it added.

The school was demolished in 2012 for reconstruction and more than 350 students were shifted to another MCD school at Savitri Nagar, 2km away from the site. The foundation stone was laid on April 6, 2013, but ASI then stopped the project.

ACB: Consultant, architect hired without proper procedure

Continued from P1

The consultant and architect were appointed (for construction of classrooms) without following proper procedures, and cost escalations were carried out through them," ACB chief Madhur Verma said.

ACB, sources said, was also probing the role of private individuals who allegedly played a significant role despite not being formally appointed as consultants. They are alleged to have attended a key meeting

in the PWD minister's chamber and reportedly influenced the minister to make post-tender changes to work contracts, citing "richer specifications". This led to additional financial implications.

ACB had started an inquiry in 2019 after receiving documents and complaints from BJP politicians viz Harish Khurana, Kapil Mishra and Neelkanth Bakshi. The complaint alleged corruption in construction of 12,748 school classrooms in Delhi govt schools at an expenditure of

Rs 2,892 crore.

The lump sum cost for constructing one school room, as per the awarded tenders, was approximately Rs 24.86 lakh per room, whereas such rooms could ordinarily be constructed in Delhi for around Rs 5 lakh per room, it was alleged. Further, it is alleged that the project was awarded to 34 contractors, majority of whom were allegedly associated with AAP.

"During verification, it was revealed that in the meetings of expenditure fi-

nance committee for the financial year 2015-16, it was decided that the project would be completed by June 2016 at the sanctioned cost, without any scope for future cost escalations. However, despite these directions, even a single work was not completed within the prescribed time period and significant deviations and cost escalations were observed," ACB chief joint commissioner Madhur Verma said.

The project, according to ACB, was plagued by irregularities, including the ap-

pointment of consultants and architects without following due procedure, which led to cost escalations.

ACB had subsequently submitted a report to the directorate of vigilance (DoV). The DoV sent a proposal through LG V K Saxena for further investigation against the then education minister Sisodia and PWD minister Jain. In March, President Droupadi Murmu had given her approval for investigating the duo after the which the procedure to file the FIR was initiated, sources said.

Bennett Univ's School of Design inks MoU with Kent State Univ

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Bennett University's School of Design has signed a memorandum of understanding with Kent State University, US, to establish a dual degree global programme in fashion design.

This initiative is part of the university's commitment to broadening academic pathways through impactful international partnerships, said a press statement.

Under the agreement, students will pursue the first two years of their bachelor of design (BDes) in fashion design at Bennett University, followed by the next two years at Kent State University, where they will learn a bachelor's of arts in fashion design from the US institution.

"We believe in empowering our students with a global mindset and future-ready skills. This partnership reflects our commitment to academic excellence, international exposure, and industry-aligned education. It is yet another step toward preparing our students to lead and innovate in the global fashion landscape," said Bennett University chancellor Vineet Jain.

'Make DDA sports complexes accessible to special needs kids'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Legislative Assembly speaker Vijender Gupta has written to lieutenant governor VK Saxena, urging the implementation of accessibility measures across all DDA sports complexes for children and youth with special needs.

In the letter, Gupta said that the absence of inclusive infrastructure in these complexes not only restricted the potential of people with special needs but also discouraged their participation in sports.

Gupta proposed that time slots should be reserved in all DDA sports complexes for people with special needs and trained instructors must be deployed to support their unique training requirements.

18-yr-old alleges sexual abuse by tutor in Nangloi, case filed

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: An 18-year-old girl from Nangloi has alleged that her tuition teacher sexually abused her. The suspect, who runs a private school in the area, allegedly committed the assault on April 26. According to the complaint, the incident occurred at the accused's office when she went to attend her tuition class.

A case has been registered, said police. The complainant told the

cops that the accused was her father's childhood friend, and he was also running a school. She said the suspect, who tutored her in Class X, suggested that after Class XII exams, she should prepare for the teacher's training exam at his office located in his school. She started attending his office for study sessions at around 5 pm from April 19, she told police.

According to the complaint, on April 26, the man told her to play a game, in

which the loser had to do whatever the winner wanted. Upon winning the game, the suspect forcibly inserted his finger into her private parts multiple times, she told the cops in her complaint. The girl got scared and reported the matter to her mother, who in turn, informed the father.

Her father called police, and subsequently, a case under Section 64 (rape) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita was registered.

INDIAN RAILWAYS

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Closing Date: **31.05.2025**

Submission Method: High-resolution images (minimum 300 DPI, more than 2 MB) without watermark or logo, to be sent via email to contest.pr@rb.railnet.gov.in.

Originality: Submissions must be original, free from intellectual property violations, and accompanied by a Certification of Originality.

Ownership: Copyright of the selected designs will rest with Indian Railways.

Multiple Entries: Allowed with separate originality certifications.

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IMPORTANT GUIDELINES: • Designs must be innovative, practical for implementation, and reflect the spirit of Indian Railways • Participants are encouraged to provide a brief concept note (up to 300 words) explaining the idea behind their design • Submissions with any form of plagiarism or copyright infringement will be disqualified

For further details and terms & conditions visit the official website of Indian Railways at www.indianrailways.gov.in

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Issued by: Inland Waterways Authority of India, under Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
 Online e-tender for the work "SITC of Air Conditioning system at Seminar Hall and Room No. 4 on the First Floor of Bank Building (G+2) at Haringhata campus of MAKAUT, W.B." Estimated Amount: Item Rate e-NIQ No: WBPWD/EE/NED/ NIQ/ e-10/06 (1st call) 25-26 Tender ID: 2025_WBPWD_840260_1 Bid submission start date (online) 02.05.2025 from 09:00 P.M. Bid submission closing date (online) 16.05.2025 from 01:00 P.M. NIT and Tender document may be downloaded from <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- R. Barman Executive Engineer, PWD, Nadia Electrical Division, Krishnagar, Nadia. ICA-18650(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
 MSVP, R.G.Kar Medical College & Hospital invites sealed bids from eligible bidders vide Memo No. RGH/KH/1716 Dt.28.04.2025, e-NIT-RRKH/MSVP/OHC/03/2025-26. Printing and supply of printing articles and IEC Materials for Different Departments of R.G.Kar MCH. The last date of online bid submission is 16.05.2025 till 6pm. For further details please login www.wbtenders.gov.in ICA-18603(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
 Online e-tender for the work "El work in X-RAY room and other buildings at Panighata PHC." Estimated Amount: Item Rate, e-NIQ No: WBPWD/EE/NED/ NIQ/ e-7/05/25-26, Tender ID: 2025_WBPWD_840141_1. Bid submission start date (online): 29.04.2025 from 05.30 P.M. Bid submission closing date (online): 10.05.2025 from 01.00 P.M. NIT and Tender document may be downloaded from <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- R. Barman Executive Engineer, PWD, Nadia Electrical Division, Krishnagar, Nadia. ICA-18645(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
 NIT No. 01 of EE/EMD of 2025-26 Tender ID: 2025_PHEd_836649_1 TO 26 e-Tender is invited by the Ex-Engr. EMD, PHEd of P-16, India Exchange Place (Ext'n), C.I.T. Annex. Bldg., (2nd FL), Kolkata-73 on behalf of Governor of West Bengal for "Providing, installation and commissioning of sub P/M along with allied E/M works for Aug T/Well in connection to Accommodation PHEC at diff. Pump Houses under diff. ground water based water supply scheme under diff. Block Dist. - Nadia and N 24 Pgs. under EMD, PHE Dte." The last date of bid submission (both technical & financial) : 23/05/2025 upto 17:00 hrs. Details may be had from the office notice board & official website: www.wbphed.gov.in and www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Eastern Mechanical Division, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-18641(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-Tender Notice
 Tender ID No. 2025_PHEd_839590_1-17 The Assistant Engineer, Halidia Electrical Sub-Division, P.H.E. Dte. has invited NIT(Online) No-01 of 2025-26 (1st call) for the work "Supply of WBPWE/AE/HSD/NIT 01 of 2025-26, Tender ID No. 2025_PHEd_839590_1-17) for works under M.M.D, P.H.E. Dte. Bid submission end date 16/05/2025 at 5:00 p.m. Details may be downloaded from website i.e. www.wbphed.gov.in Sd/- AE/HSD P.H.E. Dte. ICA-18627(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
 Tender ID: 2025_PHEd_840097_1 to 6 E.E./MMD, P.H.E. Dte. invites NIT (Online) No-03 of 2025-26, Tender Ref. No. WBPWE/EE/MMD/NIT-03 of 2025-26, Tender ID No. 2024_840097_1 to 6 for work under M.M.D, P.H.E. Dte. Bid submission end date 16/05/2025 at 06:00 p.m. Details may be downloaded from <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- EE/MMD ICA-18640(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE (2nd Call)
 e-Tender (2nd Call) is invited by the Executive Engineer, Alipore Division, P.H.E. Dte. On behalf of West Bengal vide Ref. No. WBPWD/EE/NIT-1026/AD/2024-2025 and Tender ID: 2025_PHEd_830979_1 for Erection of display board on Swastika Road, Ghar Jal Village at various location in different blocks within South 24 Parganas District under Alipore Division, P.H.E. Dte. Details will be available in the website: wbtdenders.gov.in The last date for submission of tender is 23.04.2025 upto 03:00 P.M. Sd/- For Executive Engineer, Alipore Division, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-18638(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
 NIT No. - 05/B.A.R.D. of 2025-26 is invited by the AE, B.A.R.D, P.H.E. Dte. Details information about the tender will be available in the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in as well as in the office notice board. Sd/- AE, B.A.R.D, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-18626(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
CORRIGENDUM NOTICE
 Ref: RFP vide Memo No. SB2/0798/2024-25, Dated: 20th March, 2025 DEVELOPMENT OF MARKETING HUB FOR SHIFFERHAT IN DIFFERENT DISTRICTS OF WEST BENGAL IN PPP MODE. In partial modification of the RFP, the following modification has been made:- 1. The Pre-Bid Conference which was previously scheduled to be held on 28th April, 2025 at 3:00 P.M. IST, has been deferred and now will be held on 02/05/2025 at 11:00 P.M. IST. It is requested that all other provisions of the Request for Proposal (RFP) will remain unchanged. Sd/- For WBSIDC Ltd, Executive Engineer. ICA-18584(4)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
 N.I.E.T. No. 02 of EE/ED of 2025-26 Memo No. 1095/SMD Dt. 22-04-2025 On behalf of the Governor of W.B. e-Tenders are invited in N.B.E. No. 291 by the Executive Engineer, South 24 Pgs Mechanical Division P.H.E. Dte. [2025_PHEd_837956_1 to 4] Bid proposal submission end date 14.05.2025 up to 02:00 P.M. Other details information/download/upload will be available in the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, South 24 Pgs Mechanical Division, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-18624(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
 The Executive Engineer, Kolkata South Health Electrical Division, PWDTE, invites eNIQ for "Emergent through renovation work of Electrical Installations, Air-Conditioning Systems and SITC of F&S Systems and online UPS System at Bio-Chemistry Lab & ancillary areas of OP QPC-2, (OP-C2), Kolkata-25-SITC of PWD vide Tender ID: 2025_WBPWD_840164_1. Last date of submissions - 19/05/25 upto 12.00 Noon. All documents can be seen / obtained from the websites <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> / www.wbtdenders.gov.in and office notice board. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kolkata South Health Electrical Division, PWD Dte. ICA-18654(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-Tender Notice
 Tenders are invited for reputed firms for construction works under Darjeeling (SMP). NIT No. - 01(Consl) of 2025-26, 02 (Consl.) of 2025-26 and 15 (Consl.) of 2024-25(2nd Call). The publishing date & time of online bid is 30.04.2025 from 11:00 AM. Visit www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Chief Medical Officer of Health, Darjeeling ICA-18584(4)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-Tender Notice
 N.I.E.T. No. 02 of EE/ED of 2025-26 Memo No. 1095/SMD Dt. 22-04-2025 On behalf of the Governor of W.B. e-Tenders are invited in N.B.E. No. 291 by the Executive Engineer, South 24 Pgs Mechanical Division P.H.E. Dte. [2025_PHEd_837956_1 to 4] Bid proposal submission end date 14.05.2025 up to 02:00 P.M. Other details information/download/upload will be available in the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, South 24 Pgs Mechanical Division, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-18624(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
 (e-NIT 01, 2025-2026/DHFWS) DHFWS, Birbhum invites tender for Minor repair & renovation works of (civil and electrical) satellite Eye OT at Durbrajpur PH under Birbhum District. Interested bidders are hereby requested to visit www.wbtenders.gov.in / www.wbtdenders.gov.in for details of e-Tender. NIT ID: 2025_HFW_839820_1. Sd/- CMOH, Birbhum. ICA-18605(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
N.B.D.D NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
 Notice Inviting e-Tender by the S.E./NBD D vide NIT No. 27 (SI. No. 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12 & 13) of 2025-26. Details of works to be seen in the above mentioned NIT in the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in & www.wbtdenders.gov.in Sd/- Senior Superintending Engineer, North Bengal Development Department. ICA-18614(4)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-Tender Notice
 e-tender is invited by the Assistant Engineer, H.C., Burdwan Divn., PHE Dte. on behalf of Governor of West Bengal vide Ref. No. WBPWD/AE/HQ/ENIT-02/2025-2026 and ID: 2025_PHEd_836514_1 TO 7. For Laying UPVC pipe line at different habitats & Sinkings of GTW for different PWSS, Jamalpur Block under Burdwan Divn., PHE Dte. Details will be available in the website: wbtdenders.gov.in The last date for submission of tender is 23.04.2025 upto 14:00 Hours. Sd/- For Assistant Engineer, H.C., Burdwan Divn., P.H.E. Dte. ICA-18632(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
N.B.D.D NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
 Notice Inviting e-Tender by the S.E./NBD D vide NIT No. 28 (SI. No. 01, 02, 03, 04, 05 & 06) of 2025-26. Details of works to be seen in the above mentioned NIT in the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in & www.wbtdenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, North Bengal Development Department. ICA-18619(4)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
 Tender Reference No. WBPWD/EE/MD/NIT-56/MD (2nd Call) of 2024-25, Vide NIT memo no. 1026/AD, Dt. 13.03.2025. Tender ID: 2025_PHEd_828328_1 to 2025_PHEd_828328_17 Last date for submission of Technical and Financial Bid (online): 13.05.2025 upto 5:00 P.M. Details to be seen in the undersigned for different type works and different PWSS under Malda Division, P.H.E. Dte. All details available in website: www.wbtenders.gov.in & www.wbphed.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Malda Division, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-18628(4)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Limited
 (A Govt. of West Bengal Undertaking)
NOTICE INVITING e-QUOTATION
 NIQ No. 07/WBTDCL OF 2025-26 (Technical) 2nd Call
 Tender ID: 2025_WBTDCL_840319_1
 WBTDCL invites e-Tender for the work: "Comprehensive Annual Maintenance and servicing of different types Diesel Generator at Udayachal, Sabujdeep, Mangalghara, Roopmanjari, Alo and Natraj Tourism Property in different District. From the reputed, bonafide and experienced agencies in similar works. Start date & time of documents download: 29.04.2025 - 15:30 Hrs. Last date & time of Bid Submission: 17.05.2025 - 16:00 Hrs. Details are available in website: www.wbtdcl.com / wbtdenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Limited ICA-18611(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Corrigendum No. 01
 NIT No. - 05/B.A.R.D. of 2025-26 is invited by the AE, B.A.R.D, P.H.E. Dte. Details information about the tender will be available in the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in as well as in the office notice board. Sd/- AE, B.A.R.D, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-18625(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
 e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Birbhum Division, PHE Dte. on behalf of Governor of West Bengal vide Ref. No. 02/25-26 and ID: 2025_PHEd_840107_1 to 6 for different types of works for WBScheme under Birbhum Division, P.H.E. Dte. Details will be available in the website: wbtdenders.gov.in The last date for submission of tender is 23.04.2025 upto 15:00 IST. Sd/- For Executive Engineer, Birbhum Division, PHE Dte. ICA-18639(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
 e-NIT NO. 01/SE/EE/NIQ/WBS/ KMDA OF 2025-26
 e-Tender is invited by the Superintending Engineer, FAWS-II Circle, WBS Sector, KMDA, Block-C, 1st Floor, Unnayan Bhawan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091, from eligible and resourceful contractors with financial capability, for the work. S.I. No. Name of Work, Estimated Amount, Earnest Money, Time of Completion. (i) Supplying & Laying distribution network of HDPE pipe of dia 110mm dia & 160mm dia (OD) PE-100 PN-6 including Permanent Resistor at Patul, MOUZA within Seakhala Gram Panchayat under Furfura Sharif Development Authority. Rs.1,98,45,820/-, Rs.3,96,916/-, 06 months. (ii) Design, Procurement & Construction of 450m3 RCC Oiled Storage Reservoir on 20 m staging height along with construction of Boundary wall, Gate, road, Drain, Block pavement, Connecting Road and Area Development at Patul including necessary allied works at PATUL MOUZA within Seakhala Gram Panchayat under Furfura Sharif Development Authority. Rs.1,59,46,921/-, Rs.3,18,938/-, 10 months. End date & time of online submission: 28.05.2025 at 18:00 Hrs. For details contact the above office or visit both websites. www.kmda.wb.gov.in (KMDA-61) www.wbtenders.gov.in ICA-18588(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
 Online tender is invited by the undersigned for the works: "Electrical installation for illumination of parking area and part of earthen gallery opposite of VIP gallery at Hockey Stadium in VPK campus, Salt Lake, Kolkata" Tender No. WBPWD/EE/BE/D/e-NIQ-10/2025-26, 2nd call & e-Tender ID No. 2025_WBPWD_840153_1 Document Download Closing Date: 14.05.2025 upto 11:00 Hrs. Details may be downloaded from wbtdenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Bidhanagar Electrical Division. ICA-18659(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
 E-Tender Notice Vide Memo No. DH/HGL/2253 Date: 28/04/2025. One E-Tender is invited by the Superintendent, Imbamba District Hospital, Hooghly for the One (01) COMMERCIAL VEHICLES for use of different health programs, publish on 28/04/2025. For Detail, Please visit the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in & www.wbhealth.gov.in or the Office of the Undersigned. Sd/- The Superintendent, Imbamba District Hospital, Chinsurah, Hooghly. ICA-18593(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
 e-NIT NO. 02/EE/CPD-JE&AM/ KMDA OF 2025-26
 Online e-tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, ECPD-I, EXAM Sector, KMDA, Block-A, 4th floor, Unnayan Bhawan, Kolkata-700091, from eligible, resourceful, bonafied, eligible and experienced firms / companies / individuals / Joint Ventures / Consortium, for the work. Name of Work, Estimated Cost (Including GST & Cess), Earnest Money, Time of Completion, Investigation of Soil Sample and submission of Report in hard copy (3Sets) of Proposed Urban Health and Wellness Centre (U-HWC) in 25 (Twenty five) Nos. Sites of different Municipalities under KMA Area. Rs.9,72,807/-, Rs.19,456/-, 06 Months, Last date & time for online Bid Submission: 19.05.2025, Time: 15:00 Hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. www.kmda.wb.gov.in (KMDA-63) www.wbtenders.gov.in ICA-18590(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Limited
 (A Govt. of West Bengal Undertaking)
NOTICE INVITING e-QUOTATION
 NIQ No. 04/WBTDCL OF 2025-26 (Technical) 2nd Call
 Tender ID: 2025_WBTDCL_840092_1
 WBTDCL invites e-Tender for the work: "Comprehensive AM for existing CCTV, Intercam and Wi-Fi system for Santabitan, Tarabitan, Rangabitan and Baul Akharia Tourism Property in the district of Birbhum." From the reputed, bonafide and experienced agencies in similar works. Start date & time of documents download: 29.04.2025 - 13:30 Hrs. Last date & time of Bid Submission: 17.05.2025 - 16:00 Hrs. Details are available in website: www.wbtdcl.com / wbtdenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Limited ICA-18598(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
 3 Nos. e-Tender are invited for during the year 2025-26 accordingly "(i) CSS COGCH - Emergent repairing works for up-gradation of floor of PACU & ancillary works to the Labour Room OT Complex. (ii) CNCI - Roof Treatment with others ancillary works of Doctors Hostel. (iii) CNCI - Proper Roof treatment works of Raddha Charan Hospital, Salt Lake Bldg." Estimated Amounts: (i) Rs. 16,20,042.00, (ii) Rs. 8,32,303.00, (iii) Rs. 8,49,377.00, e-NIT No. WBPWD/HHO/EE/NIT-05 OF 2025-26, Tender IDs: - 2025_WBPWD_840071_1 to 2025_WBPWD_840071_3. Bid Submission Start date (online): 03/05/2025 at 2:00 P.M. Bid Submission Closing date (online): 19/05/2025 upto 2:00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT & tender documents may be downloaded from <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Kolkata South Health Division ICA-18646(3)/2025

19-yr-old dies in 'escape bid' from police vehicle, kin say custodial killing

By TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 19-year-old suspect, who was being taken for questioning along with his aide (28) after a weapon was allegedly recovered from them, died on the way to lockup in southwest Delhi's Kapashera, police said on Wednesday.

While cops said the youth and his friend jumped from the police vehicle to escape and sustained injuries in the process, their families alleged the two were beaten by police, leading to the death of one in custody. Police denied the claims and said a judicial inquiry had been ordered.

The deceased was identified as Ravi Sahni alias Ravi Kalya and his friend as Vikas alias Majnu, both residents of Samalka.

According to police, around 3pm on Tuesday, head constable Balbir Singh and constable Nitesh noticed the two men on a motor-cycle "behaving suspiciously". When signalled to stop, they tried to flee but were caught after a brief chase, said police. During a search, a country-made pistol and a live cartridge were allegedly recovered from Vikas. Police said the motor-cycle they were riding was found to be stolen from Palam village and was seized.

The suspects were arrested and a case registered against them under Section 25 of Arms Act and Section 317(2) (stolen property) of BNSAT Kapashera police station. Following a medical examina-

Weekend Reprieve: Rain, Thunder Likely May Bring Down Temperatures Temporarily



HEAT OF THE MOMENT: Delhiites can look forward to a respite from the soaring mercury of recent days

By TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Light rain, thunderstorms, and dust storms are expected in Delhi over the next three days as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issues a yellow alert. Strong surface winds reaching up to 50 kmph are also forecast, likely bringing relief from the ongoing heat.

On Wednesday, the maximum temperature at Safdarjung—the city's base weather station—rose slightly to 38.1 degrees Celsius, still a notch below normal, compared to 37.5 degrees Celsius, a day earlier. The minimum was

25.8 degrees Celsius, two degrees above average, compared to 24.5 degrees Celsius a day earlier. Humidity levels ranged between 36% and 61%, with light, variable winds up to 4 kmph. The IMD predicts a further drop in temperatures, thanks to an incoming western disturbance expected to affect the western Himalayan region from May 2. "Maximum temperatures fell by about five degrees Celsius over the past 72 hours. A further decline of 2-3°C is likely in the next three days," the Met department said.

May 1 to 3, with Thursday expected to see partly cloudy skies and very light rain or drizzle. "There are chances of thunderstorms and dust storms with surface winds of 30-40 kmph, gusting up to 50 kmph in the afternoon and evening," an IMD official said.

On Thursday, the maximum temperature is expected to hover between 36 and 38°C and dip further to 35 and 37°C by Friday. Meanwhile, Delhi's air quality improved slightly. The average air quality index (AQI) stood at 198 on Wednesday—classified as moderate—down from 209 a day earlier.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. NO.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH.	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH.	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HARYANA TOURISM CORPORATION LIMITED	OUTSOURCING THE SERVICES OF ACCOUNTS WORKS OF HARYANA TOURISM CORPORATION(HQ) AND ITS FIELD UNITS	01.05.2025 15.05.2025	EMD 50000/-	haryanaturism.gov.in	935596270 haryanaturism@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO 34322

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
Nie-T No. WBNKDA/02/EE-IWD and SI/NKDA OF 2025-26
Tr. ID No. 2025_NKDA_840777_1

The Executive Engineer - (WD&S), New Town Kolkata Development Authority invites online **Percentage Rate e-Tender**, from the eligible contractors for the work "Protection of Canal bank of Link Canal near crossing of Street no. 146 & 101 along the boundary wall of Green Wood Park extension in Action Area - I under NKDA". For details please visit websites: <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> and www.nkdamar.org

Executive Engineer - (WD&S)
 N. K. D. A.

SOUTH 24 PARGANAS ZILLA PARISHAD
NIT 24 of 2025-26 for e-tendering

For details log on to "e-procurement" link from the website: zps24pgs.wb.gov.in & wbtdenders.gov.in

Sd/- District Engineer
 South 24 Parganas Zilla Parishad
 Memo No. 767(3)/DICO/S24Pgs. Dt.30.04.2025

ABRIDGED
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER NO: 11/EE/R & B/NKDA/2025-26

e-Tender has been invited for the following work Maintenance of Arboriculture & gardens within the compound of Biodiversity park at back side of street no. 37, Green verge of plot no. AC 9/39 at street no. 32, AC park at back side of Coal bhavan and Mohisgot pond at Tarulia all are adjacent to new town action area -I under New town Kolkata development authority for a period of 24 (twenty four) months. Estimated Amount: Rate to be quoted by the bidder. Last date & time of submission of technical and financial bid (On-line): 13.05.2025 upto 1.00 P.M. Details available on Website: <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> & www.nkdamar.org and the office notice board of NKDA.

Executive Engineer
 (Roads & Building)
 New Town Kolkata Development Authority

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
N.B.D.D NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
 Notice Inviting e-Tender by the E.E./NBD D vide NIT No. 30 (SI. No. 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 & 19) of 2025-26. Details of works to be seen in the above mentioned NIT in the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in & www.wbtdenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, North Bengal Development Department. ICA-18620(4)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE
 E-tender is invited by the Commissioner of Police Kolkata for "Procurement of 06 (Six) numbers of sound proof 10 KV automatic Diesel Generator Set for the use of different Police Stations and Traffic Guard of Bhangan Division area of Kolkata Police." The last date for submission of the e-tender is 16/05/2025 upto 12:00 hours. The NIT Document and other details will be available in the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Commissioner of Police, Kolkata. ICA-18613(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
 The e-Tender is being invited by the undersigned for and on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal against NIT No. 8 of 2024-25 of SE, SWC, SE, PWDTE. (2nd Call) for the following work from the eligible contractors as mentioned in the NIT. The details are available and Online Submission of bids permitted in the website: <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> from 15:00 Hrs. on 07-05-2025 upto 14:00 Hrs. on 28-05-2025. Tender ID - 2025_WBPWD_840195_1. Tender Reference No. WBPWD/SS/SE/SWC/NIT_08/2024-25. Construction of proposed G+2 storied Vidyasagar Bi-Centenary Building of Tamraluk, Mahavidyalaya, P.S.-Tamruk, District-Purba Medinipur. Estimated Amount-Rs. 4,73,37,373.00 & Earnest Money - Rs. 9,46,747.00. Sd/- Sr. Superintending Engineer, South Western Circle, Social Sector, P.W. Dte. ICA-18651(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
 [N.I.T. No.: WBTC/JMD/NIT-453/2023-24 (5th call)]
 WBTC/JMD/NIT-483/2024-25 (3rd call) to procure power contract for WBTC/JMD/NIT-493/2024-25 (3rd call), WBTC/JMD/NIT-494/2024-25 (3rd call), WBTC/JMD/NIT-495/2024-25 (3rd call), WBTC/JMD/NIT-496/2024-25 (3rd call), WBTC/JMD/NIT-497/2024-25 (3rd call), WBTC/JMD/NIT-498/2024-25 (3rd call), WBTC/JMD/NIT-499/2024-25 (3rd call) (Abridged e-Tender)

e-Tender, in prescribed form in two parts viz. Technical & Financial Bids are invited for the works below: Civil work for upstream power contract for installation of e-Bus charging station at different depot/terminus of WBTC (CTC & CSTC), infrastructural development works (Civil) at different depots/terminus under CSTC and renovation of deep tub-well, maintenance works (Civil, Sanitary & plumbing and Electrical) at different depots & terminus under CSTC and renovation works at Howrah Depot of WBTC. Published on 30/04/2025 at 09:00 A.M. Please visit website: www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Managing Director, For WBTC Limited. ICA-18614(3)/2025

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
 (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
 Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhawan, Block-D, Sector-II, Bidhanagar, Kolkata - 700 091
 CIN: U40109WB200756C113473. www.wbsecl.in

WBSECL invites e-Tenders as follows:

(1) NIT No.: M2/Civil/Tender/25-26/02, Dt.: 23.04.2025 of the Zonal Manager, Midnapore Zone, WBSECL. Estimated Cost: ₹ 97,32,390/- for "Construction of Inauguration Regional Office at the 2nd Floor of the existing Jhargram Divisional Office, along with thorough renovation of existing building, including electrification and allied works under Jhargram Region, WBSECL."

(2) NIT No.: WBSECL/CE/EMD/2025-26/e-tender/Dt.: 25.04.2025 of the Chief Engineer, Estate Management Department, WBSECL. Estimated Cost: ₹ 8,34,458/- for "Maintenance of firefighting system at G-4-storied Office Building & Kolkata EETI Complex, WBSECL, New Town."

(3) NIT No.: RM/24PNR/Civil/2025-26/02, Dt.: 25.04.2025 of the Regional Manager, North 24 Parganas Region, WBSECL. Estimated Cost: ₹ 62,35,936.16 for "Construction of unmanned Sub-Station at Degana under Barasat Division, WBSECL."

Extension of Time
 Ref. Original NIT No.: RM/24PNR/ELEC/2025-26/01, Dtd.: 16.04.2025 of the Regional Manager, North 24 Parganas Region, WBSECL. Bid Submission End Date is hereby extended up to 08.05.2025 (15:00 hrs.).

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More Roads Will Take U-Turn To Declogging

60 Stretches Made Signal-Free Since 2016

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Since 2016, at over 60 traffic intersections and T-points, U-turns have been created to turn the roads into signal-free stretches with the aim of easing traffic congestion. The exercise involved removing traffic signals and making U-turn points to streamline vehicle flow and reduce stoppage. Key corridors already covered are Outer Ring Road from Badli Mor to Pitampura powerhouse and from Deepali Chowk to Mangolpuri, KNK Marg covering Rohini Sectors 11 to 17, Bhagwan Mahaveer Marg (Rohini West metro station to Sector 24) and Vikas Marg (Laxmi Nagar metro station to Karkari Mor). Others where the scheme was implemented include the former BRT corridor and Arihant Marg between Mukundpur metro station and Azadpur flyover. The project also included several smaller crossings and T-points across the city.

Among the proposals being discussed are Ring Road between Kingsway Camp and Civil

Lines, stretches in Rohini and around Madhuban Chowk.

On Tuesday, Delhi Traffic Police requested the Public Works Department to make alterations to the road infrastructure on Mehrauli-Gurgaon Road, Rohtak Road from Peeragarhi Chowk to Tikri border and Najafgarh Road from Uttam Nagar Chowk to Ring Road at Rajouri Garden to turn them signal-free.

In the letter to PWD, Ajay Choudhary, special commissioner of police (Traffic), suggested closing the central verges of the main carriageways at junctions with jersey barriers and creating cut-in-median-type U-turns. Among other suggestions made to PWD was the installation of road safety infrastructure such as median markers, cat eyes, solar-blinking studs, lane markings, transverse-bar markings and spring posts at the U-turn spots.

Choudhary said, "The U-turn scheme has been a transformative initiative in our efforts to streamline vehicular flow across Delhi. Over the years, we successfully implemen-

ted it at around 60 points, and the results show noticeable reductions in waiting times, smoother traffic flow and fewer conflict points at intersections."

He added, "The recent surveys we conducted on corridors like Mehrauli-Gurgaon Road, Rohtak Road and Najafgarh Road revealed significant scope for similar improvements. We've written to PWD, suggesting minor but critical modifications to make these roads signal- and congestion-free. The ultimate aim is to reduce delays without compromising safety and to improve Delhi's traffic experience in a sustainable, design-driven manner. Besides these, there are more such points that may be identified in the future."

The role of Guru Hanuman Society of Bharat has been significant in this road modification exercise. The NGO conducts inspection and survey of road stretches in the capital, particularly in projects that involve removal of traffic signals and creation of U-turns to avoid stoppage of traffic at intersections.

Grade expectations! Girls outshine boys in CISCE results — in and outside Delhi

Meghna Dhulia
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Girls once again outperformed boys in the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) and Indian School Certificate (ISC) examinations conducted by Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE). According to the results announced on Wednesday, the pass percentage for ICSE or Class X was 99.09%, and for ISC or Class XII, 99.02%.

In the Class X examinations, girls achieved a pass percentage of 99.45%, surpassing the boys' 98.64%. A similar trend was observed in the Class XII results, where the girls' pass percentage was 99.45% compared to 98.64% for the boys.

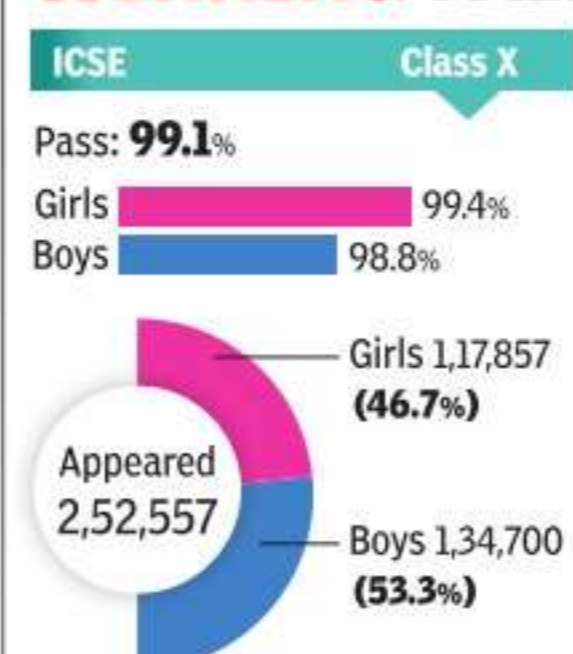
In 2024, the pass percentage for ICSE was 99.47%, with the girls' success rate at 99.65% and the boys' at 99.31%. For the ISC exams, the pass percentage stood at 98.19%—98.82% for girls and 97.53% for boys.

To avoid "unhealthy competition" among students, CISCE discontinued announcing the names of toppers this year. Instead, it awarded merit certificates to the students among the top 0.1% in each subject, provided there were at least 100 candidates, building on a reform introduced in 2024.

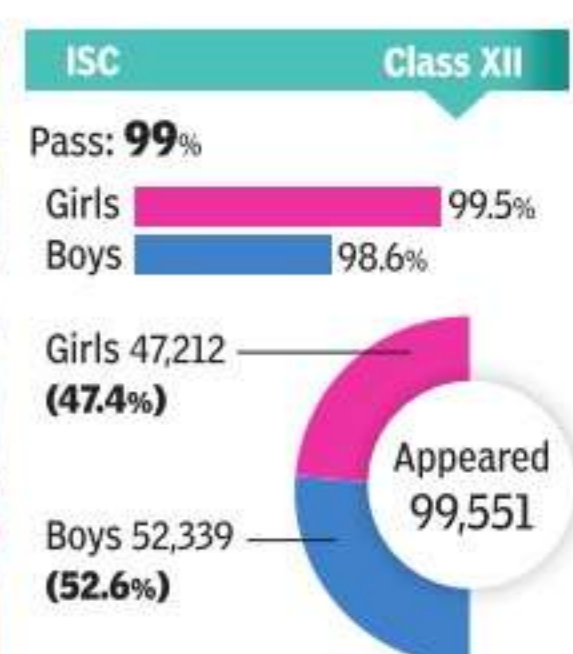
The board has introduced a single consolidated document—pass certificate-cum-statement of marks—streamlining results communication for the qualifying students. "The candidates and stakeholders can access the results on the official CISCE website or through the board's CAREERS portal. Additionally, the results are available on DigiLocker," said CISCE chief executive and secretary Joseph Emmanuel. The council also announced that the improvement exams for both ICSE and ISC would be held in July.

A total of 2,52,557 students from 2,803 schools appeared for the Class X exams, with 2,308 students unable to clear them. The Class XII exams had 99,551 candidates across 1,460 schools, of whom 973 did

WINNING FAIR AND SQUARE



ICSE Class X students from 2,803 schools took exams



ISC Class XII students from 1,460 schools took exams

Region-wise analysis

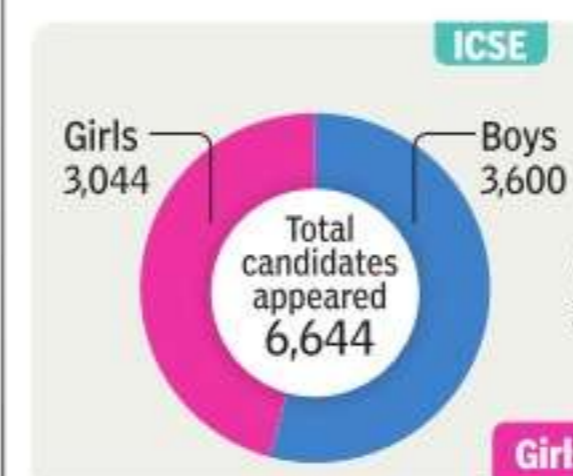


In India, the western region has the highest pass %, followed by southern region

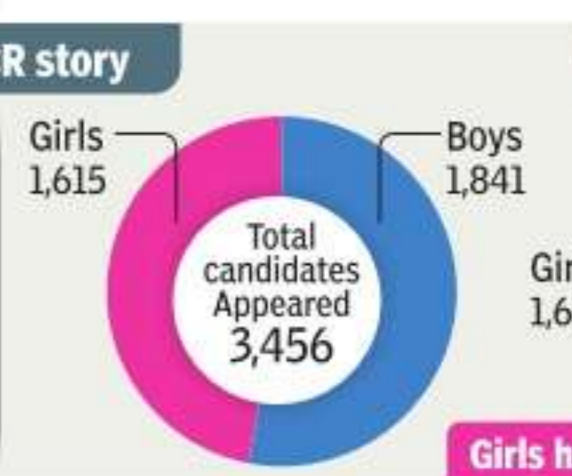
Southern region has highest % of girls at 49.6%, who appeared in the exam

In India, southern has the highest pass %, followed by western region

Southern region has highest % of girls at 50.1%, who appeared in the exam



Girls have done better than boys



Girls have done better than boys

Special category

16,304 Scheduled Caste candidates	9,142 Scheduled Tribe candidates	61,919 Other Backward Classes candidates	5,387 Scheduled Caste candidates	3,596 Scheduled Tribe candidates	17,495 Other backward classes candidates
Pass: 98.7%	Pass: 97.3%	Pass: 99.1%	Pass: 98.6%	Pass: 98.7%	Pass: 99.1%

not pass.

In Delhi-NCR, 6,644 students from 56 schools took the ICSE examinations. Among them, 3,600 were boys, out of which 3,584 passed. Of the 3,044 girls, 3,037 cleared it. This translates to an overall pass percentage of 99.65%, with girls once again outperforming boys in the region.

In the ISC examinations, 3,456 students appeared from 46 schools in Delhi-NCR. Of the 1,841 boys, 1,828 passed, while 1,615 girls appeared and 1,610 qualified. The overall pass percentage stood at 99.48%, with girls outshining boys. The students with special

needs also demonstrated commendable performance. Among 1,184 candidates with learning difficulties for the Class X exams, 112 scored above 90% while 13 of the 48 visually challenged candidates also achieved the same. In the ISC exams, 29 of the 257 candidates with learning challenges scored above 90% as did six of the 17 visually challenged students.

Regionally, the western zone recorded the highest pass percentage in ICSE at 99.83%, followed by the southern zone at 99.73%. For ISC, the southern region led with a pass rate of 99.76%, narrow-

ly ahead of the western region's 99.72%.

The exams started on Feb 18 and concluded on March 27 for Class X, and on Feb 13 and April 5, respectively for Class XII. The Class X exams were held for 67 written subjects, including 20 Indian and 14 foreign languages, and one classical language. The Class XII exams covered 47 subjects, comprising 12 Indian and four foreign languages, and two classical languages.

This year, CISCE introduced a range of innovative interventions to strengthen the transparency, fairness and efficiency of its examination

process. ExamEye, a centralised AI-enabled surveillance system, is one such step, which provided real-time monitoring of examination centres, enhancing logistical security and deterring malpractices. This intervention came in the wake of examinations such as UGC and NEET being under the scanner last year over allegations of paper leaks and other irregularities. All exam centres also had continuous CCTV surveillance. The measures to secure confidential materials were fortified through better coordination with custodians and logistics agencies.

GREEN SIGNAL TO IMPROVED TRAFFIC FLOW

SOME OF THE KEY ROADS ALREADY COVERED

- Outer Ring Road from Badli Mor to Pitampura Powerhouse and from Deepali Chowk to Mangolpuri
- KNK Marg (covering Rohini sectors 11 to 17)
- Bhagwan Mahaveer Marg (Rohini West Metro Station to Sector-24)
- Vikas Marg (Laxmi Nagar Metro Station to Karkari Mor)
- Former BRT corridor (Sadik Nagar, Pushpa Bhawan and Raja Ram Marg T-point)
- Arihant Marg (between Mukundpur Metro Station and Azadpur Flyover)



STRETCHES THAT MAY BECOME FREE OF SIGNALS

- Ring Road between Kingsway Camp and Civil Lines
- Road around Madhuban Chowk in Rohini, from the Rithala side
- Rohtak Road from Peeragarhi Chowk to Tikri Border
- Najafgarh Road from Uttam Nagar Chowk to Ring Road (at Rajouri Garden)

Suspecting relationship with sister, 16-yr-old boy stabs man in NW Delhi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A man was critically injured after being stabbed by three boys in northwest Delhi's Samaypur Badli. The incident, which occurred in broad daylight, was captured on CCTV. The footage shows the attackers repeatedly stabbing the victim, with some bystanders passively observing the scene. The injured man managed to escape the scene, and shortly after, the attackers fled as well. According to police, the victim was allegedly in a relationship with the sister

of one of the accused, who works in Shalimar Bagh. Her two brothers opposed the relationship. A few months ago, the elder brother instructed the victim to distance himself from his sister, said police. On Tuesday, the younger brother, a 16-year-old, along with two associates, attacked the man and stabbed him, said police, adding, the victim, who works at a builder's office in Badarpur, Delhi, sustained injuries to his stomach. Police said the attackers have been identified, and teams have been formed to apprehend them.

Police received information around 4 pm that a man had been stabbed near a pizza shop in Veer Bazaar. Upon arriving at the scene, they found that the injured man—who initially escaped, returned to the spot once the attackers fled—and had already been taken to the hospital. During the investigation, it was revealed that a juvenile, along with two associates, had attacked the man at his shop and stabbed him with a knife. A case of attempted murder has been registered.

TIMES TRIBUTE

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OBITUARY

DEATH ANNIVERSARY



ANIL KUMAR SHARMA

Your love, laughter & memories remain forever in our hearts. Not a day goes by without remembering you. Deeply missed & fondly remembered by family and friends.

"Those we love don't go away. They walk beside us every day."

TO BOOK AN OBITUARY AD PLEASE CONTACT

VINOD : 99589 92088

PRAYER MEETING

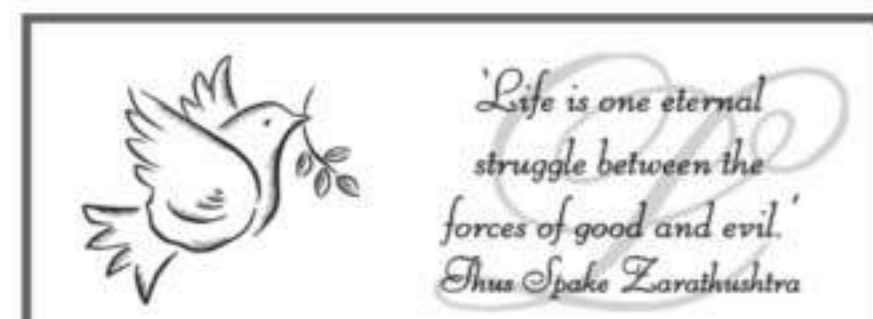
With profound sorrow and deep regret, we inform the sad demise of



Smt. Pramila Ojha
Wife of Nar Narayan Ojha

The prayer meeting will be held on May 2, 2025 from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm at Arya Samaj Mandir, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi.

Grief Stricken:
Husband: Nar Narayan Ojha
Son & Daughter-in-law: Mrinal Ojha & Swasti Rana
Daughter & Son-in-law: Abhilasha Ojha and Jai Arjun Singh
Grandchildren: Vidhi, Devraj, Meera



REMEMBRANCE SHARING MEMORIES



Maj Gen Jitendra Nath Phukan (Retd)
(01.10.1938-28.04.2025)

DGAFMS and all ranks of AFMS family deeply mourn the sad demise of Maj Gen Jitendra Nath Phukan (Retd), erstwhile Major General (Medical), Headquarters Western Command. May God grant eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family.



COLONEL IQBAL SINGH CHIMA (Retd)
(06 Dec 1943 - 30 Apr 2025)

Colonel Commandant and all ranks of Army Physical Training Corps family deeply mourn the sad demise of Colonel Iqbal Singh Chima (Retd), commissioned in 1968 and served with APTC. May God grant eternal peace to the departed soul & strength to the bereaved family. NOK:- Mrs Louisa (wife) Mob: 6395797247 Address: Flat No 602, L Block 6th Floor, Harbhajan Vihar, Sector-114, Mohali-140307.



In Loving Memory of
BUDDHA DEB GHOSH
20.11.1952 - 01.05.2021

Four years without you. We miss your protective shield as a brother, father, husband and friend. May you live in the hearts of all your well wishers and loved ones. Stay happy wherever you are. SUVRA GHOSH, SAYANTI GHOSH AND SOUMINI GHOSH



In Loving Memory of
Maj Gen AC Sharma, AVSM, VSM (Retd)
16.04.1940-01.05.2021

We miss you every moment in our life, your presence continues to surround us, in our hearts, you are always there. Remembered by: Mr. Ratish Sharma (Son), Mob: 9971677331, Mrs. Kalpana Sharma (Daughter-in-law), Ms. Thea & Leah (Grand Daughters) and all members of the Sharma Family.



The silent joy of remembering a loved one. The moments you shared together. Little moments that make life beautiful. Share them. With Friends. Relatives. Neighbours. Colleagues. With all those whose lives the departed soul has touched. Because while life goes on, when you share memories, they stay on forever.

Publications	Total Outlay
The Times of India Delhi/NCR	5,600
TOI-NBT (Delhi/NCR)	8,800
TOI-EI (Delhi/NCR)	6,600

REMEMBRANCE SHARING MEMORIES
For any information call
Vinod : 9958992088
Pankaj : 8130604727

Fire breaks out in 3 shops at Gandhi Nagar Market

New Delhi: A major fire broke out in three clothing shops at Gandhi Nagar Market in east Delhi on Wednesday afternoon, prompting a swift response from emergency services and the evacuation of nearby stores.

According to fire department, they received a distress call around 2 pm about a fire in a shop located on the market's main road. Eight fire tenders were dispatched to the scene. However, the blaze quickly spread to two

adjacent shops, fuelled by large quantities of fabric stored inside.

Thick black smoke and towering flames were visible from a distance, making firefighting efforts difficult. The blaze was brought under control after nearly two hours of intense effort.

Preliminary investigations suggest a short circuit may have triggered the fire. Gandhi Nagar Police have registered a case and launched an investigation. No casualties have been reported. **TNN**

Acid attack: Third bail plea of woman denied

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The court of additional sessions judge Dhirendra Rana dismissed the third bail application of a woman accused in an acid attack case, observing that no fresh grounds were pleaded on behalf of the accused in the present application. The case centres on allegations that the woman, Ruby, and her co-accused attacked a woman at her matrimonial home in 2018.

According to the prosecution, on June 17, 2018, the survivor alleged that her sister-in-law Ruby and mother-in-law Guddi, along with her brother-in-law Neeraj, pulled her hair, and her husband Jitender forcefully put acid into her mouth.

Advocate Aditi Drall, appearing on behalf of the survivor, argued that the nature of the allegations was serious. She further added that the accused filed for bail before the high court, where arguments were heard at length before Delhi High Court, and thereafter, the application was withdrawn. Since then, there has been no change in circumstan-

ces, and it is further submitted that the examination of the victim is yet to be completed.

The counsel appearing for Ruby, who is HIV positive, submitted before the court that she was falsely implicated in this case due to wear and tear in the matrimonial dispute arising

The survivor alleged that her sister-in-law Ruby and mother-in-law Neeraj, pulled her hair, and her husband Jitender forcefully put acid into her mouth

between the injured and her in-laws. She has been in judicial custody since Feb 19, 2024. The counsel also said that the grounds of arrest were not served upon the accused by the IO, and co-accused person Somwati, who was arrested after being declared a proclaimed offender, has been granted bail.

The judge rejected these contentions point by point.

Court grants bail to CBI's prosecutor in corruption case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Monday granted regular bail to CBI's public prosecutor arrested in a corruption case. This case is linked with the alleged demand for a bribe of Rs 35 lakh by the accused from the complainant to get a favourable order for him. The complainant is an accused in another case.

While granting bail, the court of special CBI judge Mukesh Kumar considered the facts and circumstances, noting that the accused was in judicial custody for more than 15 days and that no recovery was made at the instance of the accused, Anil Tanwar. He was arrested on April 10.

"It is also to be noted that no verification related to the present accused has been made by the IO. Accused Anil Tanwar is a CBI official, and he was not caught red-handed, and no incriminating material was recovered from his possession," the court said.

The court noted that despite the fact that the accused was interrogated in police custody no new material was brought on record by the investigation officer, "which indicates that the presence of the accused is no longer required for the purpose of investigation."

Advocates Harsh Sharma and Lakshay Parashar, appearing for Tanwar, said that the officials of CBI falsely implicated Tanwar and prepared forged documents showing the involvement of the accused. The counsels also submitted that the accused was not keeping well medically, adding that he was taken to hospital for a medical check-up. Considering the condition of the accused, he was admitted to hospital and was sent to judicial custody till April 15.

On April 15, the accused was remanded to judicial custody till April 29. The counsels further said that Tanwar was not keeping well, and he was being observed in the medical room of the dispensary of Tihar Jail.

"Accordingly, keeping in view the facts and circumstances of the present case, I am of the considered opinion that the applicant/accused is entitled to the grant of bail," the judge said, admitting Tanwar on bail on furnishing a personal bond of Rs 1,00,000 with one surety of like amount.

CBI opposed the bail application and filed a reply stating that the allegations against the accused are serious in nature.

CBI Busts Global Paedophile Rings Operating On Chat App

Suspects Booked Under Sections Of IPC, IT And Pocs0 Acts

Rajshekhhar Jha
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has dismantled international paedophile rings operating on the chat app Discord following multiple raids in Delhi and Mumbai that led to the recovery of "incriminating" digital evidence. The central agency has registered two FIRs in the case and arrested one of the suspects, according to sources.

Discord is a voice, video and text chat app used by people aged over 13 to talk and hang out with their communities and friends. The suspects, including a Delhi resident, allegedly used the platform to tap, sexually exploit and intimidate minor girls in the US.

The raids were conducted as part of Operation Hawk 2025, a global operation targeting online child exploitation

CBI OFFICIAL SAYS

The accused also intimidated the minor to continue sharing her images/videos, threatening to make the content viral on the internet

with international links. CBI started an investigation after receiving inputs from FBI, sources said.

"The international operations division registered two cases against the suspects under sections of IPC and IT Act, besides Pocs0 Act, and kicked off a probe," said an agency spokesperson.

The official added that the investigation led to the identification of two accused — Mukul Saini from Delhi and Sheik Muizz Ahmed, a resi-

dent of Mangaluru. Saini was allegedly operating four IDs, namely 'Izumi9412', 'Izumi7070', 'Deaddddd6873' and 'Arisu', on Discord and engaging in online chats with a minor girl from the US. He allegedly induced the girl to engage in sexual chats with him.

"The accused also intimidated the minor to continue sharing her images/videos, threatening to make the content viral on the internet," the official said.

Following the registration of the case, CBI conducted extensive searches at various locations in Delhi linked to the accused, which led to the recovery of electronic devices like mobile phones and computer hard disks. These contained incriminating digital evidence relating to the case, said the official.

In the second case, Ahmed was found operating an ID 'heisenberg7343'. He, too, was

allegedly engaging in online chats of a sexual nature with a minor girl from the US, inducing her to share images and videos with him over the platform. "The accused also intimidated the minor to engage in obscene sexual activities online," said the official.

A case was registered and CBI conducted raids in Mumbai and Mangaluru. They found a mobile phone and a laptop containing material Ahmed obtained from the minor. He was subsequently arrested and sent to judicial custody.

The action follows operations like Carbon and Megh Chakra carried out by CBI in 2021 and 2022. "These operations aim to trace accused, suspects and conspirators located across international jurisdictions, requiring a globally coordinated law enforcement response," said the agency spokesperson.

Terminal building not ready yet, Noida airport to miss May 15 date

Aditya.Dev@timesofindia.com

Noida: Noida International Airport is set to miss its third deadline on May 15, given by chief minister Yogi Adityanath, as work on the terminal building is unlikely to be complete by then.

While there is no word yet on the new date, sources indicated the launch was unlikely within the next two months.

The airport, as of now, is running one year behind schedule. Its original deadline was Sept 29, 2024, which was revised to April 17, 2025. But with the work on the terminal building not complete, the date for domestic flight operation was revised to May 15 and international flight to June 25.

UP has imposed a fine of Rs 10 lakh per day on concessionaire YIAPL from Jan 1 for the delay in completing the project.

On Tuesday, chief secretary Manoj Kumar Singh conducted a site inspection in Jewar and met officials from Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL), Tata



UP has imposed a fine of ₹10L per day on YIAPL from Jan 1 for the delay

Projects Limited and Noida International Airport Limited (NIA). Singh will now hold a stakeholder meeting to set new completion timelines and submit a full report within 15 days.

At the meeting, the CM emphasised the need for urgency. Senior officials were directed to do regular review meetings and hold direct discussions with the chairman of Tata Sons.

While the current con-

struction status has not been officially disclosed, the overall physical progress of the project till March 10 was 80%. The runway and associated airside infrastructure, which were 90% complete, were to be ready by April. The passenger terminal building was only 80% complete, with steel roofing and internal finishing still underway. The water and sewage treatment plants, both 40% complete, were also

behind schedule. Though the ATC building was to be completed by March 31, the commissioning of CNS/ATM systems by Airports Authority of India (AAI) was projected only by April 30.

Officials earlier told the CM that non-issuance of the aerodrome licence from Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), along with pending construction, were major roadblocks to commence flight operation by April 30.

At a DGCA review meeting on March 5, AAI submitted that limited ATC functionality could be achieved for its inspection after April 30. The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) informed that after reviewing key safety documents, it had made some observations that required compliance. BCAS said it would need 45 days after receiving the responses to issue the security clearance.

At the meeting, YIAPL was asked to submit operational scenarios, given the terminal's incomplete status.

MCD polls for ward committee, standing committee posts soon

Vibha.Sharma@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Following the completion of tenure for 12 zonal ward committees on March 31, MCD is set to release a notice next week regarding fresh elections for the posts of chairmen and deputy chairmen in these committees. This step will facilitate the constitution of the standing committee and enable the election of its pending members as well as chairman.

The civic body has approached the current zonal committee chairmen to provide common dates for holding the next election before releasing the official notification. After that, at least seven days will be given to the interested candidates to submit or withdraw their nominations to contest the chairmen and deputy chairmen elections, said officials.

Of the 12 zones, as of now, seven have chairmen from BJP, including Shahdara South, Shahdara North, Narela,

Najafgarh, Keshavpuram, Civil Lines and Central. The remaining five zones have chairmen from AAP, including City Sadar Paharganj, South, Karol Bagh, West and Rohini. Though AAP lost the majority and its number of councillors reduced from 132 in Sept 2024 to 113 in April 2025, it still maintains a majority in the above five zones, and in some places, the gap is really big.

The standing committee members from the two zones, City Sadar Paharganj and South Zone, will be elected. These two seats were vacated after the sitting standing committee members from the above two zones, Purandeepr Sawhney and Prem Chauhan, won the assembly elections.

In the 18-member standing committee, 12 are elected from each of the 12 zonal committees, and the remaining six are elected in the house directly. While the former Mayor and AAP councillor Shelly Oberoi challenged the zonal ward

committee elections held in Sept 2024 in the Supreme Court, officials claimed that no stay was given by the court in conducting the next elections.

The matter related to the election of the 18th member, Sunder Singh Tanwar (Bhati Ward), in the house meeting was also challenged in the court by AAP. The seat for one of the standing committee members, Gajendra Daral (from Mundka Ward), is also lying vacant as the councillor won the assembly election. "In May's house meeting, the election for this seat will take place, and the agenda will be included in the list of business to be placed in the house," said an official.

Once the election of chairmen and deputy chairmen in 12 committees, as well as three standing committee members, is completed, MCD will work towards the constitution of the standing committee and conducting its chairman election, possibly in June, said officials.

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: There were happy faces all around in the city on Akshaya Tritiya on Wednesday. Beaming couples took their vows at the 21,000 weddings on the day. And those involved in this gargantuan festivity — hoteliers, banquet hall operators, caterers, event managers, beauty salons, decorators, et al — really had no reason not to smile broadly. And with more auspicious marriage dates scheduled in May, the prices of products and services related to the wedding industry will continue to rise, according to happy businesspeople and their organisations.

Nearly all hotels and banquet halls were fully booked on Wednesday, while services such as catering, event organising, beauty treatments and decoration received substantial bookings, as reported by the Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI).

Brijesh Goyal, chairman, CTI, contentedly reported



The hospitality, jewellery and event management sectors saw turnover of ₹1,000 crore on Akshaya Tritiya, said CTI chairman Brijesh Goyal

the hospitality, jewellery and event management sectors saw a turnover of around Rs 1,000 crore on Akshaya Tritiya. "The hotels and banquet halls increased their rates 10-15% due to very high demand. With more weddings expected on May 7 and 8, this trend will continue," he said.

The gold, silver and jewel-

ry business in Delhi alone transacted Rs 200 crore worth of sales, revealed CTI general secretary and gold seller Gurmeet Arora. "Although most people are demanding lightweight jewellery due to the soaring gold price, we prepared in advance knowing what they would require. We made gold and diamond jewellery

in smaller sizes and there was a huge demand for these," said Arora. "This year, the price of 10 grams of gold is about Rs 97,000 when last year on Akshaya Tritiya, it was priced at Rs 73,500."

The Confederation of All India Traders similarly claimed that the capital managed a turnover of Rs 5,000 crore across all sectors on Akshaya Tritiya. "Considered a highly favourable day in Hindu culture, Akshaya Tritiya is believed to bring prosperity. That is why weddings held on this day are thought to be especially blessed," said Praveen Khandelwal, CAIT national secretary general and BJP MP. "According to our estimates, wedding-related spending today alone is likely to exceed Rs 5,000 crore in Delhi. Weddings drive significant business activity across a wide range of sectors, including apparel, jewellery, food and catering, decoration, photography, transport, hotel bookings, event management and floral services."

MP KHANDELWAL SAYS

Considered a highly favourable day in Hindu culture, Akshaya Tritiya is believed to bring prosperity

Khandelwal added that India's wedding industry had now grown to over Rs 10 lakh crore, though it hadn't yet been given industry status. "There is a need for a structured policy framework, proper monitoring and regulations to organise this vast sector and curb cash-based transactions," he said. "Granting industry status to the wedding sector and implementing regulatory oversight can bring more transparency and strength to the Indian economy. I have urged the central govt to form a high-level committee to recognise the wedding sector, gather input from stakeholders, and formulate a comprehensive policy."

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Couple leaves Kol hotel briefly, returns to find kids killed in fire

Father-in-Law Saw Smoke, Called Us. Perished In Blaze, Says TN Man

V.Srivatsal@timesofindia.com

Karur/Kolkata: "We could have planned to leave an hour earlier, or stayed back with them and died together," a grief-stricken T Prabhu of Karur in Tamil Nadu told TOI, as he lost his two young children and father-in-law in a massive hotel fire in Kolkata on Tuesday night. Prabhu's



Muthukrishnan and his grandchildren Diya (L) and Rithan. The family was planning to check out of the hotel after dinner, but tragedy struck before that

children — 10-year-old Diya and 3-year-old Rithan — and father-in-law S Muthukrishnan (61), were among 14 people who lost their lives at Hotel Rituraj in Kolkata. Tragedy struck the family at the end of what was to be a memorable 12-day vacation. "We were planning to check out by 8.30pm after dinner. I still cannot believe they are not coming back with us," said a devastated Prabhu, breaking down.

The family had arrived in Kolkata on April 29 after touring Delhi, Sikkim and Darjeeling as part of a "long-awaited trip" that began on April 17 from Trichy. It was Muthukrishnan who had insisted on a day's tour of Kolkata. By eve-

ning, they had their bags packed, as their train was scheduled at 11.45 pm.

Prabhu, who runs an aloe vera products business, stepped out briefly with his wife Madhumitha to buy food, leaving behind the children and his father-in-law in Room 313 on the third floor of the hotel. By the time the couple returned with the food, a massive blaze had engulfed the entire building.

According to official reports, the fire broke out between 7.30pm and 8pm. "A few people were rescued, but as far as I know, there was no proper emergency exit on any of the six floors," Prabhu said.

Prabhu had received a call from his father-in-law, who saw the smoke as the fire started raging in the hotel. "We rushed back and I tried to enter the hotel, but the flames leapt out. Locals said a fire tender was on the way," Prabhu recounted.

Prabhu said he used a ladder set by the firemen to climb up to the third floor, shattered the window panes with a piece of brick and entered a room. "It was a bathroom and the moment I opened the door, smoke blinded me. I covered my face with a cloth and tried to get in the passage leading to the rooms. But, I was unable to breathe," he said. The desperate father had to give up, and he climbed down, choking.

"I still can't believe I lost them," said Madhumitha.

(With inputs from Rohit Khanna, Srishti Lakhota & Subhojyoti Kanjilal)



Hotel guests being brought down by fire brigade personnel on Tuesday

Windows sealed, people outside were unaware of fire

Continued from P 1

The fire is suspected to have started in the banquet area on the first floor that was being converted into a dance bar. The state govt set up a special investigation team to probe the blaze after unapproved structural changes were detected within the building, whose owners are absconding.

Fire brigade officials said they received the first call from the hotel at 8.10pm Tuesday, shortly after staffer Manoj Kumar Paswan left off a ledge and became the first victim. It was only after seeing him jump that locals realised the hotel was on fire.

"Since all the windows on the first floor and that of several rooms in the floors above were sealed, nobody outside realised the hotel had caught fire till around 30 minutes later. Inside the hotel, too, guests and hotel staff did not get wind of the blaze till smoke filled the stairwell, corridors,

and started seeping into the rooms," a fireman said.

Fire brigade personnel were able to enter the hotel only five hours later. They found 12 people dead in the rooms and the corridor. Another victim collapsed and died after reaching the terrace. Post-mortem reports suggested they died of carbon monoxide poisoning.

CM Mamata Banerjee, who was in the sea resort of Digha, took stock of search and rescue efforts with Kolkata mayor Firhad Hakim and police commissioner Manoj Verma. "Investigation has been ordered. My condolences to the victim families and solidarity for all affected," she wrote on X.

PM Narendra Modi condoled the deaths and announced ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh to the next of kin of each of the victims and Rs 50,000 for each of those injured.

Hakim said Wednesday that illegal portions of the hotel would be demolished.

Don't spread false info about govt aid: Victim's widow

Continued from P 1

As of now, she wants to focus all her energy on this. We hope we will be getting help from the administration so that she can fulfil her dreams," Subhangi Guha's mother Sabari Guha said.

As they did a week ago, friends and relatives gathered at the Guha residence to show support, this time on the day of her results. "Subhangi has always been a bright student. We have decided to pool in whatever resources we have locally to ensure that her dream is fulfilled," said Shankar Roy, president of the local club who visited the family in the morning.

Sabari has appealed to the public not to spread misinformation about the family, who are still trying to come to terms with the trauma. "Social media and media outlets have claimed that we were paid a death claim settlement of Rs 1.7 crore. This is baseless. An officer did visit us, but he clicked photos in our flat without our consent. We have received no cheque," she said.

The mother and daughter have shared their account of the attack with NIA investigators. When TOI visited the Guha home, Subhangi was found speaking over the phone, fielding calls and messages. She is pushing ahead with clarity — a powerful reminder that even in the shadow of violence, a young life can choose the path forward.

Egypt reaffirms support to India after J&K attack

India and Egypt strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Pahalgam that targeted tourists. Egypt reaffirmed its full support for India in confronting all forms of violence and terrorism aimed at undermining the country's security and stability.

"Both sides agreed to strengthen joint efforts in combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The two sides exchanged views on terror threats in their respective countries and regions," said the Indian govt in a statement. "Both sides discussed ways to strengthen areas of cooperation to counter new and emerging challenges such as use of technology for terrorist purposes and financing of terrorism," it added. TNN

HC halts deportation of man who served in J&K police for 26 yrs

Naseer.Ganai@timesofindia.com

Srinagar: J&K high court halted on Wednesday the deportation of a police head constable and his eight siblings to Pakistan, ruling they are prima facie residents of the UT. The family, sent to Attari border in Punjab, is now returning home in Jammu's Poonch district.

Officials had issued deportation notices on April 26 to head constable Iftikhar Ali, 45, and his five sisters and four brothers, claiming they were Pakistani nationals. The next day, police summoned them to a local station before sending them to Attari. Their removal was part of a broader govt crackdown following the Pahalgam attack on April 22.

Ali, who has been with J&K police for over 26 years, challenged the deportation in court. He presented revenue documents proving his family owns land in Salwah, a village along the LoC.

"Revenue documents are taken on record... prima facie establish that petitioners are bona fide residents of J&K belonging to Poonch," the court said, directing the authorities to stop the deportation.

Safer Choudhary, an activist who protested against the deportation, said Ali's father Fakar Din was originally from Salwah village. During the 1965 war, half the village was taken over by Pakistan, forcing Din and his wife Fatima Bi to end up in POK.

Pak aircraft banned from Indian skies

India has barred Pakistan registered and operated aircraft, including military planes, from its airspace effective midnight of April 30-May 1. No aircraft registered in Pak, or owned, operated, or leased by any Pakistani airline or operator — including military flights — is allowed to fly in Indian airspace till May 23, 2025, for now, according to a notice to airmen (NOTAM) issued late Wednesday.

Pakistan had barred aircraft operated by Indian carriers, charters and private jets registered here last Thursday from 6pm IST. A large number of Indian airliners' flights between north India, especially Delhi, and the West are now taking a longer route. TNN

They lived in a refugee camp, where three of their children joined them and six more, including Ali, were born.

The family returned to Poonch in the 1980s, where authorities recognised them as residents of J&K. Choudhary said govt issued them all necessary documentation, including passports, domicile certificates, and other official papers. "The Poonch administration could have avoided this situation," Choudhary said. "Besides, how can you deport a person from one region of a country to another as PoK is constitutionally a part of India?"

J&K LG holds security meet, seeks action to crush local support for Pak terrorists

New Delhi: Concurrent to the PM-led cabinet committee on security discussing likely retaliation against the cross-border conspirators of Pahalgam attack, J&K LG Manoj Sinha chaired a high-level meeting with the security brass in Jammu, directing them to dismantle the terror ecosystem by crushing all local support to perpetrators, reports Bharti Jain.

The meeting — which took stock of the security situation in the wake of the Pahalgam carnage — was attended by J&K DGP Nalin Prabhakar, J&K principal secretary (home) Chandraker Bharti, additional DGP in charge of CID Nitish Kumar, principal secretary to LG Mandeep K. Bhandari, IGP Jammu Bhim Sen Tuti, and DIG of Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range Shiv Kumar Sharma.

"The LG insisted that there should be resolute action against local terrorists and overground workers (OGWs) who facilitate Pakistani terrorists here; the terror infrastructure permanently dismantled and local supporters dealt with firmly," a source told TOI.

Sinha said: "It is the collective resolve of the people of J&K and nation to destroy the root of terror emanating from our neighbourhood. We must be resolute to fulfil this mission. Take strong action against OGWs who are providing logistics to terrorists, identifying targets for them and helping them to escape".

No. 46/2025-R&R Government of India Ministry of Power

Vacancy of the post of Technical Member for Electricity, APTEL

It is proposed to fill up the post of Technical Member for Electricity, Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL), a statutory organization under provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003. The above post will fall vacant on 16.09.2025.

2. The detailed Vacancy Circular may be seen at the website of Ministry of Power i.e. https://powermin.gov.in/sites/default/files/webform/notices/vacancy_circular_to_the_post_of_technical_member_APTEL.pdf

3. Applications are invited in the proforma attached at Annexure 1 of the Vacancy Circular in the above link along with requisite documents, as indicated in para 5 of the said circular, from suitable persons having qualification and experience, also as mentioned in para 3 of the said circular, for appointment to the post of Technical Member for Electricity, APTEL, so as to reach the Ministry latest by 19th May, 2025. The application may be addressed to the Deputy Secretary (R&R-2), Ministry of Power, Room No. 622, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi - 110001. The application must also be sent through email at uttam.kk@nic.in

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CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS CORRIGENDUM

No. PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/CORRIGENDUM/25/09 Dated: 24.04.2025. The following Corrigendum of E-Tender/s is for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective/likely suppliers are requested to look up the website www.ireps.gov.in These are E-Tenders; manual offers bid for these tenders will not be accepted under any circumstances, only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. For detailed instructions please refer to website. Sl. No.: [01], Tender Notice No.: SL No. 033 of PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/25/09 Dated: 05/02/2025. Sl. No. 1 of PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/CORRIGENDUM/25/04 Dated: 07/03/2025. Sl. No 1 of PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/CORRIGENDUM/25/06 Dated: 24/03/2025. Sl. No. 1 of PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/CORRIGENDUM/25/07 Dated: 10/04/2025. Tender No.: 25255005. Tender Opening Date: Tender Opening Date is to be read as "05/05/2025" instead of existing entry. [PR4/020] PCMM/CLW/Howrah

3090 पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड अल्लकालीन/पूर्णाकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना अनुषंगी कार्यकर्ता/आपूर्तिकर्ता/निर्माता फर्मों से निम्नलिखित ई-निविदा दो भागों में 12.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है जो उसी दिन 14.00 बजे खोली जायेगी। विस्तृत विवरण समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशन के उपरान्त ई-टेंडर की वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध रहेगा तथा अन्य किसी भी प्रकार के संशोधन/सिद्धि विस्तार हेतु निविदा खुलने की तिथि तक लागू नहीं करें। किसी भी निविदा को विना कारण बताये निरस्त/अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। ईटीसी-14/2025-26:- अल्लकालीन 132 के0वी0 उपकेंद्र अलीगंज पर स्थापित 40 एम0वी0ए0 132/33 के0वी0 परिवर्तक-जुगो (GEC Make) की अग्रति आयु से सम्बन्धित डेट कराने से सम्बन्धित कार्य। निविदा खुलने की तिथि 14.05.2025 निविदा शुल्क रु0 590/- एवं धरोहर राशि रु0 1800/- ईटीसी-15/2025-26:- 220 के0वी0 उपकेंद्र अलीगंज एवं सिन्दरगढ़ पर 160 एम0वी0ए0 परिवर्तक पर स्थापित सीटी0आर0 सिस्टम के वार्षिक अनुदान से सम्बन्धित कार्य। निविदा खुलने की तिथि 24.05.2025 निविदा शुल्क रु0 590/- एवं धरोहर राशि रु0 7000/- अधीक्षण अधिव्यय, विद्युत पारंपरण मण्डल, लाल डिग्री, अलीगढ़। गृह हित में बिजली बचाव, विद्युत चोरी को सूचना www.igpowerup.org RO-575/29.04.2025

'Prosecution failed to prove charges against appellant'

Continued from P 1

Though Rajendra Jain filed a jail criminal appeal on Feb 24, 2007, the case was never heard until Sept 2023, when the high court legal services committee appointed advocate Bikash Chandra Parjia to represent him after learning no lawyer had appeared on his behalf.

A division bench of HC judges Sangam Kumar Sahoo and Chittaranjan Dash overturned his conviction, ruling that circumstantial evidence failed to conclusively establish guilt. "In the current case, the prosecution has failed to meet this threshold," the bench said.

The court said the "last seen" theory was unproven, the blood-stained trouser allegedly recovered was not

shown to belong to Rajendra, and the supposed motive was speculative, especially since the autopsy ruled out sexual assault. The recovery of weapons was also found to be doubtful.

"We are of the considered view that the prosecution has not been able to prove the charge against the appellant beyond all reasonable doubt, and the evidence on record falls short of the standard required to fasten criminal liability," the bench ruled.

Jailer Santosh Barik said Rajendra would be released Thursday. "He has some mental health issues. His family members have not come. We are figuring out how to go about his release," he said. The family used to earn their livelihood by collecting scrap iron and discarded materials.

SC: Digital transformation must be inclusive, equitable

Continued from P 1

At this juncture, we may also wish to observe that in the contemporary era, where access to essential services, governance, education, healthcare and economic opportunities is increasingly mediated through digital platforms, the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution must be reinterpreted in light of these technological realities. The digital divide — characterised by unequal access to digital infrastructure, skills, and content — continues to perpetuate systemic exclusion, not only of persons with disabilities, but also of large sections of rural populations, senior citizens, economically weaker communities, and linguistic minorities. The principle of substantive equality demands that digital transformation be both inclusive and equitable," Supreme Court said.

Justice R Mahadevan, who penned the verdict for the bench, also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala, on petitions filed by two acid attack victims who suffer facial disfigurement and 100% blindness, said that true inclusion requires that technological advancements accommodate the diverse needs of all citizens, thereby fostering

an environment where no individual is left behind. The petitioners alleged that they are facing difficulties in completing the digital KYC/e-KYC process due to their inability to click a "live photograph" by blinking and which has prevented them from opening a bank account and purchasing a SIM card from the telecom providers.

Allowing their plea, the bench directed govt authorities including RBI to issue guidelines to adopt alternative modes for verifying the "liveness" or capturing a "live photograph" of the customers for the purpose of conducting digital KYC to ensure inclusivity and user-convenience. It also ordered them to continue with the paper-based KYC process.

"Bridging the digital divide is no longer merely a matter of policy discretion but has become a constitutional imperative to secure a life of dignity, autonomy and equal participation in public life. Right to digital access, therefore, emerges as an intrinsic component of right to life and liberty, necessitating that State proactively design and implement inclusive digital ecosystems that serve not only privileged but also the marginalised, those who have been historically excluded," it said.

BIHAR RAJYA BEEJ NIGAM LIMITED
(A Govt. of Bihar Undertaking)

An IS/ISO 9001:2015; IS/ISO 14001:2015; IS/ISO 37001:2016
Certified Company

3rd Floor, Krishi Bhawan, Mithapur, Patna-800001(BIHAR)

Telephone: 0612-2547066 / Website: brbn.bihar.gov.in / e-mail: brbn.bih.mail@gmail.com
CIN : U01111BR1975GC 001294

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. MARKETING -01/2025-26
Through e-Procurement mode only over <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>

Bihar Raja Beej Nigam Limited invites quotations from eligible entities for supply of certified seeds of various crops under different schemes of Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Bihar for Kharif 2025-26 season.

S.No.	Activity	Date/Time: Duration
1	Online Sale/Download date of Tender documents	From 02.05.2025 to 14.05.2025 till 01.00 PM on e-Procurement Portal: (https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
2	Date of Pre-bid meeting	08.05.2025 at 3:00 PM
3	Date/time for submission/ uploading of offer/Bid	Up to 14.05.2025 till 3.00 PM on e-Procurement Portal: (https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
4	Date & time for opening of Technical Bid	14.05.2025 at 4:00 PM on e-Procurement Portal: (https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
5	Contact person/Nodal Officer for queries	Name - Sri Radha Raman, Chief of Seed Marketing, BRBN Mob. 9031643068
6	Financial Bid opening date & time	Within 07 days after completion of Technical Bid on e-Procurement Portal: (https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

Bank Details for EMD and Security Deposit

Bihar Raja Beej Nigam Limited
Punjab National Bank,
Budha Colony Branch, Patna-800001
A/C No-2920000108138361, IFSC-PUNB0292000

For more details, please visit the website:-
1. brbn.bihar.gov.in 2. <https://state.bihar.gov.in/krishi/CitizenHome.html>
3. <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>

Chief of Seed Marketing
Bihar Raja Beej Nigam Ltd.

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

रक्त की आवश्यकता पड़ने पर लाइसेंस प्राप्त ब्लड बैंकों से ही रक्त प्राप्त करें।

Business

Pandemic Disruptions Leave House Of Masaba On Shaky Ground

As the virus spread and the world hit pause, fashion hit rock bottom. And House Of Masaba was looking worse for wear. Sales were close to nil. Stores were closing. And expenses, piling up. But Masaba was made of sterner stuff. She decided to adapt. She pivoted to making masks from unused fabrics, negotiated rent reductions and fought tirelessly to keep her brand alive, all while leaning into her digital-first strategy to weave momentum in a world that had shifted online overnight. Fate also intervened. A show inspired by her life reignited interest in her brand, ensuring her comeback was pure cinema. Today, House of Masaba isn't just back. It's bigger, bolder, and more importantly, borderless. Masaba did more than just survive. She made it.

House Of Masaba Expands To 23 Outlets, Ventures Into Beauty

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

MAKE IT

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male (depicted in the photo) name Chandar Parkash@Thekedar S/o Unknown residence and family is Unknown age about 67 years was found dead on 29.04.2025 at the area of Farsh Bazar, Delhi. In this regard, a DD No. 39A Dated 29.04.2025 has been lodged at P.S. Farsh Bazar, Shahdara, Delhi. His physical description is as under.

Sex: Male, Age: about 67 years, Height: 5'4" Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: White Colour Shirt & Green Colour Lower. Any person is having information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone number:- S.H.O PS: Farsh Bazar, Shahdara, Delhi Ph No.: 7065036028 DP/5421/SHD/2025

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one female Namely Murti Devi W/o Narayan Singh R/o A-1/975, J.J Colony, Madanpur Khadar, Delhi, has been missing/ kidnapped from her home, since: 22.04.2025. In this regard, a case FIR/DD No. 61A Dt. 23.04.2025 has been registered at P.S. Kalindi Kunj, New Delhi. The description of the missing female is as under.



MURTI DEVI

Age: 77 years, Height: 4'8", Complexion: Dark, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: White Color Saree and Hawai Chappal in her Feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing female then please inform P.S.Kalindi Kunj, New Delhi at following Tel No./ e-mail: c/c@cbi.gov.in and Website: http://cbi.nic.in, providing clue about the person. Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 Sd/- Fax No. 011- 24368639 S.H.O. Kalindi Kunj, New Delhi Tel No. 8750870922, 9625664141 sho.kalindikunj@delhipolice.gov.in DP/5314/SE/2025

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL



General public is hereby informed that this girl (depicted in the Photo) Namely: Mahima D/o: Sh. Ramesh Bharti R/o: 171, Siddharth Basti, Jeevan Nagar, Sunlight Colony, 2 Delhi Age: 14 Years, Height: 4 feet 6 inch, Face: Long, Complexion: Fair, Built: Medium, Wearing: Blue jeans, green colour top and pink colour slippers in feet, has been missing since 25.04.2025 at 03:00 pm from her home under area of P.S. Sunlight Colony, New Delhi. In this regard a FIR No. 175/2025, U/S 137 (2) BNS, Dated 26.04.2025 has been registered at P.S. Sunlight Colony, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this missing girl but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following. S.H.O Website: http://cbi.nic.in PS.- Sunlight Colony, New Delhi Ph. 91-11-26347482, 8750870928 DP/5446/SE/2025

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that one person (depicted in the photo) namely Tikam Singh Verma S/o Mohan Lal R/o unknown age about 50 years was admitted in sick condition Dr. Hedgewar Hospital, Delhi on 17.04.2025 at about 03.34 am. The patient was referred to GTB Hospital, Delhi who was brought to died during treatment on 26.04.2025. In this regard a DD No. 100A, Dated 26.04.2025 has been lodged at PS Farsh Bazar, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

Sex: Male, Age: about 50 years, Height: 5' 7" ft., Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: Chaikdar Shirt & Matmaia Colour Pant. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone numbers:- S.H.O PS: Farsh Bazar, Delhi Ph. 011-22303600, 22385817 Mobile: 7065036028 DP/5381/SHD/2025 (UIDB)

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

No.-DRM/C/Agra/Catg./e-auction/25 Date: 28.04.2025

E-Auction Notice

On behalf of the President of India, The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager - North Central Railway-Agra invites E-Auction for 51 Catering Stalls at Platform of various Railway Stations over Agra Division for a period of Five years.

Table with 4 columns: Category, Catering Stalls, Auction Catalogue No., Station Code, Total No. of Stalls. Lists various stations like Mathura Jn., Kosi Kalan, Mandawar Mahwa Road, etc.

Table with 4 columns: Category, Catering Stalls, Auction Catalogue No., Station Code, Total No. of Stalls. Lists various stations like Dholpur Jn., Idgah Jn., Raibha, etc.

Auction Starting Time: Date- 15.05.2025 Time 11.00 hrs. Note: Prospective bidders are requested to visit e-Auction Leasing Module on IREPS website (www.ireps.gov.in) for more details. The Lot-wise details are available therein under the above mentioned Catalogue Number. 735/25 FA

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION - International Competitive Bidding (Two Cover system) (Through KPPP Only) Bids are invited from Bidders for Selection of a Mine Operator (MO) for development and operation of the Durgapur-II/Taramir and Durgapur-III/Sarya coal blocks of Raigarh Coalfield located at Raigarh District, Chattisgarh State, India and supply of up to 5.00 MTPA of Coal to the specified end use plants of Karnataka Power Corporation Limited ("KPLC").

उपसिदा 3प्रमो राज्य अधीनस्थ विकास प्राधिकरण

एलटेंडर सूचित किया जाता है, कि विभिन्न औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों के अनुरोधित विकास/अनुसंधान/उद्योगीकरण कार्य हेतु सरकारी विभागों/सार्वजनिक उपकरणों/निगमों/प्राधिकरणों/परिषदों/नगर निकायों में कार्यरत प्रमो/अधिकारियों से ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है, जिसको अपलोड करने की समय सीमा निम्नवत् है-

Table with 3 columns: क्रमिक, कार्य का नाम, इस्टीमेटेड कीमत. Lists items like Development And Construction of Vending Zone At I.A Surajpur Site -B And Site -4 Distt. G.B Nagar.

नोट- निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त जरूरी शर्तों को ध्यान में रखकर भरना चाहिए। ऑनलाइन निविदा प्रणाली में प्रवेश करने के लिए निविदा सूचना की वेबसाइट: www.onlineupsida.com पर विहित ई-लिक एवं यूडीएसएल की वेबसाइट: http://tenderup.nic.in पर देखा जा सकता है। अन्य जानकारी हेतु कार्यालय के सहायक प्रबन्धक (शिफ्ट) के श्री दीपक सोनकर मोबाइल नं. 9044197166 पर संपर्क किया जा सकता है।

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221004

BID No. E-03/2025-26 Date: 28.04.2025 E-Tender invited for and on behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only E-offer will be accepted for which vendors must have class-III Digital Signature and registration of IREPS. The details of tender are in the following sequence: S. No.; Tender No.; Due Date; Description and quantity; 1. BLW-Vehicle-25-27-91; 12/05/2025; 01-Hiring cost of Vehicle & 02-Driver Wages; As per tender; 2. 04251032; (12/05/2025); Holder for TM Suspension to PL No.29100150; Qty. 4184 Nos. 3. 04251028; (08/05/2025); Gear Case Complete to PL No.29030018; Qty. 2452 Nos. 4. 06251795; 14/05/2025, 15.00; 29612950; SET OF CABLE TRAY FOR WAG-9 LOCO; 726 Set. 5; 092410178; Open Tender (19/05/2025); Rectifier Bank Assembly (PL No 18021554); Qty. 143 Nos. 6; 09231142A, Global Tender, (26/05/2025); CONTACTOR-1200 AMP (PL No.18140099); Qty.78 Nos. 7; 09251001A; Global Tender, (26/05/2025); MOTOR MODULE (PL No.18120570); Qty.72 Nos. 8. 10241360; 23/05/2025; Detector Asm Part No.-16360023; 989 Nos. 9; 10241773; 21/05/2025; Lock-Spring Seat Part No.-16241629; 152611 Nos. 10. 10241362; 21/05/2025; Valve Temp Cont Part No.-16241228; 1293 Nos. The details of above Tenders are available on website www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in and www.ireps.gov.in.

Karnataka Urban Water Supply & Drainage Board

Office of the Chief Engineer Dharwad Sir.M. Vishveshvarayya Road, Jalamandali Compound, Dharwad-580 001 Tel No: 0836-2447090 E-mail: kwbcen@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Tender for the following work is invited (two tender document system) through e-Procurement portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from the eligible Agency/contractors who satisfy the Technical & Financial eligibility criteria. This office Tender Notification No: 225 Dated: 28-04-2025. Name of Work: Replacement of existing PSC pipeline by MS pipeline (from Kolhar to Vijayapur city) of water supply system to Vijayapur city with Almatii backwater as source. (Lumpsum Tender) KUWSDB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT341.

For further information visit e-procurement portal or the Office of the Chief Engineer, K.U.W.S & D. Board, Dharwad may be contacted. Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER, DIPRI/Dharwad/107/2025-26/DeshpandePublicity KUWS & D BOARD, DHARWAD

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

पत्र सं.: मधु/क.वि./प्रिस विज्ञापित दिनांक: 25.04.2025

ABSENTEE NOTICE

Shri Amit Chandel S/o Late Shri Ramprasad Chandel Resident/Permanent Address- House No.- 2113, Bahadurpura, Near Dampier Road, Mathura (UP) Pin 281001, Posted as Asstt. (TRD) in TRD Depot, Ramgarh under ADEE/TRD/MATHURA. Shri Amit Chandel S/o Late Shri Ramprasad Chandel is unauthorized absent from duty since 26.08.2023 DAR proceeding pending against him. It is to inform through this notice that he should present himself in the Undersigned office for attending proceeding within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice otherwise Ex-party decision will be taken against him.

Disciplinary Officer Assistant Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD Mathura 731/25(A) North central railways @CPRONCR www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that a male (depicted in the photo) Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown was found with an accident and injuries at Britannia Chowk, Near Heritage Banquet Hall, Ring Road, Delhi on 28.04.2025 at 2.40 A.M. and taken to Moti Nagar Hospital vide MLC No.1487/2025 and shifted to Safdarjung Hospital and expired on 28.04.2025. In this regard vide FIR No.289/2025 Dated 28.04.2025 U/S 281/125(A) BNS has been registered at P.S. Subhash Place, Delhi.

The description of the deceased is given as below: Name: Unknown, Sex: Male, Age: About 45 Years, Height: 5' 8", Built: Medium, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Blue Color Lower having NIKE Logo, Silver Color Ring with a White stone in Right Hand Middle Finger. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to identify the man but no clue has come to light so far. Anyone having information about the person, please inform the undersigned. S.H.O P.S Subhash Place, Delhi Ph.: 9868382261 DP/5440/NW/2025

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused person Namely Obinna R/o Egbma Ozubulu, Anambra State Nigeria and M-block, Gali No. 8, Near H. No. 43, Mohan Garden New Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case FIR No. 627/2022, U/s 21 of NDPS ACT PS: Mohan Garden, New Delhi, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Obinna, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Obinna, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said Obinna, accused of FIR No. 627/2022, U/s 21 of NDPS ACT PS: Mohan Garden New Delhi, is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 30.05.2025. By Order Ms. Bhavna Kalia Special Judge (NDPS)-01 Room No. 610 Dwarka Court, New Delhi DP/5484/DW/2025 (Court Matter)

₹22,800cr project linking Silchar & Shillong gets Cabinet nod

New Delhi: Cabinet on Wednesday approved the construction of a new 167-km greenfield high-speed corridor connecting Shillong in Meghalaya with Silchar in Assam. The four-lane highway costing around Rs 22,800 crore would reduce the travel time between the two cities drastically. "The development of this corridor will improve connectivity to Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur and the Barak Valley region of Assam from the mainland and Guwahati as well as substantially reduced travel distance and travel time," Govt said. I&B minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the critical infrastructure project will reduce congestion on the existing NH-6 and boost transport infrastructure development. Once completed, it will also ensure faster movement of defence forces to meet strategic needs. TNN

Caste census move comes a day after PM-Bhagwat meet

Continued from P 1 "sudden decision" that came after it was opposed by BJP for 11 years. BJP fielded big guns from the OBC community, including agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan and education minister Dharmendra Pradhan, to describe it as a decision towards ensuring social justice. Coming months before assembly elections in Bihar, the CCPA decision has injected a new element into the political scenario and the opposition will no longer be able to blame govt for opposing a caste census. It came a day after RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat met PM Modi at his residence. Sources said questions on caste and sub-castes would be part of the national census expected next year. The 2020 Census has been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Addressing the media, Rahul described it as a

Resolve dispute via diplomatic means, Saudi urges India, Pak

Continued from P 1 The Saudi kingdom called upon India and Pakistan to de-escalate, resolve disputes through diplomatic means, while upholding the "principles of good neighbourliness and working towards stability and peace in a manner that serves interests of both their peoples and people of the region". In a statement, Qatar urged both sides to exercise maximum restraint, (let) prevail the voice of wisdom, respect the principles of good neighbourliness, and resolve the crisis through diplomatic channels. Qatar also reiterated full support for all efforts aimed at de-escalating tensions between the two countries and resolving outstanding issues through dialogue and peaceful means.

DELHI TEACHERS UNIVERSITY (A University Established by an Act of Govt. of NCT of Delhi) Recognised by UGC under Section 2(f) P-625 & 745, Outram Lanes, Near Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi - 110009 Phone number 011-35994746

Advertisement of Teaching Positions

Advertisement No.: 01/2025 Dated: 01/05/2025

Online applications are invited for the positions of 02 Professor, 02 Associate Professor and 04 Assistant Professor (Education) in Delhi Teachers University.

Applicants are advised to visit the website of the University - delhiteachersuniversity.edu.in for eligibility criteria.

The last date for receipt of applications will be one month from the date of publication of this advertisement.

Note: After successfully applying online, the self-attested copies of all the required documents along with application form should reach the University on the following address within 15 days. "Registrar, Delhi Teachers University, P-625 & 745, Outram Lanes, Near Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi - 110009"

Sd/- Registrar Delhi Teachers University DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0030/25-26

7 devotees killed as wall collapses at Andhra temple

Visakhapatnam: Seven devotees were killed and one injured after a wall collapsed near the queue lines at the famous Simhachalam temple in the Eastern Ghats, Visakhapatnam on Wednesday morning, reports Siva G. The dead included four members of the same family. The temple's hereditary trustee, former Union minister Pusapati Ashok Gajapati Raju, and his family were in the temple offering prayers when tragedy struck but they suffered no harm. Thousands of devotees had gathered at the temple dedicated to Lord Varaha Nrusimha Swamy to witness the annual Chandanotsavam. Tragedy struck when a newly built wall collapsed on devotees. Devotees alleged the wall collapsed because of substandard construction.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C./84 BNSS)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused Karanbir @Karanbir@Kannu@Tanna@Jassa@Jaiss S/o Saraj Singh @ Raju R/o B-807, New Amritsar Colony near Railway Line, Amritsar, Punjab also at near Baha Resham Singh Gurudwara, Village Valtaha, District Tarn Taran, Punjab has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No. 26/2025 U/s 21 NDPS ACT P.S Crime Branch, Delhi and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Karanbir @Karanbir@Kannu@Tanna@Jassa@Jaiss cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Karanbir @Karanbir@Kannu@Tanna@Jassa@Jaiss has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that Karanbir @Karanbir@Kannu@Tanna@Jassa@Jaiss in FIR No. 26/2025 U/s 21 NDPS ACT P.S Crime Branch, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 11.06.2025.

By order Shri Dhirendra Rana L.D Special Judge of NDPS Court Room No. 207, Rohini Courts, Delhi DP/5419/Crime/2025

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified male namely Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, was found lying with Injury marks & Blood from Divider of Road No.-56, Opp. Foot over Bridge near ISBT, Anand Vihar, Delhi on 28.04.2025 and was admitted in Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital, Khichripur, Delhi where he was declared brought dead. In this regard FIR No.: 285/2025, U/s 281/106(1) BNS, Dated 28.04.2025, has been lodged at Police Station Patparganj Ind. Area, East Distt., Delhi. Identification of

unidentified dead body of male is as under: Sex: Male, Age: Approx 60-65 years, Height : Approx 5'0", Complexion: Dark, Face: Forehead Broad, Built: Thin, Wearing: Black T-Shirt, Black Jacket, Red underwear, & Grey Jeans Pant. The dead body of deceased preserved for 72 hours in Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital Mortuary for identification. If any one having any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be informed undersigned. S.H.O

Police Station Patparganj Ind. Area, East Distt., Delhi, Ph.: 8750870626, 9891951474 DP/5442/ED/2025

UJVN LIMITED

H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006 Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508 CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

Letter No:305 Date: 30/04/2025

e-Nit no 13/SPH/2024-25 Cancellation Notice

Due to unavoidable circumstances e-tender No. 13/SPH/2024-25 for "Augmentation of Transformer Capacity of 132 KV Switchyard from 2x40 MVA to 1x80 MVA + 1x40 MVA at 132/33 KV Voltage level at Sharda Power House, Lohiahead" invited by the office of Executive Engineer(M&G), Sharda Power House, Lohiahead, Khatima, is hereby cancelled. For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal http://uktenders.gov.in Executive Engineer (M&G)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (Traction Distribution) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

Table with 3 columns: E-Tender No., Approx Cost (Rs.), Earnest Money/Bid Security (Rs.). JHS-TD-TENDER-2025-01 19531139.80 247700.00

Description of work: Provision of separate Circuit Breaker with all switchgears for segregation of various sidings from main line in Jhansi Division.

Date of closing tender: 20.05.2025, 15:00 pm, Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter: 09 Months + Tender on line can be submitted upto 15:00 hrs on 20.05.2025. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in 736/25 (ADM)

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

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a Male namely Gautam Shah, S/o: Khaniya Lal Shah, R/o: Flat No. 1D, CA Block, Janta Flat Hari Nagar, Delhi has been missing since 25.01.2025 at about 09:30 AM from his home. In this regard DD No. 89A, Dated 29.03.2025, has been registered at P.S. Hari Nagar, Delhi. The description of missing Male is as under:

Name: Gautam Shah, Age:54 Years, Height: 5'1", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: White Colour Shirt, Black Colour Jacket, Black Colour Pant and Black Colour Slipper in Feet. If anyone have any information about this missing Male please inform P.S. Hari Nagar, Delhi. Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: c/c@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 S.H.O Police Station Hari Nagar, Delhi DP/5434/WD/2025

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tendering Tender Notice

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

E-Tender No.: JHS-ENGG - N - 2025-66

Description of work : Yard improvement (Various P-way work on various yard) under ADEN/LINE/JHS (8 yards).

Approx Cost : 33791227.99 Earnest Money : 319000.00

Date of completion /period from issue acceptance letter. 06 Months

Date of closing Tender : 29/05/2025 at 15:00 hrs., Tender on line can be submitted upto 15:00 hrs on 29.05.2025. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in 734/25 (D)

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

AKIC IMC Agra Prayagraj Limited

UPSIDA, Complex A-14, Lakhnampur, Kanpur

E-tender notice

It is hereby notified that e-tenders are invited from sole proprietorship firm/a limited liability partnership/a company incorporated under the Companies Act 1956 (or the Companies Act, 2013) or a body corporate incorporated under the applicable laws of its origin working in Government Departments / Public Sector Undertakings/ Corporations/ Authorities/Councils/ Municipal Bodies for Development/Maintenance/Upgradation works under AKIC IMC Agra Prayagraj Limited, the deadline of uploading of which is as follows:-

The tender for the mentioned work can be uploaded from 01-05-2025 at 11:00AM to 21-05-2025 at 5:00PM. It will be opened on 21-05-2025 at 5:30PM.

Only Original copies of affidavits may be submitted by the Bidders to the office by the date mentioned in the tender terms. The Details of tenders invited e-tendering are as follows.

Table with 3 columns: S.No, Name of Work, Cost (Rs./%Cont). 1 RFO-cum-RFP for Programme Manager for New Cities (PMNC) for Integrated Manufacturing Clusters (IMC) at Agra and Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh under Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor (AKIC) Project. 15.68

Note-Bidders should quote their rates inclusive of all taxes in their tenders. Only GST will be paid separately. Detailed information regarding the tender can be seen on the e-link located on the Authority's website: www.onlineupsida.com and UPLC's website: https://tenderup.nic.in. For other information, the office assistant Manager (Acquisition) Mr. Deepak Sonkar can be contacted on mobile no. 9044197166.

Director, AKIC IMC Agra Prayagraj Limited

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. वृत्त, बाँसवाड़ा (राज.)

संकेत हस्त में, अय्यर रोड, बाँसवाड़ा (राज.) 327001 ई-मेल- pu_banswara@rediffmail.com दूरभाष नम्बर- 02962-241808 sebenswara.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in

क्रमांक:- बी-58 निविदा सूचना संख्या - 01/2025-26 दिनांक:- 17.04.2025

NIB Code:- PWD2526A0176

Reconstruction Work of Boys Ashram Hostel (TAD) at Danpur, Panchayat Samiti Chhoti Sarwan, Distt. Banswara (70 Bedded) के कार्य हेतु उच्च संवेदीक से अनुरोधित मायाम से दिनांक 27.05.2025, सां. 06.00 बजे तक निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदाओं का अग्र विवरण वेबसाइट (http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) और http://www.sppr.rajasthan.gov.in) पर देखा जा सकता है। (अपनी कृपया अनुमति लाना चाहिए। Rs. 261.34 Lacs है।)

UBN:- PWD2526WSO800540 अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. वृत्त बाँसवाड़ा

DIPRC/5605/2025

Temperature as well as rain to be 'above normal' in May: IMD

'Rain Will Keep Mercury Under Last Year's Levels'

Vishwa.Mohan@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Most parts of the country are likely to have 'above normal' temperatures in May with parts of the northwest, central and adjoining east India witnessing more than usual heat wave days during the month, India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Wednesday.

States/regions which may experience 'above normal' heat wave days in May include many parts of Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Gangetic West Bengal and some parts of Gujarat, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and adjoining Telangana, and north Karnataka.

Though rains and thunderstorms are expected to bring some respite in northwest India, Indo-Gangetic plain and Delhi during the first week of May, most parts may still face 2-7 heat wave days — 1 to 4 days higher than normal — during the month.

IMD chief Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said frequent and intense thunderstorms, and 'above normal' rainfall in May are likely to prevent temperatures from rising to the levels seen in May 2024.

He said 'above normal' maximum (day) temperatures are, however, likely over most parts of the country except many parts of southern peninsular India, and some parts of east India where normal to 'below normal' maximum temperatures are likely. 'Above normal'



Most parts may still face 2-7 heat wave days — 1 to 4 days higher than normal — during the month

minimum (night) temperatures too are likely over most parts of the country, Mohapatra added.

The Met department predicted 'above normal' rainfall over the country as a whole during May 2025 averaged over the country as a whole. "The normal to 'above normal' rainfall is likely over many parts of the country except some parts of northwest central, east and northeast India where below normal rainfall is likely," it said.

The temperature situation was worse in April — the month which experienced seventh highest mean April temperature (29.1 degree celsius) which was higher by 0.8 degree C than normal over the country as a whole since the formal recording began in India in 1901. Northwest India during the month recorded the fifth warmest April since 1901.

Rajasthan and Gujarat faced 6-11 heat wave days, and east MP and Vidarbha experienced 4-6 heat wave days against normal of 2 to 3 days. Over east central India, Maharashtra and adjoining northern Peninsular India, 1-3 heat wave days were observed against normal of 2-3 days.

Red-Crowned Roofed Turtles, last seen in Ganga's main channel 30 years ago, reintroduced in river

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In a move that may go a long way in restoring the complete ecosystem of river Ganga, 20 critically endangered Red-Crowned Roofed Turtles have been reintroduced in the river in UP. The turtle species was last seen in the main channel of the river 30 years ago.

Union Jai Shakti minister C R Paatil described the reintroduction move as an important milestone in restoring ecology of the Ganga river.

The turtles were transferred from Garbhaita Turtle Conservation Center into Haiderpur Wetland in UP. These turtles were tagged with sonic devices to monitor their safety and migration.

"The turtles were divided into two groups — one group was released above the barrage of Haiderpur Wetland, while the other was released downstream in the main channel of the Ganga," said Jai Shakti minister. It said, "This approach aims to determine which method is more effective for the turtles' reintroduction."

राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान भुवनेश्वर National Institute of Science Education and Research Bhubaneswar परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग, भारत सरकार का स्वयंशासित संस्थान AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTE UNDER DAE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

ADMISSION TO MASTERS PROGRAM IN MEDICAL AND RADIOLOGICAL PHYSICS

The National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) Bhubaneswar, invites applications from interested candidates for the M. Sc. program in Medical and Radiological Physics at the Centre for Medical and Radiation Physics, NISER, Odisha, India.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Degree awarding institute	Homi Bhabha National Institute, Mumbai and NISER
Duration of the course	2 years Masters program and 1-year mandatory internship.
Total No. of seats	10
Minimum qualification and selection	60% marks in B. Sc with physics as a main course and JAM 2025 / JEST 2025 scorecards. The shortlisting will be based on JAM 2025 / JEST 2025 marks, followed by interview for selection.
Fellowship	Rs. 16,000/- p.m. + HRA and mentorship grant as per DAE rules, during master's program.
Internship hospitals as per AERB guidelines	All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhubaneswar, Acharya Harihar Post Graduate Institute of Cancer, Cuttack and Tata Memorial Centre. Internship will be offered only to students who have a CGPA of 6 or greater in the course.

More details about the program are available at: <https://www.niser.ac.in/cmpr/>

HOW TO APPLY

See announcements section of NISER website <https://www.niser.ac.in/> or Scan the QR code.

IMPORTANT DATES

Last date of online application	15th May 2025
Date of interview	1st-4th July 2025
Announcement of final selection list	5th July 2025

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

Centre for Medical and Radiation Physics, NISER, Jatni-50, Odisha, India
Email: cmpr@niser.ac.in

CBC48158/12/0001/2526

Pune med college suspends trio over ragging

Pune: Three second-year postgraduate students at BJ Medical College and Sassoon General Hospital were suspended and ordered to vacate their hostels on Monday following a ragging complaint against them, reports Alim Shaikh. Their department head was also removed over the alleged harassment on the institution's premises.

The action came after the mother of a junior student, who was allegedly ragged, approached the chief minister's office Monday with a complaint, stating the victim had been insulted by the accused seniors on multiple occasions. During the inquiry, three more students came forward alleging harassment by the same seniors, officials said.

LOKPAL OF INDIA

Lokpal of India has issued a Vacancy Circular dated 28.04.2025 for filling up the post of Registrar (IT) and Assistant registrar (IT) on deputation basis. For more details, please visit the website of Lokpal of India. Link: www.lokpal.gov.in

Last date of receipt of applications is 27.06.2025

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No: CAD/CN/BNC/112/2025
Dated: 24-04-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Construction of Officers Rest House on 3rd, 4th & 5th Floors (3 Floors) over newly constructed ORH Building at Bengaluru Cantonment. (Composite Tender). (Tender Ref. No.: BNC-Stn-Development-04)	Rs. 4,60,93,121/-

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 15:00 Hrs on 21-05-2025
For details log on: www.treps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works/Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/70/AA/04/0001/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR - SWRRL - SWRRL

DIRECTORATE OF HANDICRAFTS, ODISHA

1ST FLOOR, HOD BUILDING, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR-751001

NOTICE FOR EXTENSION OF TENDER FOR SELECTION OF AGENCY FOR SUPPLY OF TRIBAL JEWELLERY & DHOKRA CASTING IMPROVED TOOLKIT SETS

No. - 2892 Date: 25.04.2025

Submission of Tender for selection of agency towards supply of improved toolkits for Tribal Jewellery & Dhokra Casting published vide Tender Notification No. 2231 dt. 27.03.2025 in 03 English Dailies i.e The Times of India, The Hindu & The New Indian Express is extended up to 09.05.2025 (6:00 PM) and the same will be opened 14.05.2025 at 11 AM.

Sd/-
Director of Handicrafts
Odisha

CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH E-TENDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

e-bid is invited from the eligible bidders for the following work as per the procedure of CMWSSB under two cover system conforming to the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998 and Rules 2000.

Sl. No.	Name of work and Tender No.	Bid Security	e-Bid Submission closing Date	e-Bid Opening Date
1	Sewer Package IA - Replacement of various sizes of damaged PSC/SWP, Enlargement/ Improvement/ Extension of sewage pumping main and Strengthening of existing collection system in various Sewage Pumping Stations commanding areas in Area I, III & IV under Vada Chennai Valarchi Thittam. CNT/SEW/NCB/VCVT/3651A/2024-25	Rs.13.02 lakhs	15.05.2025 upto 3.00 p.m.	16.05.2025 after 3.30 p.m.
2	EMD by online transfer only through tender Portal. The tenderer shall submit scanned copy of online transaction statement towards EMD at 27.03.2025			
3	Last date for submitting applications for issuance of work site inspection certificates to the concerned Executive Engineer / Superintending Engineer for having visited the site of work is 48 hours before the tender submission date.			
4	Availability of tender documents and e-bid submission is permitted through tender portal / website www.intenders.gov.in For all other details refer tender schedule in the website from 02.05.2025			

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
(CONTRACTS & MONITORING)

DIPR/1814/TENDER/2025

कार्यालय आयुक्त, नगर पालिक निगम, ग्वालियर

प्र.क्र. 13/24/13/3/ए.बी.सी./ वार्षिक RO क्रमांक 297

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ग्नान दिनांक: 28/04/2025
दिनांक: 29-04-2025

नगर निगम ग्वालियर अर्न्तगत शहर में आवासीय क्षेत्रों में जनसंख्या नियंत्रण हेतु ए.बी.सी. प्रोजेक्ट (एनोमल बर्थ कन्ट्रोल डोग्स रूल 2023) के अर्न्तगत आवासीय क्षेत्रों का बेवसाइट एवं एनोमल बर्थ कन्ट्रोल डोग्स रूल 2023 के अर्न्तगत आवासीय क्षेत्रों में ई-टेंडर के माध्यम से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है, विवरण निम्न है:-

वर्क	टेंडर क्र.	टेंडर क्रय करने की तिथि	टेंडर खोलने की तिथि	टेंडर खुलने की तिथि	अनुमानित व्यय
Sterilization & Anti rabies work for Birth Control of Street Dogs for 02 locations on empanment basis Year 2025-26	2025_UAD_414881_1	24/04/2025	23/05/2025	26/05/2025	1.5 करोड़

निविदा संबंधी विस्तृत जानकारी वेबसाइट <http://www.mptenders.gov.in> पर प्रदर्शित की गई है।
नोडल अधिकारी,
ए.बी.सी. नगर निगम, ग्वालियर

उद्योग संचालनालय, मध्य प्रदेश (अधिसंरचना विकास कक्षा)

क्रमांक 166/अधोविक/बी2/2025/2104 भोपाल दिनांक 29/04/2025

औद्योगिक भूखंडों के आवंटन हेतु एक्सप्रेसन ऑफ इन्टरेस्ट का आमंत्रण

सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यम विभाग, मध्य प्रदेश शासन द्वारा मंडली, खरगोन, सोहोर, देवास, उमरिया, भिंड, अलीशानपुर, ऊर्जन, नीमच, टीकमगढ़, अनुपपुर, रतलम, दशिया, बड़वानी, सिवनी, सतना, विदिशा, मुरीना, अशोकनगर, मण्डला, सागर एवं खार जिलों में स्थित विभागीय औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में रिक्त औद्योगिक भूखंडों के आवंटन हेतु दिनांक 01.05.2025 प्रातः 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 15.05.2025 को अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक एक्सप्रेसन ऑफ इन्टरेस्ट आमंत्रित किए गए हैं। उक्त प्रक्रिया विभागीय पोर्टल mpmsme.gov.in पर संचालित की जाएगी। प्रक्रिया अंतर्गत प्रमुख शर्तें निम्नानुसार हैं:-

1. प्रत्येक भूखंड हेतु आवंटन शुल्क ₹ 5000/- होगा। आवंटन शुल्क वापसी योग्य नहीं होगा।
2. आवंटन शुल्क के अतिरिक्त आवंटित भूमि हेतु आवंटन दिनांक को प्रचलित प्रवाजी (premium) को 25% अंतिम राशि पोर्टल के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन जमा करनी होगी।
3. भूखंडों का आवंटन मध्य प्रदेश एमएसएमई को औद्योगिक भूमि तथा भवन आवंटन एवं प्रबंधन नियम 2025 के प्रावधानों के अनुसार किया जाएगा।

नियम, प्रक्रिया एवं भूखंडों आदि को विस्तृत जानकारी विभाग को वेबसाइट mpmsme.gov.in से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।
आयुक्त एमएसएमई द्वारा अनुमोदित
Sd/-
संयुक्त संचालक उद्योग
कुने आयुक्त एमएसएमई

'पॉक्सो है सुरक्षा का हथियार, बच्चों पर न करे अत्याचार' G-12223/25

ODISHA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

(A GOVT. OF ODISHA UNDERTAKING)
PANTHANIVAS (OLD BLOCK), LEWIS ROAD, BHUBANESWAR-14

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

Letter No.526 Date: 25.04.2025

NOTICE INVITATION FOR BIDS (NIFB)

E-Procurement Notice No. BP-1/06/2025-26 dt. 25.04.2025

1. Nature of Work : RFP for Selection of Consultant for Providing Detailed Project Report for different Tourism Projects.
2. Total No. of Works : 02 Nos
3. Bid Security : As per RFP
4. Class of Contractor : As Per RFP
5. Period of Completion : 1 (One) month
6. Other details as follows :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Bid online	Date, Time & Place of Opening of Tender
Superintending Engineer, OTDC Ltd., Bhubaneswar.	BP-1/06/2025-26 dt. 25.04.2025	From 30.04.2025 To 14.05.2025	11.30 Hours of dt. 15.05.2025 in the office of the Superintending Engineer, OTDC Ltd, Bhubaneswar.

Further details can be seen from the Govt. Website www.etenderodisha.gov.in.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
O.T.D.C. Ltd., BBSR.
OIPR-3700211/0603/25-26

Bihar State Power (Holding) Company Limited

(A Govt. of Bihar Undertaking)
(Department of General Administration)
GST Number : 10AAFC2394A2ZD
CIN Number : U40102BR2012SGC018495

Job Contract Notice No. - 08/2025 (Contract)

Walk-In-Interview

Bihar State Power (Holding) Company Ltd. invites application for contractual engagement on one no. of post of Advisor (Transmission).
Walk-In-Interview is scheduled to be held on 14.05.2025 (Wednesday) at 12:00 PM in BSP(H)CL, Viduyat Bhawan, Jawaharal Nehru Marg, Patna.
For application format & details kindly visit the company website : www.bsphcl.co.in.
This information is available on www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also

PR. No. 002463 (B&C) 25-26 GM (HR & Adm.)

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

Govt. of Bihar

BIPARD SKILL PARK-PATNA

BIPARD is inaugurating the Skill Park-Patna, followed by - A National Skill Conference on the role of skill development in building a 'Viksit Bihar'. (Skill se Samridhi Tak.)

BIPARD to Inaugurate its First Skill Park - A State-of-the-Art Centre

The Bihar Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development (BIPARD) is proud to announce the inauguration of its first Skill Park, a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to preparing youth for national and international job markets. The inauguration will be graced by Mr. B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, CEO of NITI Aayog, on 1st May 2025 at AIMS Road, Patna.

Following the inauguration, BIPARD will host a National Skill Conference at Hotel Taj, Patna, from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM. The conference will bring together policymakers, industry leaders, and academic experts to deliberate on strategies and the way forward in partnering with Bihar to nurture a future-ready workforce. BIPARD is preparing and inviting the kind attentions of the key stake holders of the country to:

1. Commit to long-term partnerships with BIPARD skill development initiatives, co-designing curriculum and offering real-world training to bridge the skill gap.
2. Seek inputs from policy makers, industry leaders, innovators on emerging trends, technologies, and job roles to develop a forward-looking skill development roadmap aligned with future market demands.
3. Encourage industries to invest (financially or through resources) in state-of-the-art training centers, tools, and mentorship programs to modernize and include skill development initiatives. Let us pledge to Make Skill Aspirational, Affordable, Inclusive and Result-oriented.

PR-02478 (B & C) 2025-26 Hosted By: BIPARD Skill Park- Patna & Bihar Skill Development Mission

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

हरियाणा रेल अवसंरचना विकास निगम लिमिटेड

(हरियाणा सरकार और रेल मंत्रालय का संयुक्त उपक्रम)
HARYANA RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION Ltd.
(A JOINT VENTURE OF GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA AND MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS)

Dated: 01.05.2025

(Vacancy Notice)

HARYANA RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD (HRIDC) invites applications from suitable candidates for the following posts for Retired personnels on re-engagement basis :-

Sr. No.	Designation	Posts	Place of Posting	Vacancy Notice No.	Issue Date	Last Date
1.	Manager/HR	01 Post	Gurugram	HRIDC/2025/09	01.05.2025	31.05.2025
2.	Assistant Manager/HR	01 Post				
3.	Sr. Executive/HR	01 Post				
4.	Executive/HR	01 Post	Gurugram	HRIDC/2025/10	01.05.2025	31.05.2025
5.	Sr. Manager/Accounts	01 Post				
6.	Manager/Accounts	01 Post				
7.	Sr. Executive/Accounts	01 Post				

For more details regarding Educational/ Technical Qualification, Experience, Age, other details and terms & conditions, may please refer HRIDC website: www.hridc.co.in

Sd/-
GM/HR/HRIDC

i3c BRIC-RCB PhD Programme 2025-26

Online applications are invited for admission to the i3c BRIC-RCB PhD Programme in Biosciences from Indian students through two tracks. Track I eligibility: 4-year Bachelor's degree or Master's degree from a recognised institution in any area of science and technology, or a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, or an equivalent degree. Track II eligibility: Medicine (MBBS) undergraduates or 4-year undergraduates in any branch of engineering from the non-biological sciences (BTech/BE).

Details of the qualifying criteria and selection process can be found at https://rcb.ac.in/rcb_website/i3c-bric-rcb-phd-programme-bioscience. The last date for submitting online applications is June 15, 2025. For any query, please email to i3cadmissions@rcb.res.in.

Registrar
Regional Centre for Biotechnology Telephone: +91-129-2848800
Faridabad - 121001, Haryana (NCR Delhi) Website: www.rcb.res.in

BRIDCUL (ब्रिडकुल)

विज्ञान, रोपण, टर्मल एण्ड अवर इन्फ्रस्ट्रक्चर डेवलपमेंट कॉन्सोर्टियम ऑफ उल्तराखण्ड लिमिटेड (उल्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम) पूर्व में उल्तराखण्ड राज्य अल्तराखण्ड विकास निगम लिमिटेड प्रथम कार्यालय: अल्तराखण्ड भवन, 583-5, राजकीय आईटीओआईड निरखणपुर के सामने, जगदल, सहायपुर रोड, देहरादून - 248001
CIN No - U45203UR2008SGC032591 टेलीफोन - 0135-2522941, ई-मेल - bridcul@gmail.com
Ref : 962/BRIDCUL- 976 Tender/25

E-Tendering

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

S. No	Ref No.	Name of Project	Estimated Cost (In Lac including GST)	Earnest Money (In Lac)	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs.)	Time Period
1	BRIDCUL/HQ HLD/15/2025-26	Construction of Art & Science Block at Soban Singh Jeena University Distt. Almora.	1860.24	37.20	5000 + 18% GST	18 Month

For above tenders, document download start date is 02.05.2025 and Bid submission end date is 23.05.2025 at 1500 Hrs. The details of e-tender of above work can be obtained directly from website <https://uktenders.gov.in>
Changes, if any will be intimated only through website <https://uktenders.gov.in>

General Manager (Civil)-I

बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि0, पटना

(बिहार सरकार का उपक्रम)
राष्ट्रीय स्पर्दा ई0-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं0-04 / 2025-26

1. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता : मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि0, अस्पताल रोड, शास्त्रीनगर, पटना-800023
दिनांक: 29.04.2025
2. निविदा आमंत्रण की तिथि : दिनांक: 13.05.2025 से 02.06.2025 को 15:00 बजे तक।
3. निविदा कागजात प्राप्त (डाउनलोड) करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक: 03.06.2025 को 15:00 बजे तक।
4. निविदा जमा (अपलोड) करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक: 03.06.2025 को 15:00 बजे तक।
5. निविदा विधि का स्थान : केवल वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर
6. प्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान : दिनांक-23.05.2025 को 16:00 बजे संबंद्ध उप महाप्रबंधक के कार्यालय कक्ष में।
7. प्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान : दिनांक: 24.05.2025 को 16:00 बजे, मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि0, अस्पताल रोड, शास्त्रीनगर, पटना-23
8. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय (टेकनीकल बीड) : दिनांक: 04.06.2025 को 15:00 बजे।
9. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय (फिनाल बीड) : तकनीकी मूल्यांकन के बाद।
10. निविदा वेबसाइट की तिथि : 120 दिन
11. कार्य का विवरण : 120 दिन

क्र0	विवरण	कार्य का नाम	प्रकारित राशि (अनुपूर्विक एवं प्रति अनुपूर्विक) (₹) में	अवधि की सीमा (अवधि/दिनांक) (₹) में	पट्टा/पट्टा का मूल्य (अवधि/दिनांक) (₹) में	Bid Processing Fee	कार्य समप्ति की अंतिम तिथि (यदि कोई)	उप महाप्रबंधक का नाम
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	गया	बिहार राज्य अल्पसंख्यक आवासीय विद्यालय योजनागत ग्याजिला के अंचल-गया सदरमें 560 आवासन क्षमता वाले अल्पसंख्यक आवासीय विद्यालय के भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	₹ 55,47,78,779.00	₹ 65,47,787.00	₹ 10000.00	As per website	18 (अप्रैल)	गया

निविदा की विस्तृत जानकारी state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।
मुख्य महाप्रबंधक,
बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि0, पटना
PR-002349 (B & C) 2025-26 बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि0, पटना
नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपाचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

बिहार सरकार

जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यालय अतिरिक्तता का कार्यालय
जमानियाँ पन्प नहर प्रमंडल, मोहनियाँ
Email : eezpcdmohania@gmail.com
निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या - 01 / 2025-26 (राष्ट्रीय स्पर्दा)
(केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

पत्रांक :- 491 / मोहनियाँ

1. कार्य का विवरण -

सुप सं0	कार्य का नाम	प्रावकलित राशि (लाख रु0 में)	अवधि की राशि (लाख रु0 में) (ऑन लाईन अथवा डिजिटल / मेनुअल मोड में मुहोतये) रु0 में	परिमण - विपन का मूल्य (केवल ऑन लाईन मोड में मुहोतये) रु0 में	वेबसाइट को देवे बिड प्रोसेसिंग की (अवधि/दिनांक) (केवल ऑन लाईन मोड में मुहोतये) रु0 में	कार्य समाप्ति की अथि
1	जमानियाँ से करकटे गंगाजल उद्वह सिंचाई योजना।	52844.37	538.45	10,000.00	5900.00	24 माह

2. निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि : दिनांक - 29.04.2025
3. निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की अथि : दिनांक-14.05.2025 को 10:30 बजे पूर्वान से दिनांक-24.05.2025 को 03:00 बजे अपराह्न तक की अथि। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)
4. प्री-बीड मीटिंग का समय, स्थान एवं तिथि : दिनांक-16.05.2025 को 03:00 बजे अपराह्न में, मुख्य अतिरिक्तता का कार्यालय, सिंचाई विभाग, जल संसाधन विभाग, डिहरी।
5. तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक: 26.05.2025 समय 3:30 बजे अपराह्न। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)
6. वित्तीय बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक: 24.05.2025 को 16:00 बजे, मुख्य महाप्रबंधक, बिहार राज्य भवन निर्माण निगम लि0, अस्पताल रोड, शास्त्रीनगर, पटना-23 (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)
7. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर
8. निविदा की वेबसाइट अथि : 120 दिन
9. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता : कार्यालय अतिरिक्तता, जमानियाँ पन्प नहर प्रमंडल, मोहनियाँ।
फोन नं0: 7463889401
10. विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in एवं www.wrd.bih.nic.in पर देखा जा सकता है।
विस्तृत जानकारी www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

PR. No. 002353 (WRD) 25-26 कार्यालय अतिरिक्तता
जमानियाँ पन्प नहर प्रमंडल, मोहनियाँ

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।



A thought for today

The digital world is so convenient and nice, but just playing back a vinyl record is a much warmer, hotter, more present feeling

STEVE MILLER

Not Who But What

GOI has joined the caste count brigade. The politics is clear, economic usefulness isn't

The Centre's decision to include caste enumeration in the next Census is not unexpected – it had already signalled its willingness last Sept. Opposition bloc had drummed up its demand ahead of Lok Sabha 2024 elections. Caste is at the heart of India's politics. And there's no doubt that enumerating caste as part of the Census will help with accurate information – size, literacy levels, occupational structures. It will immediately be visible if a caste is denied basic facilities and infra. But what will be done with all that knowledge? BJP ally Nitish Kumar's survey of caste in Bihar – where elections will be held later this year – was released in Oct 2023. It found 63% of the state's 13cr population belonged to castes listed under Extremely Backward Classes (EBC) and OBC categories.

Question is: How has Nitish Kumar's govt used its survey for targeted interventions in the two years since release of the data? Further, caste sizes will always remain a hot potato. It's what Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah is grappling with – political accusations from both Congress and BJP that the data is "inaccurate". Caste enumeration is of little use if the outcome is limited to power politics.

Truth is, govts have limited capacity to wholesale improve socio-economic inequalities. Caste numbers are most likely to spur agitations for more quotas in the name of affirmative action – all that govts can seemingly do. To pull people out of economic backwardness demands investment, meaningful & relevant education and training & good jobs for youth. Without these pillars, for which govts act as enablers, no matter how much the data collected and collated, it's status quo for those discriminated against and forced to remain socially backward. Fundamental to progress is availability and access to justice, law & order, education, health and mobility. A caste census is not essential to ensure this. Further, fears that a caste census can be an "identity trap" must be dealt with – perhaps the enumeration should include a column "no caste". And now the big question: when will the Census be held? The cabinet briefing didn't indicate a time. Numbers far more vital to policymaking than caste count need serious updating.



Daniel Bordman



Columnist based in Toronto

At the beginning of the year, the results of the Canadian election were near certainty. Conservative Party of Canada (CPC) was up over 20 points in the polls, the Trudeau brand was beyond toxic and top Liberals were jumping ship.

But then everything changed. Trudeau resigned, Trump took office and started threatening to annex Canada, the polls tightened up and now there is a need to do a post-mortem on why the Conservatives lost. The biggest reason for the massive swing is undoubtedly Trump's threats of tariffs and annexation. The defining trait of left-wing Canadian nationalism is anti-Americanism. It makes sense that when threatened by US, Canadians would default to Liberal Party.

It should be noted that Conservatives under Pierre Poilievre got 41.4% of the total vote, which is higher than Trudeau ever got in his career, and a historically good result for CPC. However, this brings up the second reason why Poilievre lost: Jagmeet Singh.

The collapse of NDP under Jagmeet will be studied for years. How the leader of a far-left socialist party could not capitalise on the fact that Liberals brought in an international banker, who moved his company to US and allegedly stashes his income in tax havens in the Caribbean, is beyond anyone's understanding. Jagmeet was a complete disaster on nearly every metric as a leader, and as a result this caused most of NDP's voters to consolidate behind Liberal Party. Add in the fact that Green Party strategically decided not to run candidates in most ridings, and the Conservatives had to face down a consolidated left in this election.

Those were the factors that were beyond the control of CPC, but there were many mistakes too. The biggest complaint that most CPC supporters tended to have with the Conservatives' campaign is that they ran scared. Basically, to borrow a sports analogy, they played not to lose. Up over 20 points, they did not

Carneyval In Canada

Trump's threats & Khalistan-pandering by Conservatives were among the reasons Liberals won. But India-Canada ties won't change much. Khalistani factions are still entrenched in both parties

push the pace and control the narrative of the election, but rather campaigned to avoid criticism. This manifested in a near six-month period where the only thing CPC would do publicly is wish different communities on their holidays.

They also made the mistake of giving what was a very consequential election the most narrow framing possible. For the entirety of 2024, nearly 15% of Poilievre's entire vocabulary was "Carbon Tax". It was a "Carbon Tax election", all of the Liberals got a nickname – "Carbon Tax Carney", "Carbon Tax Chrystia", basically anything that Poilievre didn't like got a "Carbon Tax" put before it. It got very annoying.

Diwali. In Oct last year, there was a rumour that the Conservatives were going to cancel their yearly Diwali on the hill party. Shockingly, the behind-the-scenes excuse was that they were told that if they ran the event they would be accused of meeting with Indian agents, so it was best to cancel. Needless to say, the Indian-Canadian Hindu community did not take their humiliation quietly.

The last week of Poilievre's campaign was full Khalistan Zindabad. He flew across the country to attend the Vaisakhi day parade in Surrey BC, the most radical of all the Khalsa parades in Canada. Pictures of Bhindranwale, Parmar and other so-called "martyrs" were present, and journalists deemed to be unfriendly were harassed and threatened. The parade ended up foreshadowing what was to come for the Conservatives. They came in force and gave the Khalistanis everything they wanted. Yet, the Khalistanis gave a lifetime award to Trudeau despite the Liberals staying away from the event.

The Conservatives' grand pandering did not work. The promise of direct flights to Amritsar swayed exactly zero riders with high Punjabi populations. Worse, there was a dedicated spite vote from some segments of the Hindu community who were purged from CPC ranks. In three ridings in the city of Brampton with a very large Indian-Canadian community, the People's Party, which is basically a protest vote party, ran Hindu candidates that were cast off from the Conservatives and managed to make up the voting difference between the Liberals and Conservatives.

At the end of the day Carney is now PM and Poilievre is in limbo after losing his seat. For India-Canada relations there is some good news. There is no way things can get any worse and Jagmeet no longer holds any power to carry out any more parliamentary political crusades against India.

However, don't expect things to get much better. Both major parties still have Khalistani factions within them that the current leaderships have accepted. There will be less open hostility towards India but the core problems still remain.

The writer is a Canadian journalist



The pace of the election was stolen as soon as Mark Carney became the leader of Liberal Party. He declared the carbon tax cancelled, and asserted that he was a centrist outsider coming to bring change. And just like that, Carney had branded himself as the change candidate, stole CPC's singular talking point and had taken control of the election narrative.

Poilievre's last big mistake was his choice of who to associate with and who to shun. Particularly, choosing the Khalistani movement over the Indian-Canadian community.

During the six-month spree of happy holidays posting, there was one holiday that was quite loudly omitted,

Service Guarantee

SC calls digital access to services a fundamental right, but making that work is very tough

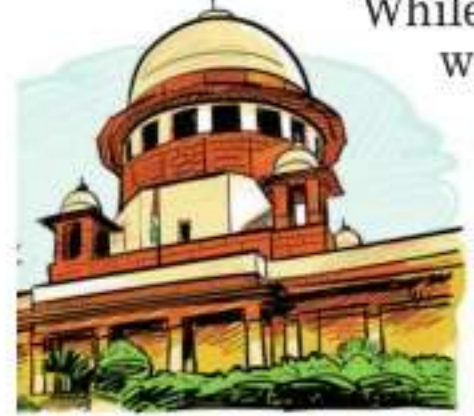
Digital access to services is a fundamental right, Supreme Court said on Wednesday. If you get news and entertainment from the net, catch up with friends on social media, bank and book cabs online, you might not feel the significance of this judgment, but ask your domestic help who can't get a subsidised gas cylinder even now.

The bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan was hearing two PILs where the petitioners' physical – not financial or educational – disadvantages barred access to digital services. One of them, an acid attack survivor with severe facial disfigurement, failed her bank's KYC because she couldn't blink her eyes – an RBI-mandated requirement. The other had 100% visual impairment.

While they had sought modified KYC norms, SC went a step further and addressed the bigger issue of inclusion.

The right to life and liberty – Article 21 of the Constitution – includes the right to live with dignity, and earn a livelihood. While bringing digital access to services under Article 21 – because "access to essential services, governance, education, healthcare and economic opportunities are (sic) increasingly mediated through digital platforms" – SC said, "bridging digital divide is no longer a matter of policy discretion but imperative for a life of dignity". It also mentioned the "principle of substantive equality" – the need to remove the root causes of inequality.

Online learning during the pandemic brought home the reality of digital inequality. Children from well-to-do families could continue learning during lockdowns, but the majority couldn't because they didn't have laptops, internet and online courses. Since then, many services have gone online, usually resulting in reduced walk-in facilities. This disadvantages poor people and senior citizens who are not net-savvy. Where they could talk to, say, bank staff in the local language, online services may be available in only one or two languages. There's also the issue of internet access. India claims 86% tele-density, but only 59% of rural India is online. And only 4.5% of Indians are on wired broadband. That's important because last year India enforced 84 internet shutdowns affecting mobile internet users. SC has made the right move on guaranteeing digital access, but the ball is in govt's court.



PORTRAIT OF A KILLER AS A SCHOOLBOY

Adolescence's Jamie is a misogynist monster? He's only 13, so give us a break

Rupa Sengupta



Rumour has it 'Adolescence-2' might materialise. Doubtless because *Adolescence-1* is now Netflix's third 'most popular' English-language TV show ever. People are still talking about it, staggered by its portrayal of a schoolboy who kills a schoolgirl after consuming online misogynistic content. They're still alarmed, too: this CCTV-captured crime follows 13-year-old protagonist Jamie's 'radicalisation' in the digital 'manosphere', where anti-feminist males rage against being rejected by choosy, emancipated females.

Adolescence's co-creator Stephen Graham read about cases of boys stabbing girls, and rising knife crimes in UK. Drawing from these reports, the series-makers wove an ingenious plot around an 'ordinary family' – caring, if clueless parents, cute kids – struck by tragedy. They wanted common folks to think 'My god, this could be happening to us!' They also sought to avoid blame-the-parents 'tropes' – violent dad, alcoholic mom – in portraying loss of innocence.

Adolescence, then, is loosely news-inspired. But its long one-take shots help people forget it's fiction. That's alright: good art helps suspend disbelief. What's dodgy, though, is that Jamie's being perceived as a spine-chilling – and, some claim, sociopathic – symbol of the 'dark side of modern boyhood'. Viewers, reviewers and UK politicians have hyped *Adolescence* as social commentary, a veritable docu-drama. But is its portrait of a killer as a young boy true-to-life?

No, writes Ioan Grillo, journalist-author focused on drugs and organised crime: 'A depressed kid slaying classmates more resembles' US school shootings, 'a very different reality linked to firearms'. Jamie isn't your typical teen killer, Grillo argues. Many of UK's youth stabbings and murders involve 'gangs, crews of boys and young men... mostly in big cities'. You can't discuss such crime ignoring gang culture, as *Adolescence*'s makers self-admittedly do. Also, besides most murder victims being male, over 76% sentenced children in UK have experienced 'fatherlessness'. Unlike Jamie,

Besides drug-running, knife crime's linked to poor, deprived neighbourhoods, mental health issues and families scarred by domestic violence, substance abuse and childhood trauma – none of which figures in *Adolescence*. One commentator asks why such social blights don't attract screenwriters and political endorsers. Others lambast the idea that 'stable two-parent' working-class families are potential nurseries for toxically masculine girl-killers. Still others feel *Adolescence* needed to highlight both inequality and working-class reality, which isn't all dark and despondent.

In *Adolescence*, stabbing victim Katie's cyberbullying triggers Jamie's violence; her 'meaning'-laden emojis branded him an 'involuntary celibate' deprived



of sex and romance. A scrawny pubertal schoolboy's unwhinging by insulting emojis might be riveting TV drama. To say he represents incel culture downplays the real-life danger, to society, of conjoined misogyny and supremacist fanaticism. Even so, *Adolescence* rightly reminds parents, educationists and policy-makers to counter women-hating 'kidfluencers'.

Series co-creator Jack Thorne requests authorities to consider under-16 smartphone or social media bans. Such measures can help, provided they aren't a copout for guardians too lax or indulgent to monitor their wards. As Claudia Young, researching digital subcultures, says, social media-deprived kids could access more sinister, extremist cyberspaces, 'further out of sight than mainstream platforms like Instagram...'. Clearly,

quick fixes can't supplant hands-on vigilance.

Finally, treating troubled children as grownup, 'truth'-telling self-reporters can be counterproductive. Especially if it involves sexualising them, asking age-inappropriate questions, or badgering them to disclose oedipal 'desires' and transgressive feelings. Teen aggression can be a defence against real or imagined anxieties and narcissistic wounds deepened by authority figures. The latter include scab-picking shrinks who have no ethical problem 'evaluating' juveniles after manipulating their emotions, stoking their fears and prolonging their trauma.

Graham wanted an episode in *Adolescence* devoted to 'understanding... this lad'. Episode-3 shows a woman forensic psychologist, wittingly or unwittingly, 'adultifying' Jamie, playing on his chaotic feelings and heightening his insecurities about being 'ugly' and unmanly. She asks the emotionally immature sexual novice a barrage of unsettling questions. How do 'masculine men' feel about women? What would 'a boy your age' do 'sexually with a girl'? Would you touch her 'chest', 'backside' and 'vagina'? Probing his thoughts about Katie's snuffed-out life appears secondary.

Jamie's volatile reactions to mixed messaging, suspected 'trick' questions and being cornered aren't unexpected. Yet the lady's rattled as he raves and rants, when she should be unflappable, if not inscrutable. Jamie's excitability seemingly betrays what Freud called 'transference' of past emotions – attachment and/or antagonism – marking therapist-patient relationships: 'do you like me?' he asks, craving reassurance. Her ending their sessions abruptly seems counter-transference. Both aggressor and child-victim, defiant and frightened, Jamie sees it as abandonment.

Series co-writer Thorne rightly says, like Katie, 'Jamie's a tragedy, too'. Yet many read *Adolescence* as a horror story, and view Jamie as an embodiment of teen evil. This is to forget that even a killer can be a lost boy struggling between wanting to hurt and needing to atone. And that this seeing-between longing and hostility, denial and avowal of guilt, is a cry for help, and perhaps forgiveness – not some 'terrifying' glimpse into the murderous heart of darkness.

Red-faced East

It's now more toxic than exotic

Bachi Karkaria



The East Is Red was a 1965 musical extravaganza hailing Mao Zedong's shaping of Chinese Communist Party. Its title song ('Dongfang Hong' in the original) became Cultural Revolution's unofficial national anthem. And also unofficially that of Bengal's ultra-Left in those *lal-salaam* days of 'China's Chairman amader' (our) Chairman. 'However the east is now more in the red. The fault lies not only with colonies-and-credit-grabbing West. If the sun has been setting on it, we only are to blame. Centre and town-planners alike.

'Neglect of the east' was a *cri de coeur*; cry phrom the haart' long before Mamata raised her fist against fiscal unfairness. This stuck record of '60s Calcutta found an unlikely avatar when I lived in Bombay for the next decade. Handling 'News in Pictures' at *Illustrated Weekly*, I'd get an avalanche of images for calamities in remote corners of the world. But for floods in Orissa, photographic drought.

The Red Fortress barricaded itself during Jyoti babu's long hold. Then, 'for one, brief and shining moment', his quasi-capitalist successor Buddhadeb Bhattacharya promoted the state as gateway to emergent east, Land of the Rising Tigers. Now Bengal Tigers wants to get it out of the red by bringing in the world via *Biswa Bangla* melas.

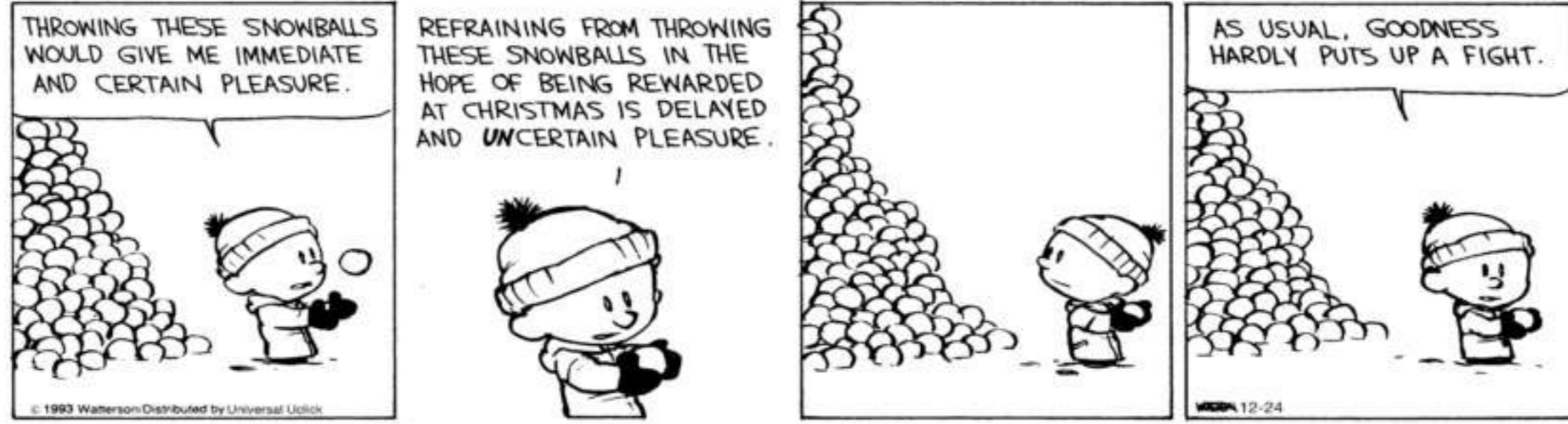
Country, state, city, same to same. For companies, 'Going south' means downward slope. For urban wannabes, it means upward mobility, whether in Mumbai, Kolkata or Delhi. In the first, west is also best. East is not a socially leavening agent anywhere.

Mumbai, city of Kipling's birth and early childhood, seems determined to honour his dire 'twain shall never meet' prediction. Engineering marvels keep linking its west with south. But central city's eastern flank remains unseen, unvisited by Viksit Bharat's breathless forerunners. Despite the fact that space and sea-views of these once-depressed dock and mill areas are now manna for heavy-breathing developers and muse of their hyperventilating hoardings.

Stepchild east waits in cautious hope for the Sewri-Worli connector that will speed it to the blandishments of west and south. But braces for monumental disruption, diversion – and extra dollop of delays.

Alec Smart said, "The whole world (and planet) is sending a desperate May Day call."

Calvin & Hobbes



Shankara's Advaita And Magnificence Of Brahmn

V Balasubramaniam

Adi Shankaracharya shared profound Vedantic insights in *Vivekachudamani*, verse 78, "Humans, victims of all five senses", and pinpointed Advaitic truths by expounding that to catch a deer, one entices it with sweet sound of, say, a flute, and when it stands motionless entranced by that sound, one catches it. An elephant is caught by tempting it with the touch of a she-elephant.

A moth is attracted to a flame by the brightness of its form, falls into it and dies. Fishermen catch fish by using bait; fish takes the bait and falls prey. Fragrant smell of flowers attracts the bee, which dies enjoying that fragrance. "Thus, one or the other of the five senses leads these beings to a fatal end. But a man who is a slave to all the five senses, falls prey to the five-fold influence."

In verse 261 of *Vivekachudamani*,

Shankara explains that Brahmn is actionless and changeless. So, when we say that Brahmn is the cause of the universe, we are only viewing it through the medium of our senses and mind.

Also, when we say that Brahmn is the cause of the universe, it is only an indicative characteristic of Brahmn; it is not its 'swarupa-lakshan' – which is existence-consciousness-bliss, a three-in-one definition; an integral whole, not three but one only.

In Advaita Pancharatnam, verse 20, Shankara explains the core teaching of Advaita: "A rope mistaken for a snake, a shell mistaken for silver, the trunk of a tree mistaken for a thief." These objects last only as long as their perception

persists when the rope is perceived in ignorance, either due to darkness or otherwise, as a snake; we merge with ignorance.

In the same way, unaware of our true nature as the absolute Self, we are aware only of the body, mind, and intellect. This conglomeration, which we usually call *jiva*, is thought of as the only existence, an empirical reality.

In Shankara, one finds unusual combination of philosopher, poet, saint, mystic, and religious reformer, all rolled into one, who ensured that the truth of Advaita Vedanta would thrive not only in India but throughout the world. Shankara traversed far-flung corners, preaching to the local populace



THE SPEAKING TREE



Sacredspace

The mind is nothing but a bundle of thoughts. These thoughts depend upon the i-thought alone. Hence the reason is nothing but this i-thought.

Ramana Maharshi

and debating philosophy with Hindu, Buddhist, and other scholars and monks along the way. He engaged in reforming the Sanatan Dharma and personified wisdom of the Vedas.

Shankara also wrote philosophical treatises, and composed hymns known as 'Prakarana Granthas' including 'Vivekachudamani', 'Atma Bodha' and 'Upadesha Sahasri' in verse and prose.

His verses have unfathomable depth, and they have helped successive generations experience beauty and liveliness of the Self. In Bhaj Govindam, Shankara exhorted people to chant the name of Govind and free themselves from the illusion of samsara. He established that duality is all-consuming, and we can get out of the binary of dusk and dawn, winter and spring, only when we have mastered our desires and are ready to seek permanent refuge in Brahmn.

Shankara Jayanti is on May 1

A GROUND REPORT FROM FRONTLINES OF TRUMP'S CRACKDOWN

Fear And Silence On US Campuses

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Fear stalks American college campuses. It is not just students shy away from speaking out, but academics and administrators, too. At the George Mason University in Northern Virginia, hosting more than 4,000 international students out of 40,000 on its 677-acre campus, no one wants to speak on record about the 15 foreign students at the varsity whose F-1 visas have been scrubbed, though both students and faculty know about the revocation.

The Dean's office directs you to the Human Resources Office, which directs you to the Student and Academic Affairs department, which sends you to the Office of International Programs and Services. Finally, Melanie Beleg, an executive director in the university's Communications office, a former journalist herself, forwards a statement from college president Gregory Washington that acknowledges the revocation of 15 international students' visas but says "these terminations have occurred without involvement of or prior notice to the university". More of that later. For now, it is the palpable fear and foreboding across US campuses that is striking. This is America, land of the free and home of the brave, where the lore of academic freedom, peerless instruction, and vibrant engagement attracts more than a million students from all over the world, bringing in an estimated \$44 billion annually to the American kitty. That's being shredded. No one knows why. "This administration is working to destroy the core of America's brand equity and its greatest assets... (including) a terrific education system that has attracted talent from all over the world," says Dipankar Chakravarti, professor of marketing at VirginiaTech, which, like George Mason and scores of other universities, is also in ferment.

Don't Quote Me, Please

It's not just foreign students, even Americans, teachers and students alike, are in a funk. With rare exceptions, the few who talk ask to speak off the record with no names and no close-up photographs. Universities in Moscow and Beijing could well be more open. This is more like North Korea. An American faculty member who opened up to talk about the "red lines" and "high-wire" the university is having to navigate to retain govt funding, later sent frantic texts asking not to be quoted.

The mood at the University of Maryland, College Park, north of the capital, is a little



FOOD FOR THOUGHT: International students at George Mason University, Virginia, feast on pani puri

more relaxed; unlike Virginia, which has a Republican administration (so universities here face double pressure from the federal and state administrations), Maryland is Democrat-run. Schlepping out to play pickleball after a day's grind, three desi undergrad kids open up after some bantering. "We don't need this pressure. As it is, we are worried about summer internships," says Hemant, who like his buddies Rajesh and Ayush, is studying supply chain. They've spent the past week binging in 400 applications for internships across the US. Things are not looking good, especially with the tariff standoff casting a dark shadow on the economy.

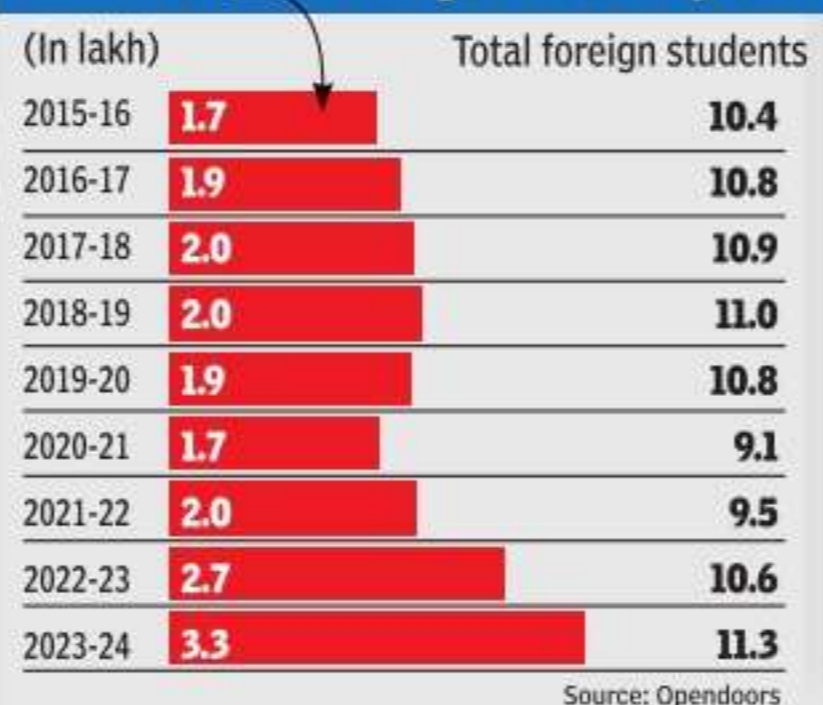
Outside the Graduate Hills apartment on Campus Drive, Hari from Kakinada and Mahesh from Chennai are doom scrolling in the warm spring evening as cherry blossoms wilt before the incoming summer. They arrived in the US in Jan for the spring semester, just as the Trump administration took charge. They find it hard to believe foreign students are getting visas revoked for minor traffic infractions. Having been here for

CULTURE DANCES ON: A US student grooves to a Bollywood beat

just over three months they don't drive yet. Between getting settled in winter, where's the time to buy or lease or rent a car and get a US licence and beat the 60-day window in which the international driving permit expires?

It's the last thing on their mind though they've heard a couple of desi students had their visas revoked — because they were driving with expired permits. Right now, their lives revolve around the shopworn shibboleth for desi grad students: Apartment-Department; Adviser-Budweiser. There's no regret though about coming to the US; they reckon the hoopla will eventually die down. "Actually, my parents are more stressed out than I am.

Indian Student Surge In US May Stall



They keep calling every day to check how I am doing," says Hari, gently suggesting "the Indian media should not hype up coverage". Nope, he has no interest in politics or activism, and has never participated in a protest. But he will now make sure he doesn't get anywhere close to one given what happened to Ranjani Srinivasan, the grad student at Columbia who had to self-deport after getting caught up in the anti-Israel demos in Columbia University.

Wonderful Part Of US Campus Life

Back across the capital at George Mason, Lori Clark, adjunct professor at the School of Dance and Music, is teaching a Bollywood dance class outdoors in the campus square. A score of mostly foreign and American students tuck into the pani-puri and jalebi spread she has laid out before first wailing to a dandiya song and then going into "Tutak Tutak", "Balam Pichkari" and other desi hits. "Who knows when they will decide Bollywood can't be part of American or MAGA culture?" she muses. America has come a long way from the early days of globalisation when she lived in Delhi's Defence Colony ("near the Gandhi Naala") studying dance forms in movies like Pakeezah and Mughal-e-Azam.

In the motley dance group, Taruni, an engineering undergrad from Hyderabad, is hanging out with Savannah, an American student with Down Syndrome. Taruni is not formally in the dance class; she's studying IT. But she's assisting Savannah as part of her campus work at the Mason LIFE Program for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. "I don't know if I would ever have such an experience in India," she says about her work with the special needs student. "It is a unique and wonderful part of my American campus life." And now MAGA is blowing it up with a crude and witless campaign against foreign students, purportedly because they are "taking away our jobs".

University administrators are spooked on two fronts. One: The Trump crackdown on DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) and classroom teaching it regards as discriminatory, with threats to withhold funding. And two: the potential drying up of lolly from foreign students who constitute a significant revenue source. Either will doom US universities, but scorching foreign intake will have deleterious long-term impact. It is the massive research investments that creat-

We don't need this pressure. As it is, we're worried about summer internships

- Hemant | SUPPLY CHAIN STUDENT

An American faculty member who opened up to TOI to talk about the "red lines" and "high-wire" the university is having to navigate to retain govt funding, later sent frantic texts asking not to be quoted

Universities are spooked on two fronts: Trump crackdown on DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) and the potential drying up of lolly from foreign students who constitute a significant revenue source

In some universities, international students constitute more than a quarter of the intake, going up to an astonishing 52% at the storied Carnegie Mellon and 46% at Columbia University

HOW TRUMP'S GONE AFTER COLLEGES A TIMELINE

Timeline of Trump's actions against colleges from Jan to Mar 2025, including funding freezes, DEI crackdowns, and student protests.

AHMEDABAD MUNICIPAL TRANSPORT SERVICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR SELECTION OF BUS OPERATOR FOR PROCUREMENT, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF 100 (nos.) AC 900 MM FLOOR HEIGHT FULLY BUILT CITY SERVICE BSVI CNG MIDI BUSES FOR AHMEDABAD MUNICIPAL TRANSPORT SERVICE

NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice No. Tab/Inj. Medicines Date: 30.04.2025 Invitation of Tenders through E-procurement system

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION Tender Notice No. 04/2025-26/CE/SE-II/EE-II/DB/GVMC, Dt: 29.04.2025

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES Advertisement for recruitment of faculty posts (GROUP 'A') in various departments of AIIMS Mangalagiri

BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY RESEARCH ASSISTANCE COUNCIL (A Govt. of India Enterprise) Ref. No. BIRAC/Vac/Adv-12/April-2025/01

INDRAPRASTHA INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DELHI (AIIT-D) NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग सहायक वन संरक्षक, लौंगिण अघिकारी एवं वनस्रोतधिकारी संयुक्त परीक्षा-2025

उ०प्र० लोक सेवा आयोग सक्षिप्त विज्ञापित एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि आयोग द्वारा विज्ञापित निम्नलिखित पद पर सीधी भर्ती द्वारा चयन हेतु साक्षात्कार का कार्यक्रम जारी कर दिया गया है-

ARTIFICIAL LIMBS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION OF INDIA A 'Miniratna' Company (Government of India Undertaking) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD. E-Tender Notice

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL MATHURA CANTT INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION/EMPANELMENT OF VENDORS/FIRMS AT APS MATHURA CANTT

केंद्रीय गौतम मासिकी अनुसंधान संस्थान ICAR-Central Institute of Goatwater Fisheries Research Bhimtal-263136 Dist. - Nainital - (Uttarakhand)

ZONAL HEADQUARTERS SCW CRIME BRANCH JAMMU e-Mail ID : ps-scw@jkpolice.gov.in

LOOK OUT NOTICE It is informed to the General Public through Medium of this notice that accused persons namely Mansur Ansari S/O Murtaza Ansari R/o Chauparia, Maharaj Ganj U.P. 273303, is involved in case FIR No. 39/2023 U/S 420, 120-B RPC of Police Station SCW Jammu and under investigation with Police Station SCW, Crime Branch Jammu.

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH (PGICH) Advertisement no: PGICH/NOIDA/JRF/2025/10

उत्तराखण्ड वायव्य कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड कायाचल अर्थोपकरण अभियान विस्तृत विवरण प्रकटन चक्रमागत ई-निविदा सूचना

1. निविदा पत्रिका के 24 व 27 अंशों में प्रकाशित है। 2. निविदा पत्रिका के 24 व 27 अंशों में प्रकाशित है। 3. निविदा पत्रिका के 24 व 27 अंशों में प्रकाशित है।



PETE DAVIDSON SAYS YOUNG PEOPLE 'DON'T HAVE A SHOT' AT FINDING LOVE: 'WHEN IT COMES TO DATING, IT SHOULD BE MORE PREHISTORIC'

BEYONCE LOSING HER PULLING POWER? TICKETS FOR HER GIG IN LONDON STILL AVAILABLE, EVEN AS PRICES HAVE DROPPED TO £66



In a setback for Trump admin, Palestinian student given bail

Judge Rules He Should Be Freed To Challenge Bid To Deport Him

Columbia University student Mohsen Mahdawi was released from US immigration custody on Wednesday, after a judge ruled he should be free on bail to challenge the Trump administration's efforts to deport him over his participation in pro-Palestinian protests.

Mahdawi, born and raised in a refugee camp in the West Bank, was arrested earlier this month upon arriving for an interview for his US citizenship petition. A judge swiftly ordered President Trump's administration not to deport him from the US or take him out of the state of Vermont.

After two weeks in detention, Mahdawi walked out of the federal courthouse in Burlington, Vermont, after US district judge Geoffrey Crawford ordered his release at a court hearing on Wednesday, according to his lawyers.

Mahdawi's release marked a setback for the Trump administration's efforts to deport pro-Palestinian foreign university students, though other students remain in jail.

"I am saying it clear and loud to President Trump and his



Mohsen Mahdawi, born and raised in a refugee camp in the West Bank, was arrested earlier this month upon arriving for an interview for his US citizenship petition over his participation in pro-Palestinian protests

Illegal hides in tree to evade ICE agents, held

ICE agents in San Antonio arrested a man said to be an undocumented immigrant after a roughly 8-hour standoff that unfolded on Tuesday in a backyard where he tried to evade arrest by climbing a tree. The man, who immigration officials identified as Raul Ical, a 29-year-old from Guatemala, attracted a large crowd of residents and journalists. When Ical surrendered, looking defeated, he was quickly handcuffed by agents. Kristi Noem, the homeland security secretary, said, "You can run, but you can't hide." She added, "Whether in a tree or harboured in an activist judge's house, if you are here illegally, ICE will find you, arrest you and you will be deported." ICE said that deportation officers in San Antonio and state police tried to serve Ical what the agency described as a "criminal warrant" on Tuesday before he left his vehicle and fled on foot. He ran into a backyard and climbed a tree, where he remained for hours. NYT

cabinet, I am not afraid of you," Mahdawi said after he emerged from the courthouse, dozens of protesters waving Palestinian flags chanting "no fear" and "yes love." "This is a light of hope, hope and faith in the justice system in America," Mahdawi said of Crawford's decision to release him. Neither the de-

partment of homeland security nor the justice department immediately responded to requests for comment.

Trump administration officials have said student visa holders are subject to deportation over their support for Palestinians and criticism of Israel's conduct in the war in Gaza, cal-

Prez says can bring back man deported to El Salvador by mistake, but won't

President Trump, whose administration has insisted it could not bring Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia back from El Salvador to the US, said he does have the ability to help return the wrongly deported Maryland man, but is not willing to do so because he believes he is a gang member. "You could get him back, there's a phone on this desk," said Terry Moran, an ABC News correspondent, noting an SC order to "facilitate" the release of Abrego Garcia. "I could," Trump replied. Moran said Trump could call President Bukele of El Salvador and get Abrego Garcia back immediately. "And if he were the gentleman that you say he is, I would do that," Trump said. "But he is not." Trump added that gov't lawyers do not want to help bring Abrego Garcia back to the US. NYT

ling their actions a threat to US foreign policy.

Other protesters in similar circumstances include Columbia University student Mahmud Khalil and Tufts University student Rumeysa Ozturk. Both Khalil and Ozturk remain in custody and have not been charged with any crimes. REUTERS

TRACKING TRUMP

Defence secy cancels women security law signed by Trump in '17

Defence secretary Pete Hegseth boasted Tuesday he had "proudly" cancelled a programme that seeks to encourage more women to take part in national security issues. Women, Peace and Security Act was signed into law in 2017 by none other than the man who is Hegseth's boss today, President Trump. The programme looks to increase the role of women in preventing and resolving conflicts all over the world. Hegseth called the programme "yet another woke divisive/social justice/Biden initiative that overburdens our commanders and troops — distracting from our core task: WAR-FIGHTING." Hegseth said that from here on in, the Pentagon would work to end the programme. NYT

Milwaukee judge accused of helping immigrant suspended

Wisconsin SC suspended a judge accused of helping a man evade immigration authorities, saying Tuesday it is in the public interest to relieve her of her duties as she faces two federal charges. FBI took Milwaukee county circuit judge Hannah Dugan into custody Friday at the county courthouse. She has been charged with concealing an individual to prevent arrest and impeding a proceeding. SC said it was acting to protect public confidence in Wisconsin courts during proceedings against Dugan. The order noted the court was acting on its own initiative. AP

Not consulted on Harvard's 'Pak conference' by SAI: Mittal family

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Under attack from Indian activists for purportedly bankrolling a "Pakistan conference" at Harvard University in the aftermath of the Pahalgalam terrorist attack, the Mittal family, whose \$25 million donation funds the South Asia Institute (SAI) that platformed the event, clarified on Wednesday that the event was scheduled "without consulting its benefactors".

A spokesperson for the family drew attention to a statement from SAI that it "did not consult any benefactor of the institute about this conference" and Pakistani students at Harvard, along with their faculty advisor, "independently determined the topics and speakers presenting". "The institute also supports the annual student-run India Conference at Harvard, which this year was held on Feb 15-16. In the case of the India Conference also, we do not consult any benefactors; the student organisers, along with their advisors, independently determine the topics and speakers," the statement said. "Please know that we share the grief and anguish with our friends, colleagues, and loved ones in India who have been affected by the attack in Pahalgalam on April 22, 2025, and we offer our heartfelt condolences," it added. Both the institute and its benefactor, Indian steel magnate Laxmi Mittal, whose family found-



Both the Harvard institute and its benefactor, Indian steel magnate Laxmi Mittal, are under fire for being 'tone deaf' in hosting such a conference against the backdrop of the Pahalgalam terror attack

reflects a deep sense of betrayal by the Indian steel magnate towards innocent Indian tourists who lost their lives in Pahalgalam at the hands of Pakistan-trained terrorists," a comment read. Pakistani delegates, however, contested the claim the Mittal family sponsored the event, saying it was funded by National Foods, a Pakistani food products company, whose CEO Abrar Hasan also spoke at the event.

Along with National Foods, the conference website lists "The Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute" as one of the "partners" to the conference. As part of its interdisciplinary, cross-country dialogue, the institute is currently hosting Naiza Khan, an acclaimed visual artist from Pakistan, as its second Distinguished Artist Fellow.

"It will be an extraordinary honour to have such an accomplished artist with us at the Mittal Institute. It will provide a wonderful opportunity for students and faculty alike to interact and engage with one of the most celebrated artists working in South Asia today," Hitesh Hathi, executive director of the Mittal Institute, said in an announcement about the fellowship that began this month. Some activists are now pressing for an end to such "freebies" for Pakistan while excluding other countries like Sri Lanka and Nepal, and for the centre to be renamed after India.

New memo provides guidance on terminating SEVIS records

Continued from P 1

Being 'out of status' can lead to serious consequences. These include being barred from re-entry for a certain period (3 or 10 years) based on the length of unlawful presence, potential deportation and difficulties with future visa applications.

According to a copy of this memo reviewed by TOI, it provides specific guidance to the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) managers to terminate SEVIS records. These can be terminated on various grounds such as failure to report employment while undergoing OPT, on approval of a change of status from F-1, failure to comply with the terms of the F-1 visa, withdrawal from the educational institute and 'revocation of a visa by the department of state (DOS)'. The memo states that: "A terminated record in SEVIS could indicate the non-immigrant no longer maintains F or M status." F visas are granted for academic studies and M visa is for vocational studies. However, it also states that termination does not necessarily result in adverse consequences — a position that has been legally contested and has resulted in temporary restraining orders being passed in favour of the international students by several district courts. On SEVIS termination, ICE may conduct further investigation or initiate removal proceedings, the memo says.

The memo also states that "DOS may at any time, at its discretion, revoke an alien's visa. DOS can consider derogatory information provided by ICE and other US law enforce-

ment agencies in its assessment of whether visa revocation is appropriate for an alien. When DOS revokes an alien's visa with immediate effect, ICE should take steps to initiate removal proceedings." It also provides that if DOS revokes a non-immigrant visa with immediate effect, SEVP must terminate the SEVIS record, as such revocation can serve as a basis for removability.

In the backdrop of this memo, Greg Siskind, founding partner of Siskind Susser, an immigration law firm said, "We are expecting a lot of people who were reinstated, to once again have their SEVIS terminated. In short, ICE says they will terminate whenever DOS revokes a visa. And DOS will revoke a visa for phantom reasons with no due process to address why revocation happened. The Trump Admini-

stration is counting on the argument that nothing DOS decides is reviewable by a court."

As was reported by TOI in its April 26 edition, terminated SEVIS records of international students were suddenly showing 'active status'. When the SEVIS terminations commenced, many students — mostly Indian — were advised by their Designated School Officials to leave the US.

Several students stayed back and filed lawsuits.

ICE officials in various court hearings cited that the agency was restoring the SEVIS records and that it was developing a policy framework for SEVIS record terminations. "Until such a policy is issued, the SEVIS records will remain active/will be reactivated. ICE will not modify the SEVIS records solely based on the National Crime Informa-

tion Center (NCIC) finding that resulted in the recent SEVIS terminations..." it stated. NCIC is a central database for crime-related information maintained by the Criminal Justice Information Services Division of the FBI, which provides access to various US law enforcement agencies.

However, the ICE memo that has now been issued, has added another twist. Key questions now facing international students include: Will the SEVIS reactivations be considered retroactive? Does the period between termination and reinstatement constitute unlawful presence? Are students still at risk of detention or deportation? According to immigration attorneys, class action suits and individual lawsuits that will be filed in the days to come, will seek answers.

Ukraine poised to sign minerals deal with US

Kyiv: Ukraine said Wednesday it was poised to sign a minerals deal with the US imminently after months of sometimes fraught negotiations, although a source familiar with the matter said a last-minute snag had appeared.

Ukraine's PM said first deputy PM Yulia Svyrydenko was flying to the US to sign the deal, which is central to Kyiv's efforts to mend ties with Donald Trump and the White House as the US president tries to secure a peace settlement in Russia's war in Ukraine.

Two sources said the signing could happen later on Wednesday. But one source said the US was pushing Ukraine to sign two additional documents as well as the main minerals deal and that Kyiv felt it was not ready yet. "Who knows — maybe today they will take (those) two docs and finish them too," the source said. A draft of the main minerals agreement showed Ukraine had secured the removal of any requirement for it to pay back the US for past military



LAST-MINUTE SNAG? US is reportedly pushing Ukraine to sign two additional documents as well as the main minerals deal and Kyiv feels it is not ready for it

assistance, something Ukraine had staunchly opposed. Ukrainian officials hope that signing the deal promoted by Trump will help firm up softening American support for Kyiv in the more than three-year-old war. The draft agreement gives the US preferential access to new Ukrainian natural resources deals but does not automatically it a share of Ukraine's mineral wealth or any of its gas infrastructure. "Indeed, it is a strategic agreement... it is a truly equal, good international agreement on joint investments in the development and recovery of Ukraine," PM Denys Shmyhal said. REUTERS

Iran hanged man for being Israeli spy, say activists

Paris: Iran Wednesday executed a man convicted of espionage for Israel and involvement in the killing of a Revolutionary Guard but activists said he was sentenced to death after an unfair trial and a confession obtained by torture. Mohsen Langarhashini, reportedly aged 34, was hanged at dawn at Ghezelhesar prison in Karaj outside Tehran, several rights groups said. His mother and father held a vigil outside the jail during the night, pleading for his life to be spared, images on social media showed.

The Mizan news agency of the Iranian judiciary said he had been put to death in the morning, describing Langarhashini as a "high-ranking spy" who supported Mossad operations inside Iran.

The rate of executions is again surging in Iran in a trend that has caused international concern with at least 335 people hanged so far this year alone, according to the Norway-based Iran Human Rights monitor. AFP

Temp in Britain could set records this week

Britons have basked in a burst of summerlike weather this week as temperatures have surged beyond the seasonal average — and they may soon break records. Forecasters say Thursday may be Britain's warmest May 1, with highs expected to reach 84.2°F (29°C).

The heat has been driven by two key factors: a large area of high pressure that has settled over Britain, causing descending air that warms as it sinks, and continuous sunshine, fuelling daytime heating.

Aidan McGivern, a meteorologist at the Met Office, explained that this has been a familiar pattern over the last few months. "The sun this time of the year is as strong as it is in Aug," he said. "We're not importing this air from anywhere else — this is homegrown warmth." London recorded Britain's highest temperature of the year on Monday, only for that to be beaten on Tuesday.

The mercury is expected to rise further on Wednesday and Thursday. Overnight tempera-



Thursday could be Britain's warmest May 1 on record, with a forecast high of 84.2°F (29°C)

tures have been above average too, with parts of Scotland experiencing their warmest April night on record.

The peak of the heat is expected on Thursday. Temperatures in southern England could reach 29°C, which would be a record for May 1. The current record was set in 1990 in Lossiemouth, Scotland, which hit 27.4°C. If temperatures rise a bit higher, it could also be the earliest date in the year that Britain has hit 30°C, based on Met Office data going back to 1860. Typical highs for Britain in late April are around 54°F (12°) in northern areas and 61°F (16°) in the south. NYT

Indian-origin trio found dead in US city

New York: Three Indian-origin people were found dead after a shooting at a home in Washington, according to local reports. The incident took place on April 24 in New Castle city.

The deceased were identified as Harshavardhana Kikkeri, 44, Shwetha Panyam, 41, and Dhruva Kikkeri, 14. The Seattle Times newspaper reported on Tuesday. While the deaths of Shwetha and Dhruva were ruled as homicide by police, Harshavardhana died by suicide, the report quoted the King County medical examiner's office as saying. Neighbours said a young family lived in the home where the shooting took place. The KING 5 television station said its crew saw a child being escorted from the home and comforted by investigators.

Unconfirmed reports said Harshavardhana and Shwetha, owned an India-based AI tech company Holoworld. King County sheriff's spokesperson Brandyn Hull said she could not comment on whether the case was believed to be a murder-suicide. PTI

UK military joins US in targeting Houthis

Dubai: The British military launched air strikes with the US targeting Yemen's Houthi rebels, officials said early Wednesday, their first attack in Washington's new intense campaign targeting the Iran-backed group.

The UK offered a detailed explanation for launching the strike, in a departure from the US, which has offered few details about what it says are over 1,000 targets it has hit since beginning its campaign on March 15. The UK defence ministry described the site attacked as "a cluster of buildings, used by Houthis to manufacture drones of the type used to attack ships in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, located some 15 miles (25 km) south of Sanaa." ap

Bangladesh HC grants bail to Hindu monk; govt seeks stay

Ahsan Tasnim | TNN

Dhaka: Hours after a bench of the Bangladesh high court ordered the release of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das on bail on Wednesday — five months after his arrest on charges of defaming the country's national flag — the interim govt filed a petition seeking a stay on the reprieve granted to the monk. The plea is scheduled to be heard on Sunday.

Earlier in the day, the HC had issued its verdict following the final hearing on Chinmoy's bail application in a sedition case filed on Oct 31, 2024. The two-judge bench, comprising justice Md Atowar Rahman and jus-

tice Md Ali Reza, upheld its earlier ruling and asked the authorities why Chinmoy should not be granted bail, according to a court official. On Oct 31, a case was filed at the Kotwali police station in Chittagong, accusing Chinmoy and 18 others of disrespecting the Bangladesh national flag. The sedition case was lodged by Firoz Khan, former BNP general secretary of Chittagong's Mohora ward.

Chinmoy was arrested at Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on Nov 25. The following day, the local court in Chittagong sent him to jail after rejecting his bail plea. His subsequent bail petition was denied by the same court on Dec 11.



Young people are not as happy as they used to be, finds recent surveys

Christina Caron

The happiness curve is collapsing. For decades, research showed the way people experienced happiness across their lifetimes looked like a U-shaped curve. Happiness tended to be high when they were young, then dipped in midlife, only to rise again as they grew old. But recent surveys suggest young adults aren't as happy as they used to be, and that U-shaped curve is starting to flatten.

This pattern has shown up yet again in a new study, one of a collection of papers publis-

hed on Wednesday in the journal Nature Mental Health. They are the first publications based on the inaugural wave of data from Global Flourishing Study, a collaboration Harvard and Baylor University.

The data, collected by Gallup primarily in 2023, was derived from self-reported surveys of over 2,00,000 people in over 20 countries. It found that, on average, young adults between ages 18 and 29 were struggling — not only with happiness, but also with physical and mental health, finding meaning in life, the quality of relationships and



Young adults were struggling not only with happiness, but also with physical and mental health, finding meaning in life, and the quality of relationships

financial security. Participants had relatively low measures of flourishing on average until

age 50. "It is a pretty stark picture," said Tyler J VanderWeele, lead author of the study and di-

rector of Harvard's Human Flourishing Programme. It raises an important question, he said: "Are we sufficiently investing in well-being of youth?"

A 2023 Harvard report found young adults in the US reported double the rates of anxiety and depression as teens. On top of that, perfectionism has skyrocketed among college students, who often report feeling pressure to meet unrealistic expectations. Participation in community organisations has declined, and loneliness is now becoming as prevalent among young adults as it is among ol-

der adults. "Study after study shows social connection is critical for happiness, and young people are spending less time with friends than they were a decade ago," said a professor at Yale. "Plus, like folks of all ages, young people are facing a world with a whole host of global issues — from climate to the economy to political polarisation." There are several theories as to why young people are in trouble, said a professor at Dartmouth College, but he suspects the problem is largely tied to what they aren't doing because they're busy looking at screens. NYT

DAILY PLANET



VALLEY OF RED: Britain's iconic Tower of London is decorated with 30,000 red ceramic poppies to mark 80 years since the end of WWII. The tribute, called 'The Tower Remembers' will be unveiled to the public on May 8, which is celebrated as Victory in Europe Day

Trump jokes that he'd like to be the next pope

US President Donald Trump Tuesday joked he would like to succeed Pope Francis, who died last week at the age of 88. Trump, asked about whom he'd like to see become the next Catholic pontiff, said: "I'd like to be pope. That would be my No 1 choice." Trump noted he actually had no preference, adding, "I must say, we have a cardinal that happens to be out of a place called NY who's very good, so we'll see what happens." Cardinal Timothy Dolan, archbishop of New York, is not on the short list of possible contenders, but it does include cardinal Joseph Tobin, archbishop of Newark. About 135 Catholic cardinals will soon be entering a secret conclave to choose the next pope, with no clear frontrunner in sight.

Tunics & turbans: Af pupils wear Taliban-imposed uniforms Since the start of the school year in March, Afghan boys have been required to wear new uniforms of turbans and long tunics, following an order to adopt outfits reflecting Taliban rule. The education ministry cites strengthening discipline, masking social inequalities and promoting what the authorities see as true Islamic attire as reasons for the dress code change — a move that has sparked division. Girls are already from a young age required to wear uniforms, but can no longer study past primary school in non-religious institutions. The rule is still implemented unevenly. Also, for some families paying the average 1,000 Afghanis (\$14) per uniform is a burden in a country where 85% of the population lives on less than a dollar a day.

Runaway kangaroo shuts down US highway: A runaway kangaroo named Sheila shut down a stretch of interstate in Alabama on Tuesday before state troopers and the animal's owner wrangled the wayward marsupial. The sight snarled traffic, and troopers shut down both sides of the interstate. "When somebody said there was a kangaroo of course I didn't believe it, and nobody believed it. But I'm looking at him," Macon county sheriff Andre Brunson said in a Facebook live video.

At ₹38.3 lakh crore, cost of new projects announced in FY25 was second highest since FY96. Majority (69%) of the projects have been announced by private sector (domestic & foreign), while remaining (31%) will be implemented by the public sector



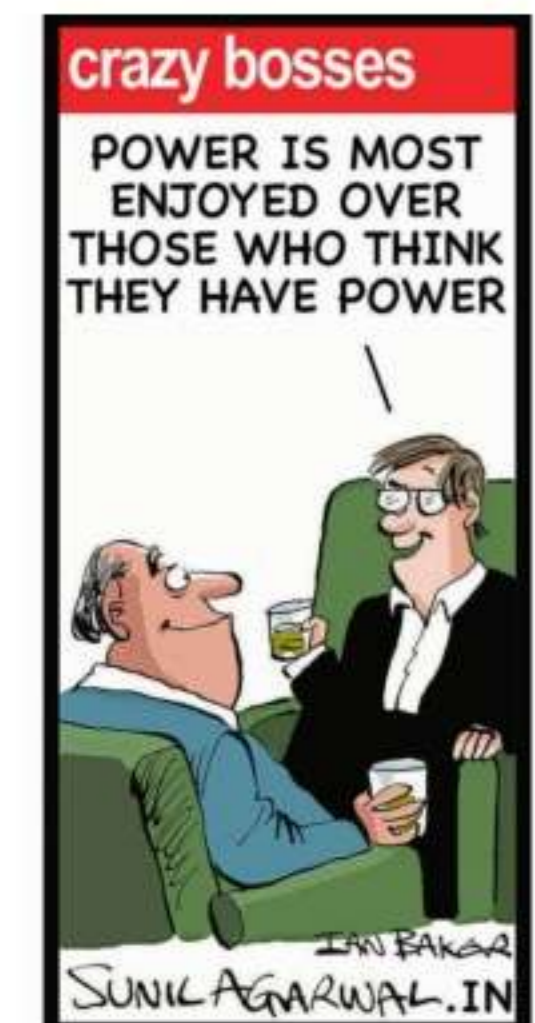
(*As per sample that covers 95% of ₹38.3 lakh cr worth projects)

Cost of projects announced in FY25* (₹lakh cr)



Credit growth to farm sector slows to 10.4%: RBI data

Mumbai: The bank credit growth to the agriculture sector slowed to 10.4% year-on-year for fortnight ended March 21, against 20% in corresponding fortnight of previous year, while advances to industry remained flat at 8%, as per RBI data. RBI has released the data on sectoral deployment of bank credit collected from 41 select commercial banks, accounting for about 95% of the total non-food credit deployed by all banks taken together. Credit growth to infrastructure decelerated. Credit to personal loan segment showed growth of 14% compared to 17.6% a year ago. Non-food bank credit grew by 12% against 16.3%. AGENCIES



PE-VC funds record 27% rise in Jan-April

Private Equity—Venture Capital (PE-VC) investments recorded a 27% growth year-on-year during Jan-April this year at \$11.8 billion against \$9.3 billion in the same four-month period last year. In April, the investments stood at \$2.7 billion, data released by research firm Venture Intelligence on Wed said. TNN

Study: Large services cos lead in asset ownership

Times News Network
New Delhi: Larger enterprises with an output of Rs 500 crore and above dominate in terms of asset ownership (62.8%), net fixed capital formation (62.7%), gross value added (69.5%), and total compensation (63.2%), a pilot study of the annual survey of services sector enterprises showed on Wednesday. The data also showed that enterprises with an output below Rs 500 crore accounted for over 63% of total employment and 36.8% of total compensation. The majority of corporate entities in the pilot study are private limited companies (82.4%) during FY2022-23, followed by public limited companies and limited liability partnerships (each with a nearly 8% share). The same trend is visible for all broad activity categories (BAC) such as construction, trade, and other services. The results of the study also showed that overall, 28.5% of enterprises reported having additional places of business within the state. This percentage was observed to be the highest in trade sector, with 41.8% of enterprises belonging to this sector reporting additional places of business in the state.

Record high gold prices hit buyers but ETFs find favour

Jewellery Demand Subdued On Akshaya Tritiya Despite Offers

Swati Bharadwaj & Asmita Dey | TNN

Hyderabad/Mumbai: The current high prices of gold led to lukewarm demand for the yellow metal on Akshaya Tritiya, despite jewellers offering various schemes like slashing making charges for jewellery and offering gold jewellery as prizes for lucky buyers. The demand for gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs), however, jumped on both the exchanges on Wednesday. Earlier in April, the price of the precious metal rose above the Rs 1 lakh/10gm level, an all-time record. On Wednesday, the price in retail markets around the country hovered between Rs 94,000 and Rs 95,000.

Across India, jewellers designed schemes and offers for consumers to soften the blow of steep gold prices and encourage more customers to shop. For example, Malabar Group offered up to 25% off on making charges of gold jewellery and studded jewelle-

SURGING GOLD ETFs FUEL JAN-MARCH DEMAND

Gold Demand	Jan-Mar 2024			Jan-Mar 2025			% Growth		
	Tonnes	INR (crore)	USD (bn)	Tonnes	INR (crore)	USD (bn)	Volume Tonnes	Value (INR)	Value (USD)
Jewellery	95.5	52,750	6.4	71.4	56,880	6.6	-25%	8%	3%
Inv (ETF)	43.6	24,070	2.9	46.7	37,150	4.3	7%	54%	48%
Total	139.1	76,820	9.3	118.1	94,030	10.9	-15%	22%	17%

Source: World Gold Council

The company also had an advanced booking facility in place, which allowed customers rate protection by enabling them to book jewellery with a minimum down payment of 10% of the total value and pay the rest based on the booked rate or the prevailing market rate—whichever was lower, said chairman MP Ahammed. Some of the purchases were driven by investment-based needs and the growing desire to hedge against further price rises, he said. According to Darshan Gupta, partner at Mangatrai Jewellers in Hyderabad, the

mood among gold buyers was 'lukewarm'. Gupta, who has been trying to woo customers with offers like 'no making charges', said despite all their efforts, the sentiment to buy was lacking. "Business is expected to be at least 30% lower than last year's Akshaya Tritiya," he said. Although business in terms of volume was lower than last year, in terms of value it was almost similar, according to data from the India Bullion & Jewellers Association. Approximately 20 tonnes of gold worth Rs 18,000 crore was sold across the country during the day. In the

Mumbai market alone, about 2.5 tonnes of gold worth about Rs 2,350 crore is estimated to have been sold.

Rising gold prices also pushed consumers to opt for more pocket-friendly options. PC Chandra Jewellers, for instance, saw more customers queuing up for lightweight gold jewellery and silver. Some diamond pieces, too, found favour with customers.

The demand for ETFs showed good traction on the bourses. On the NSE, ETFs worth about Rs 340 crore were traded, while on the BSE the corresponding number was nearly Rs 30 crore.

IOC pauses oil sourcing talks with Russia's Rosneft

Sanjay Dutta | timesofindia.com

New Delhi: India's largest oil refiner-fuel retailer IndianOil has hit the pause button on talks for a term deal for sourcing oil from Russia's Rosneft amid New Delhi's efforts to ramp up energy imports from the US with the aim of reducing its trade surplus. Company chairman A S Sahney said the move was prompted by market dynamics and not any govt pressure. "As of now we are not in active negotiations (with Rosneft) but we are open to it. There is no mandate (to buy from the US). We buy crude based on our need and price competitiveness," he said on Wednesday after reporting a 50% jump in the March quarter profit at Rs

7,264.8 crore against Rs 4,837.6 crore in the previous corresponding period.

In another development, IndianOil signed a five-year gas contract valued at about \$1.4 billion with global energy trader Trafigura for LNG at prices benchmarked to Henry Hub (US rates), raising the possibility of shipments from America. Sahney said any crude has to fit into the company's rigorous optimisation model which looks at producing the fuel that market wants from the most economically available source. "This is not a good time for term deals...", he added, alluding to the ever-changing geo-political situation in-

'NO PRESSURE FROM GOVT'

volving Russia and abundance of cheaper barrels from elsewhere.

The share of Russian oil in the bouquet of crudes processed by IndianOil stood at 22% in 2024-25 against 31% in 2023-24. The decline, Sahney said, had started much before the fresh sanctions imposed on Russian oil and shipping sectors by the Trump administration. IndianOil continues to buy Russian crude through tenders, something he said, will continue if prices suit the company.

Sahney declined to say whether the gas contract with Trafigura had any condition of supplies from the trader's US portfolio. The contract envisages sourcing of 2.5 million tonnes of LNG divided in 27 shipments, beginning second half of the current fiscal.

Optimus, Dixon sign deals with Taiwan cos

Pankaj Doval | timesofindia.com

New Delhi: With US tariffs looming large over global manufacturing hubs, some multinational electronics component suppliers started coming to India for partnerships and joint ventures. Leading electronics contract manufacturers Dixon Technologies and Optimus have struck partnerships with separate Taiwanese suppliers, growing their footprint in terms of product portfolio & potential client base. The development aligns with govt's focus on the Make in India programme.

Sunil Vachani-led Dixon, the top homegrown electronics maker, signed a joint venture with Taiwanese Inventec for manufacturing notebook PC products, servers, and desktop PC products, including components. Dixon, which also makes computers for HP under the IT hardware PLI scheme, will hold 60% equity in the joint venture, while Inventec will have the rest.

"The joint venture marks a significant milestone for Dixon as we expand our portfolio into high-growth segments of notebooks and servers. With Dixon's operational efficiency and local expertise and Inventec's technological prowess in the IT hardware segment, we will produce high-quality products, while driving technological innovation," Atul B Lall, vice chairman of Dixon, said.

Inventec president Jack Tsai said Dixon brings in mature production systems, a high degree of automation and strong alignment with local govt policies.

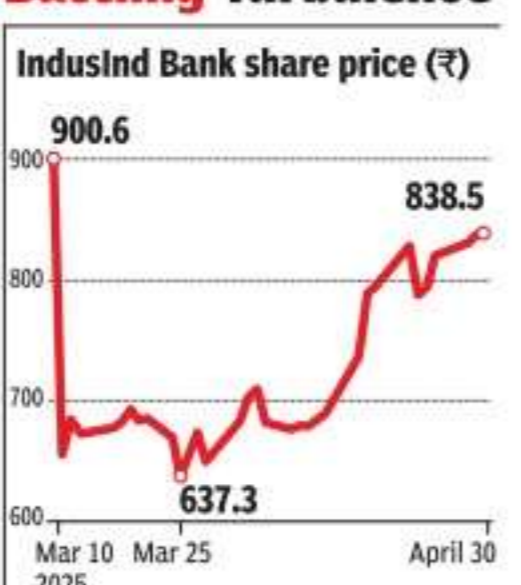
Optimus Electronics also announced a partnership with Taiwan-based ASRock to manufacture motherboards in India. "This partnership aligns with our vision of enabling cutting-edge manufacturing capabilities in India," Optimus group chairman Ashok Gupta said.

IndusInd forms team to run show after CEO exit

Times News Network

Mumbai: IndusInd has appointed a committee comprising two senior executives, Anil Rao and Soumitra Sen, following approval by the RBI to set up a panel to run the bank until a full-time CEO is identified. The move comes after Sumant Kathpalia stepped down from the role at the end of business hours on Tuesday. After Kathpalia stepped down, the board meeting, which started on April 29, went on until 12.15am on April 30. The board decided to implement the arrangement, which the RBI formally approved the same day. A letter from the RBI confirmed its nod to the proposal. The bank informed the

Battling Turbulence



stock exchanges of the development in a filing on April 30, following an initial communication on April 29. Shares of IndusInd Bank opened weak and were down 2.5% on Wednesday following Kathpalia's resignation. Rao, the chief adminis-

trative officer, and Sen, head of consumer banking, began their roles effective April 30. They will temporarily manage the bank's daily work in place of a CEO. This arrangement will continue until a new chief is appointed or for three months from the date Kathpalia left, whichever is earlier. The two executives will be monitored by a group from the board.

This group will be led by the board's chairman and include three other board members who handle the bank's finances, hiring, and risk matters. According to the bank, it is focused on keeping things running smoothly and following rules. Sen, who joined the bank in 2008, has 33 years of work experience.

Costa Coffee sees rising sips grow its India biz

Asmita Dey | timesofindia.com

Mumbai: For British coffee chain Costa Coffee, there's no going slow on India expansion despite an uncertain global macro environment, which has nudged many businesses to review their growth strategies. In India, where many people still love waking up to a hot cup of tea and debates over chai versus coffee continue to rage, parts of the population are moving from tea to coffee. Millennials with higher disposable incomes and Gen Z are driving the market opportunity in India, where the coffee space is growing at 10%-12%, double the rate of global markets, said Philippe Schaille, CEO at Costa Coffee, which was acquired by The Coca-Cola Company in

SERVING IT HOT

- ☛ Coffee space in India growing at 10%-12%, double the rate of global markets
- ☛ Country among Costa Coffee's top 10 markets globally
- ☛ CEO Philippe Schaille says India has potential to get into CC's top 5 markets in 5 years
- ☛ CC has low exposure in US so tariffs unlikely to have any material impact on business



2019 in a \$4.9 billion deal. India, which is among the company's top 10 markets globally, has the potential to get into the top five markets in five years, Schaille, who is on a trip to the country, said.

"More and more of the (Indian) population is starting to increase the incidence of all the beverages they drink, starting to shift from tea to coffee and increasingly to premium, specialty coffee,

which is partially driven by the fact that they see coffee as a product that delivers healthy energy. We have the benefit of being in a category that is just growing rapidly within an overall economic environment that is slowing down," Schaille said in a media round table on Wednesday.

The local food and beverages segment saw some slowdown in the second half of last year, but consumption

picked up in the March quarter. "We are definitely not moderating our growth rate in India," Schaille said, adding that the company will continue to open 40-50 new outlets every year as targeted. Costa Coffee, which operates in the specialty coffee space in India through its franchisee partner Devyani International, competes with a mix of global giants like Starbucks, Tim Hortons, and new-age players like Blue Tokai Coffee Roasters and Third Wave Coffee in the market alongside traditional chains such as Café Coffee Day.

Given the company's low exposure to the US, the tariffs are unlikely to have any material impact on its business; the steep increase in coffee prices has been a bigger headache for players in the space.

"Across the globe, we have passed through green coffee inflation, either directly to consumers or through to our partners and allowed them to decide how they pass on to the consumers," Schaille said.

In India, where the firm sources most of its products locally, the strategy will be not to lower the price points, which Schaille said hampers the experience of quality coffee, but to diversify its range of offerings to include more accessible options. It will also sell more combo packages (with food) that allow brands the scope to offer discounts to consumers.

Costa Coffee has historically had more millennials as its customers, given their higher purchasing power compared to Gen Z, and the same is true for India.

Ather IPO subscribed 1.4 times

Bengaluru: Electric scooter maker Ather Energy closed its Rs 2,981-crore initial public offering (IPO) with a total subscription of 1.4 times on Wednesday. This capped a three-day bidding window that saw strong interest from retail and institutional investors.

The issue marked the first listing of the 2025-26 and the first major tech-led consumer IPO since 2023-24, testing investor sentiment, amid global geopolitical and market volatility.

Retail investors led the response, subscribing to their portion 1.8 times, followed by qualified institutional buyers at 1.7 times. The employee quota was oversubscribed 5.4 times. TNN

SBI
The banker to every Indian

TIMELESS TREASURES OF SBI

Training at SBI has always been digitally forward. However, the pandemic opened up a slew of new possibilities, and the Bank became the first non-academic organisation in India and the second financial institution in the world, after the World Bank to create Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) for edX.

7th SAAT DASHAK SAATH
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Exporters set to get collateral-free loans

Govt's Promotion Mission To Bring Interest Equalisation Scheme, Back New Fin Tools

Sidhartha | timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The commerce department on Wednesday unveiled the elements of the Export Promotion Mission focused on providing low-cost and collateral-free loans, backing new instruments, supporting opportunities in new markets and boosting export credit to e-commerce, amid concerns that the overall allocation of Rs 2,250 crore was spread too thinly.

Top of the agenda is Niryat Rin Vikas or NIRVIK, an interest equalisation scheme targeted at MSMEs and new exporters. The plan is to reset interest rates annually by benchmarking them to rates in other countries that Indian exports are competing with. The decision flows from the realisation within govt that interest rates in India are twice, if not thrice, the level in countries such as China, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand.

The scheme will come with a specified cap with a negative list of sectors linked to parameters, such as low value addition, raw material or primary products, and items where there is a high probability of misuse, sources told TOI. Exporters will get the benefit upfront with banks getting reimbursed.

Govt is also seeking to end the hardship faced by exporters—especially MSMEs and e-commerce—due to banks demanding collaterals. The plan is to provide over 80% of the collateral re-

quirement based on track record through an online evaluation and monitoring mechanism. Exporters will be given a unique ID with fund disbursements on a monthly or quarterly basis under the scheme where a credit guarantee fund will be roped in.

The commerce department has also lined up plans to provide easier access to working capital through trade finance instruments, with post-shipment tools, such as factoring, reverse factoring, and vendor financing for small exporters. The overall benefit will come with a ceiling, sources indicated.

Similarly, to support emerging opportunities, the govt intends to share up to 90% of the risk of MSMEs,

WHAT'S ON THE MENU

- ☛ NIRVIK: Interest subsidy with annual reset in rates
- ☛ Collateral support to meet up to 80% requirement
- ☛ Trade instruments for MSMEs to provide post-shipment tools such as factoring, vendor & deep-tier finance
- ☛ E-commerce credit card scheme, including direct finance, likely
- ☛ 'TRACE' to help MSMEs tackle non-tariff measures
- ☛ Support for emerging opportunities may cover up to 90% risk of forays into new markets
- ☛ Assistance to MSMEs for branding, participation in fairs
- ☛ Aid for export logistics, overseas warehousing planned

requirement based on track record through an online evaluation and monitoring mechanism. Exporters will be given a unique ID with fund disbursements on a monthly or quarterly basis under the scheme where a credit guarantee fund will be roped in.

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which are looking to venture into "new, high-risk markets", with at least 1,000 exporters to be backed in the first year. The Centre intends to use the Trade Assistance Fund to invest in liquid assets allowed under EXIM Bank's investment policy, sources said.

A Focused Market Access Initiative is also planned to help exporters tap new opportunities. Govt will support their participation in fairs and meet up to 90% of the cost. This will be in addition to a boost for branding.

US eco contracts for 1st time in 3 yrs, Wall St falls

Wall Street's main indexes dropped on Wednesday after data showed the US economy contracted for the first time in three years in the first quarter, deepening concerns around the impact of US tariffs and the global trade war.

The commerce department's advance gross domestic product (GDP) report took centre stage on a data-packed day, showing a 0.3% contraction for the first quarter, compared with expectations for 0.3% growth.

Private payrolls growth also slowed more than expected in April, while personal consumption expenditure index—the Federal Reserve's preferred inflation gauge—was broadly in line with expectations. US consumer spending grew 1.8% after a robust 4% jump in the fourth quarter. Wednesday's reports join



In trade on Wednesday, Dow Jones fell 97 points to 40,431, S&P 500 lost 31 points and Nasdaq slipped 134 points to 17,327

a series of data releases over the month that have pointed to an increasingly uncertain outlook for the US economy, as the fallout from the Trump administration's steep tariffs and erratic trade policy takes effect. Traders are now pricing in a full percentage point interest rate cut from the Fed by the end of the year.

"The Fed has been very data dependent and they're going to want to see some of this hard data like GDP and some of the labour market data really show signs of weakness," said Charlie Ripley, senior investment strategist at Allianz Investment Management.

"We are starting to see a little bit of that, which is really why you're seeing the market reacting the way it is today."

In initial trade, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 97 points to 40,431, the S&P 500 lost 31 points to 5,529 and the Nasdaq Composite lost 134 points to 17,327.

Meanwhile, "Magnificent Seven" members Meta Platforms and Microsoft fell 2.6% and 0.9% ahead of their results, due after markets close, that investors are watching closely for clarity on the outlook for the tech sector and AI-focused investments. REUTERS

LTCG of ₹1.25L from equities? Return filing gets simpler

New Delhi: Govt has notified the income tax return forms 1 and 4 for assessment year 2025-26, and made it easier for individuals with long term capital gains of up to Rs 1.25 lakh from listed equities to file returns.

Govt has also made certain changes in the form regarding deductions claimed under 80C, 80GG and other sections and has provided a drop down

Govt notified ITR forms 1 & 4 for AY 2025-26

menu in the utility for tax filers to select from. Also, assesses will have to furnish in the ITR section-wise details with regard to TDS deductions. Once utility for filing ITR is made available by the I-T department, people can start filing ITR for income earned in

2024-25. Last date for filing ITR for individuals and those who do not have to get their accounts audited is July 31.

Usually, ITR forms are notified before end of the fiscal, mostly around Feb/March. This time, ITR forms and filing utility got delayed as revenue department officials were pre-occupied with new Income Tax Bill, which was introduced in Feb. AGENCIES

GALLERY

Cricket retained for 2026 Asian Games in Japan

New Delhi: The Olympic Council of Asia confirmed that cricket will be a part of the 2026 Asian Games to be held in Japan from Sept 19 to Oct 4. Matches will be played in T20 format and hosted in Aichi prefecture, although the exact venues are yet to be finalised.

'Djokovic's Rome pullout worrying sign': Novak Djokovic's withdrawal from next week's Italian Open should be a "huge worry" for the 24-time Grand Slam champion's fans as he heads to French Open without winning a match on clay this season, former Roland Garros winner Jim Courier said.

England eye South as pace consultant: England are considering former New Zealand pacer Tim Southee as their fast-bowling consultant ahead of a home summer season that includes a five-Test series against India.

Bangladesh to tour Pak for T20s in May: The Pakistan Cricket Board on Wednesday confirmed that Bangladesh will travel to the country next month for a five-match T20 series in which Faisalabad will host international matches after a long gap of 17 years.

Kenya to start its own T20 League in Sept: Cricket Kenya is all set to start its own franchise-based league, CKT20, in September to revive the sport in which the country reached the semifinal of the ODI WC in 2003. AGENCIES

ACTION TODAY

BADMINTON: Sudirman Cup, 7 am & 2.30 pm (Star, JioHotstar); **CRICKET:** IPL: Rajasthan vs Mumbai, 7.30 pm (Star, JioHotstar); **FOOTBALL:** EPL: Nottingham vs Brentford, 11.55 pm (Star); Europa, Semis, Leg 1, Athletic vs Man United; Spurs vs Glimt, 12.30 am Friday (Sony); **TENNIS:** Madrid Open, 7.30 pm & 11.30 pm (Sony)

FLYING START



Cohesion The Key As Tireless PSG Take Home The Advantage Against Arsenal

London: Paris St Germain have been labelled a collection of talented individuals with little collective backbone in recent years but they have turned the corner this season and on Tuesday against Arsenal in the Champions League looked like a team with a masterplan. The French champions secured a 1-0 win in London in the first leg of their semi-final, a result built less on star power than on tactical coherence, defensive discipline and a tireless press that choked the life out of Arsenal in the first half. Ousmane Dembele's early goal gave PSG a lead they ultimately protected with a mixture of intelligent pressing and or-

ganised defending that had Luis Enrique's stamp all over it. PSG's press was sharp and well-coordinated, forcing Arsenal into rushed passes and panicked clearances throughout the opening 30 minutes. "This team is always competitive, we're getting the maximum out of our qualities. We achieved a great job, individually and collectively," Luis Enrique said. While PSG faded physically after the break they still kept their shape, and in Gianluigi Donnarumma had a goalkeeper ready to make the key interventions when Arsenal threatened. Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, brought in

last summer to provide more unpredictability on the wing, was instrumental in the win.

His assist for Dembele's goal was a product of both sharp movement and awareness, but equally valuable was his defensive discipline — dropping in to support his full back and thwarting Arsenal's attempts to overload the flank.

Arsenal, who are second in the Premier League, struggled to find space in a congested final third.

Danger men Martin Odegaard and Bukayo Saka were largely contained while their attempts to play through midfield were repeatedly stifled by Fabian Ruiz, Joao Neves and Vitinha. PSG host the second leg next week. REUTERS

1 Dembele is the first French player to score in the Champions League semifinals for PSG. The France forward now has eight goals in nine Champions League appearances since the start of 2025 and seven goals in his last five away matches in the competition.

1 This was PSG's first win against Arsenal at the sixth attempt (D2, L3).

5/6 PSG have won five of their last six away matches in the Champions League (L1).

6 Luis Enrique's side have scored first in six of their last eight Champions League matches.

17 Arsenal were unbeaten in 17 home European matches, stretching back to March 2021, before losing to PSG.

“With emotions high, it's difficult to analyse the game. We tried to play our way, scored the first goal (early), suffered a lot sometimes and could have scored a second.”
—Luis Enrique, PSG coach

“My message is exactly the same as it was against Real at home (3-0 win). We have to go to Paris and win. I saw two very good teams, where the margins were so small. Their goalkeeper made a difference.”
—Mikel Arteta, Arsenal coach

Churchill asked to return trophy

Marcus Mergulhao
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Panaji: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has requested Churchill Brothers FC to return the I-League champions trophy and medals to comply with the stay order granted by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), a Switzerland-based independent court tasked with resolving legal disputes in the field of sport through arbitration.

I-LEAGUE

The AIFF handed over the I-League trophy to champions Churchill Brothers FC on Sunday, unaware that two hours earlier, CAS had stayed the decision of its appeals committee and asked the federation “not to declare the winner of the I-League 2024-25 or organise a medal ceremony for the I-League until the present arbitration has been concluded.”

Inter Kashi, who finished second behind Churchill by a point after the final round of matches, had appealed the AIFF's decision to declare Churchill as the champions before the sports court. The Varanasi-based side can finish on top, if they get the three points that were taken away by the AIFF appeals committee.

On Feb 24, the disciplinary

committee had upheld Kashi's appeal and handed them a 3-0 win after Namdhari FC were adjudged to have fielded an ineligible player. A month later, that decision was stayed by the appeals panel and subsequently, on April 19, the verdict was in favour of Namdhari, paving the way for Churchill to be crowned champions.

“The AIFF has to comply with the CAS order which has stayed the decision of the appeals committee,” a senior official told TOI on Tuesday. “The federation has officially written to Churchill Brothers CEO (Valanka Alemoa) to return the trophy and medals to the AIFF at the earliest.”

The AIFF has explained to Churchill that they went ahead with the trophy distribution ceremony since it was notified of the CAS order only after the conclusion of the medal ceremony owing to Sunday being a public holiday.

In its order, Elizabeth Steiner, deputy president of the CAS's Appeals Arbitration Division, provided AIFF, Churchill and Namdhari FC time till April 29 to file a full reply to Inter Kashi's application for provisional measures. According to sources, AIFF is in favour of a quick resolution to the dispute and remain eager for a conclusion before the end of the season on May 31.

New 4x100m relay national record set

Chandigarh: The quartet of Gurinder Singh, Animesh Kujur, Manikanta Hoblihar and Aman Borgahain on Wednesday broke the national record in men's 4x100m relay, clocking 38.89 seconds during the National Open Relay Carnival here.

They erased the previous mark of 38.89 seconds which was set during the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi. On that occasion, the team consisted of Rahamatulla Molla, Suresh Sathya, Shamer Mon and A Qureshi.

Tamil Nadu (39.83 seconds) and Army (41.40 seconds) came second and third respectively. PTI

India secure 25 medals at Asian U-15 boxing, including 11 gold

Amman: India topped the Asian U-15 Boxing Championships medal tally with 25 medals, including 11 gold, a tally powered by a stellar showing in the girls' section.

The Indian girls secured 10 gold and four bronze medals across the 15 weight appearances, winning every title bout they contested in the finals on Tuesday and consequently cementing their supremacy at the event.

Four Indian boys contested the finals on Tuesday. Apart from one gold for Sanskar Vinod, three finished with silver medals, adding to the seven bronzes from earlier days in the meet. PTI

Fighter pilot helps tiny Bodo/Glimt reach Europa semifinals

For Bodo/Glimt, an unheralded Norwegian team from a tiny town north of the Arctic Circle, the transformation has been underpinned by a fighter pilot who developed mental techniques for his squadron before bombing missions in Libya.

Bjorn Mamsverk discovered a group of players exuding negative energy and prone to “a collective mental breakdown” when he was asked in early 2017 to join the backroom staff of a team that had just been relegated to Norway's second tier. It was all about following a philosophy established by Mamsverk, a former Royal Norwegian air force squadron leader whose military duties took him to Afghanistan after 9/11 and to Libya for a NATO-led intervention in 2011. Bodo until recently had a NATO air base. After securing an immediate return to Nor-



FOOTBALL'S NORTHERN LIGHTS: Bodo/Glimt's Aspmyra stadium — with a capacity of less than 9,000 — is one of the most northerly in world football at 67 degrees latitude. Tourists have long come to the town on the tip of Norway because it is a good spot to see the Northern Lights

way's top division, the team — based more than 1,000 kms north of Oslo in a fishing town, Bodo, with a population of around 55,000 — has captured four of the country's last five league titles. The first leg against Tottenham in the Europa League is in London tonight. “It is a fairy tale, almost a miracle,” Mamsverk said.

In the other semis, Athletic Bilbao host Ruben Amorim's Manchester United. AP

JFC set up summit clash with Goa

Sudeshna Ghosh
@timesofindia.com

Bhubaneswar: A second for Manolo Marquez and a hat-trick for Khalid Jamil — that's how the semifinal stories at Kalinga Super Cup unfolded at Kalinga Stadium here on Wednesday.

Jamil and his Jamshedpur FC did a triple on Mumbai City FC this season by beating them 1-0 with a Rei Tachikawa late winner to set up a summit clash with FC Goa. Manolo's goals scripted their second win of the season over

Mohun Bagan Super Giant, having beaten them once in ISL. Bagan, comprising Indian youngsters and one foreigner, defender Nuno Reis, succumbed to a 3-1 defeat in the first semifinal.

Goa took the lead through Brison Fernandes but Bagan's Suhail Bhat equalised. It took Marquez's men 15 minutes in the second half to seal the game. A mistake from goalkeeper Dheeraj Moirangthem resulted in a penalty. Iker Guarrotxena converted to make it 2-0. Borja Herrera scored an 'Olimpico', when he curled his corner straight into the Bagan net.

BIHAR STATE ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Bihar Undertaking)
RCD Central Mechanical Workshop Campus, Near Patna Airport, Sheikhpura, Patna-800014.
Tel:- 0612-2226711, Fax:- 0612-2226723
Website: <https://bsrdcl.bihar.gov.in>, Email: bsrdcltd@gmail.com

Letter No.-BSRDC Ltd-4475/2025 **INVITATION FOR BID ON EPC MODE**
(Through e-procurement mode only- <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)

Improvement/ Up-gradation of Old NH-82 Road and Construction of Two-Lane Elevated Flyover from Jagjivan College to Manpur Block Office Including ManpurGolambar to Manpur Falgu Bridge (Towards Gaya Town) on EPC Mode.

The Bihar State Road Development Corporation Limited (BSRDC Ltd.) is desirous for "Improvement/ Up-gradation of Old NH-82 Road and Construction of Two-Lane Elevated Flyover from Jagjivan College to Manpur Block Office Including ManpurGolambar to Manpur Falgu Bridge (Towards Gaya Town)" on EPC Mode.

BSRDC Ltd. intends to undertake a single stage two bid system open competitive bidding process in order to shortlist and qualify successful bidder at the qualification stage, who shall be eligible for evaluation of the price bid of the successful bidder in terms of the RFP, for awards of the project.

- The successful Bidder at the end of the Bidding process may be awarded a contract by BSRDC Ltd. to implement the project on EPC Mode. The contractor (the successful Bidder) shall be responsible for the Design, Engineering, Procurement, Construction and Maintenance (for 10 years including DLP) of the project in terms of the Agreement to be signed between the Contractor and BSRDC Ltd. Further, the Contractor shall be responsible for remedying all defects and deficiencies, normal wear and tear expected, in the project or any section thereof during the defects liability period/Maintenance period in terms of the EPC contract to be executed in terms of the RFQ and RFP.
- The details of the bidding process and summary of the scope of construction works for the project are included in the RFP document.
- Brief particulars of the projects as under:

Name of work	Indicative Project cost * (Rs. in Cr.)	Bid Security (Rs. in Cr.)	Cost of Document (In Rs.)	Processing Fee (In Rs.)	Time of Completion
"Improvement/ Up-gradation of Old NH-82 Road and Construction of Two-Lane Elevated Flyover from Jagjivan College to Manpur Block Office Including ManpurGolambar to Manpur Falgu Bridge (Towards Gaya Town)" on EPC Mode.	117.82	2.36	10,000	As Applicable	1095 Days + 10 Years Maintenance

*Rates are inclusive of all duties and taxes including GST. Important Dates

Sl. No.	Event Description	Date
1.	Invitation of RFP (NIT)	30.04.2025
2.	Period of Downloading and uploading Bid Documents by bidder	From 08.05.2025 Time-03:00 PM IST to 29.05.2025 up to 3:00 PM IST through website https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in only
3.	Last date for receiving queries	15.05.2025 up to 3:00 PM IST
4.	Pre-BID meeting at venue 2.11.4 (i)	15.05.2025 at 3:30 PM IST
5.	Authority response to queries latest by	21.05.2025
6.	Bid Due Date (Last date of final Submission of the Bid)	29.05.2025 Time-3:00 PM IST through website https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in only
7.	Physical Submission of Bid Security/POA/JV agreement (if any) etc.	30.05.2025 up to Time 12:30 PM IST
8.	Opening of Technical Bids at venue 2.11.4 (i)	30.05.2025 Time-3:30 PM IST through website https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in only
9.	Declaration of eligible / qualified Bidders	09.06.2025
10.	Standstill Period for receiving clarification on evaluated technical bids.	3 days from Declaration of eligible / qualified Bidders.
11.	Opening of Financial BID	12.06.2025 at 3:30 PM IST
12.	Letter of Acceptance (LOA)	18.06.2025
13.	Validity of BID	180 Days from Bid due date
14.	Submission of Performance Security (PS) and Additional Performance Security (APS), if any	Within 30 days of receipt of LOA. (The bidder has the option to provide 50% of PS and APS, if any within 30 days of receipt of LOA and the remaining PS and APS, if any to be provided within 30 days of signing of agreement)
15.	Signing of Agreement	Within 10 days from the receipt of 50% of Performance Security and 50% of Additional Performance Security, if any

Note— (i) Dates mentioned at Sl. No. 09 to 12 are tentatively planned only, may be changed. (ii) Clarification sought after the lapse of Standstill period shall not be entertained. (Chief General Manager)

For further details please visit: www.state.bihar.gov.in/prd/bihar Bihar State Road Development Co. Ltd. RCD Central Mechanical Workshop Campus, Near Patna Airport, Sheikhpura, Patna-800014. PR- 002259 (B & C) 2025-26

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

BIHAR STATE ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
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Letter No.-BSRDC Ltd-4474/2025 **INVITATION FOR BID ON EPC MODE**
(Through e-procurement mode only- <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)

New Construction of Four Lane Flyover on NH-82 at Ghughari Tand Length of 0.810 Km including Ramps under Gaya District EPC Mode

The Bihar State Road Development Corporation Limited (BSRDC Ltd.) is desirous for "New Construction of Four Lane Flyover on NH-82 at Ghughari Tand Length of 0.810 Km including Ramps under Gaya District EPC Mode"

- BSRDC Ltd. intends to undertake a single stage two bid system open competitive bidding process in order to shortlist and qualify successful bidder at the qualification stage, who shall be eligible for evaluation of the price bid of the successful bidder in terms of the RFP, for awards of the project.
- The successful Bidder at the end of the Bidding process may be awarded a contract by BSRDC Ltd. to implement the project on EPC Mode. The contractor (the successful Bidder) shall be responsible for the Design, Engineering, Procurement, Construction and Maintenance (for 10 years including DLP) of the project in terms of the Agreement to be signed between the Contractor and BSRDC Ltd. Further, the Contractor shall be responsible for remedying all defects and deficiencies, normal wear and tear expected, in the project or any section thereof during the defects liability period/Maintenance period in terms of the EPC contract to be executed in terms of the RFQ and RFP.
- The details of the bidding process and summary of the scope of construction works for the project are included in the RFP document.
- Brief particulars of the project is as under:

Name of work	Indicative Project cost * (Rs. in Cr.)	Bid Security (Rs. in Cr.)	Cost of Document (In Rs.)	Processing Fee (In Rs.)	Time of Completion
"New Construction of Four Lane Flyover on NH-82 at Ghughari Tand Length of 0.810 Km including Ramps under Gaya District EPC Mode"	67.26	1.35	10,000	As Applicable	1095 Days + 10 Years Maintenance

*Rates are inclusive of all duties and taxes including GST. Important Dates

Sl. No.	Event Description	Date
1.	Invitation of RFP (NIT)	30.04.2025
2.	Period of Downloading and uploading Bid Documents by bidder	From 08.05.2025 Time-03:00 PM IST to 29.05.2025 up to 3:00 PM IST through website https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in only
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15.	Signing of Agreement	Within 10 days from the receipt of 50% of Performance Security and 50% of Additional Performance Security, if any

Note— (i) Dates mentioned at Sl. No. 09 to 12 are tentatively planned only, may be changed. (ii) Clarification sought after the lapse of Standstill period shall not be entertained. (Chief General Manager)

For further details please visit: www.state.bihar.gov.in/prd/bihar Bihar State Road Development Co. Ltd. RCD Central Mechanical Workshop Campus, Near Patna Airport, Sheikhpura, Patna-800014. PR- 002261 (B & C) 2025-26

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

MAHARASHTRA ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (MEDA)
(A Government of Maharashtra Institution)
Aundh Road, Opposite Spicer Collage, Near Commissionerate of Animal Husbandry, Aundh, Pune -411007
Tel.:020-35000450, Website: www.maharaja.com, Email: gmhdc@maharaja.com

INVITES for Tender

MEDA invites Tender for Selection of Green Hydrogen Producers for Setting up Projects for Green Hydrogen Production Facilities (Anchor Units & Experimental Anchor Units) in the Maharashtra State as per Maharashtra Green Hydrogen Policy-2023. All these Anchor Unit & Experimental Anchor Units will be selected through bid selection process.

For detailed information of Tender, Applicants are requested to visit <http://mahatenders.gov.in> website. The date of publication of Tender is 30/04/2025 & the last date of submission of tender offer is 04/07/2025 at 15:00 Hrs.

Director General, MEDA reserves the right to accept or reject anyone or all the tender without assigning any reasons therefor.

Tender Enquiry No. 20/12/11/2023/FSU-3553/121238 dated 21st/03/2025

**Government of India
Cabinet Secretariat
(Special Protection Group)**

9, Lok Kalyan Marg,
New Delhi - 110 011.

Notice Inviting Global Tender

Special Protection Group, (SPG), New Delhi-110011 (India) invites e-Tender under TWO BID SYSTEM (Technical and Financial Bid) from original Manufacturers or their Authorized Dealers/Distributors/Representative for procurement of following items:-

Tender No. & Date	Item	Quantity	Earnest Money Deposit
No. 20/12/11/2023/FSU-3553/121238 dated 21/03/2025	Pre-fabricated integral cab body (Mono Coque) Medical Ambulance on Petrol/Diesel as per Technical Specifications complete in all respects and ready for use with all medical equipment and other fitments installed and commissioned as per technical specifications".	01 (One)	Rs. 11,44,000/- (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Forty Four Thousand) only

1.	Date of publication of Tender	28/03/2025 (1000 Hrs)
2.	Date of start of downloading of documents	28/03/2025 (1300 Hrs)
3.	Date of pre-bid conference	07/04/2025 (1130 Hrs) (will be scheduled on 10th day from the date of publication on newspaper)
4.	Venue of pre-bid conference	Special Protection Group, 9, Lok Kalyan Marg, New Delhi-110011.
5.	Bid submission end date	18/04/2025(1700Hrs)(will be extended & corrigendum of the same will be published on cpp portal & spg.nic.in)
6.	Physical submission of original payment instrument in r/o EMD	18/04/2025 (1700 Hrs) (as mentioned above)
7.	Bid opening date (Technical)	21/04/2025 (1130 Hrs) (as mentioned above)
8.	Venue, Date and time for opening of Commercial bid	Will be intimated to technically qualified tenderers.
9.	Address of communication	Assistant Inspector General (FSU), Special Protection Group, 9, Lok Kalyan Marg, New Delhi- 110011 (India) Tele- +91-11-23015474, Fax- 011-23793352, Email- aigmt.spg@gov.in

2. The complete tender documents can be accessed and downloaded from CPP Portal <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> and bids submitted online in electronic format with digital signatures. Instructions to the Bidders for enrolment in the e-Procurement site for submission of bids online through the Central Public Procurement Portal are available with tender documents.

3. Those filling in the tender entries are advised to ensure that their tenders are complete in all respects, all documents have been filled in and all supporting documents are uploaded only in CPP Portal <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Incomplete tender enquiry is liable to be ignored/rejected

Sd/-
Assistant Inspector General (FSU)
Tel. No. 011-23015474
aigmt.spg@gov.in

CBC 58101/11/0006/2526



2 Yuzvendra Chahal has produced his second hat-trick in the IPL. His first came for RR vs KKR at Brabourne Stadium, Mumbai on April 18, 2022.

1 Chahal's hat-trick is the first by any bowler against CSK. The only previous hat-trick at the Chepauk was recorded by Lakshmi Prasad Balaji for CSK vs Punjab on May 10, 2008, the first-ever IPL hat-trick.

9 Hauls of four wickets or more by Chahal, an IPL record. He overtakes Sunil Narine's tally of 8.

Chennai Are First Team To Be Eliminated As Hat-Trick Hero Chahal, Shreyas & Prabhsimran Combine To Fashion 4-Wkt Win

SCOREBOARD
CSK: S Rasheed c Shashank b Arshdeep 11, A Mhatre c Iyer b Jansen 7, S Curran c Inglis b Jansen 88, R Jadeja c Inglis b Brar 17, D Breviis b Omarzai 32, S Dube c Shashank b Arshdeep 6, MS Dhoni c Wadhwa b Chahal 11, D Hooda c Arya b Chahal 2, A Kamboj b Chahal 0, N Ahmad c Jansen b Chahal 0, K Ahmed not out 0; Extras: (lb3, nb1, w12) 16; Total: (19.2 overs) 190; FoW: 1-21, 2-22, 3-48, 4-126, 5-172, 6-184, 7-186, 8-186, 9-186; Bowling: Arshdeep 3.2-0-25-2, Jansen 4-0-30-2, Omarzai 4-0-39-1, Brar 2-0-21-1, Chahal 3-0-32-4, Shedge 3-0-40-0.
PBKS: P Arya c Dhoni b Khaleel 23, P Singh c Breviis b Noor 54, S Iyer b Pathirana 72, N Wadhwa c Jadeja b Pathirana 5, S Singh c Breviis b Jadeja 23, J Inglis not out 6, S Shedge c Noor b Khaleel 1, M Jansen not out 4; Extras: (lb3, w3) 6; Total: (6 wickets, 19.4 overs) 194; FoW: 1-44, 2-116, 3-136, 4-180, 5-188, 6-190; Bowling: Khaleel 3.4-0-28-2, Kamboj 2-0-20-0, Jadeja 3-0-32-1, Noor 4-0-39-1, Curran 3-0-27-0, Pathirana 4-0-45-2.
RESULT: PBKS won by 4 wickets with 2 balls remaining

'Barabanki blitz' Nigam impresses with allround show
Hindol.Basu@timesofindia.com



Suryavanshi-inspired Royals run into MI

Suhas.Nayse@timesofindia.com
Jaipur: Vaibhav Suryavanshi's incredible century and the team's subsequent win over Gujarat Titans on Monday has acted as a much-needed tonic for Rajasthan Royals. Arresting a four-match losing sequence, the Royals thrashed GT by eight wickets, but with just six points to their credit from 10 outings, all the four remaining matches will be must-win games for the Jaipur-based franchise, which only has a mathematical chance of making the playoffs.

The 14-year-old Suryavanshi lifted Royals' spirits with a record-breaking century off just 35 balls to help his team register their first home win this season. Mumbai Indians, on the other hand, are on a five-match winning streak. The Hardik Pandya-led side did not have the ideal start to the season but they seem to have ironed out the chinks.

Samson yet to recover: Riyan
A side strain to regular skipper Sanju Samson on April 16 while playing against Delhi Capitals has not completely healed and will be most likely to miss yet another tie. "Sanju has just started knocking in the nets. He is recovering. We will analyse his fitness before deciding about including him in the playing XI," said Riyan, adding: "We should have won three close matches (against DC, LSG and RCB). We played well for 35 overs but couldn't finish it off."

WEATHER
38°C
6 Matches won by RR out of the last 8 played against MI at the Savai Mansingh Stadium. MI's last win at the venue came in 2012.
—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

CSK SHOWN THE DOOR

Shrivathsan.S@timesofindia.com
Chennai: The top-three batters have done the heavy lifting for Punjab Kings so far this season and the trend continued at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Wednesday. Captain Shreyas Iyer (72 off 41 balls; 5x4, 4x6) and opener Prabhsimran Singh (54 off 36 balls; 5x4, 3x6) were the heroes in the successful 191-run chase, while ace leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal (4/32 off 3 overs) made his way into IPL history books with a match-turning hat-trick in the penultimate over of Chennai's innings, in which he took four wickets. Chahal was at the centre of

1 For the first time in their IPL history, Chennai Super Kings have lost five consecutive games at Chepauk.

PBKS' late charge, his effort resulting in a sensational CSK collapse and preventing the hosts from getting to a 200-plus total.

His first scalp of the over was MS Dhoni, who could not clear the long-off boundary. In the last three deliveries of the 19th over, the master leggie removed Deepak Hooda, Anshul Kamboj and Noor Ahmad, dismissals that took the steam out of the CSK innings.

Last-placed Super Kings became the first team to be officially knocked out of playoff contention. Although Super Kings posted their highest total of the season on a 'typical' Chepauk surface, PBKS went about their pursuit without fuss. Batting without burden given their superb depth — the lineup included nine genuine batters — Shreyas and Prabhsimran laid the foundation with a 72-run partnership for the second wicket.

Watching Prabhsimran go about his business like he usually does, Shreyas allowed himself time to pace the chase. Going at 28 runs off 23 balls at one point, the Punjab captain shifted gears seamlessly to put his team on the brink of a win. The win was all but sealed when he hit slinger Pathirana for two consecutive sixes in the 17th over. CSK delayed the inevitable with three late wickets.

Earlier, Sam Curran, an extant, single-handedly solved CSK's middle-overs problem with a blistering 88 (47 balls; 9x4, 4x6). Curran, promoted to No. 3 for the second game running, made a statement against his former team to guide Super Kings to 190.

Curran wowed the crowd with a knock of substance after CSK were once again in trouble in the Powerplay. Curran did the bulk of the scoring in a 78-run stand with Dewald Breviis.

BCCI TAKEN TO COURT OVER IPL ROBOT DOG

TIMES NEWS NETWORK
New Delhi: The Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) move to name its AI-driven robot dog 'Champak' has led to it being dragged to court over alleged trademark infringement issues by a renowned children's magazine of the same name. The Delhi High Court heard the suit on Wednesday and sought the stand of the cricketing body, even as it declined to issue any interim stay. Justice Saurabh Banerjee observed that "Champak was an existing brand name since eternity" while asking the



FAN FAVE: DC captain Axar Patel with the camera-friendly mechanical dog
BCCI to file its written statement in response to the plea within four weeks. Further hearing will be on July 9 on the plea filed by Delhi Press Patra Prakashan Pvt Ltd, which has been publishing 'Champak' magazine since 1968.

The publisher claimed that the commercial usage of the name amounts to dilution of the publication's registered trademark and has tarnished its image. However, the court remarked that the publication failed to show the existence of a commercial gain in using the name, as it was adopted after an online poll.

During the hearing, the judge also pointed out that even cricketer Virat Kohli's nickname is 'Chiku', which is also one of the popular characters in Champak magazine. Senior advocate J Sai Deepak, who appeared for BCCI, opposed the plea, saying Champak was the name of a flower and people associated the robotic dog with a character of a TV series.

HOW THEY STAND

TEAM	M	W	L	NR	NRR	PTS
RCB	10	7	3	0	0.521	14
PBKS	10	6	3	1	0.199	13
MI	10	6	4	0	0.889	12
GT	9	6	3	0	0.748	12
DC	10	6	4	0	0.362	12
LSG	10	5	5	0	-0.325	10
KKR	10	4	5	1	0.271	9
RR	10	3	7	0	-0.349	6
SRH	9	3	6	0	-1.103	6
CSK	10	2	8	0	-1.211	4



VIPRAJ NIGAM

Legacy cemented: Narine offers reminder of enduring impact

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New Delhi: Sunil Narine's legacy in the IPL is defined by his remarkable consistency, adaptability and unwavering match-winning ability for Kolkata Knight Riders. Since joining the franchise in 2012, Narine has played a pivotal role in KKR's triumphs, evolving from a mystery spinner to a dynamic allrounder.

His longevity and continued impact, even as he approaches his 37th birthday, make him one of the most influential overseas players in IPL history. Narine's journey with KKR began as a spinner with an aura of mystery, bamboozling batters with his variations and stingy economy.

Over the years, he has not only maintained his effectiveness with the ball but also reinvented himself as a dangerous pinch-hitter at the top of the order, often providing KKR with explosive starts.

On Tuesday, his all-round value was on full display in the clash against Delhi Capitals. Opening the batting, Narine smashed 27 runs off 16 balls, including two sixes and two fours, setting the tone for KKR's imposing total of 204. His opening partnership with Rahmanullah Gurbaz yielded 48 runs in under three overs, giving KKR the momentum they required.

But it was with the ball that Narine truly turned the game. With Delhi Capitals threatening to chase down the target, Narine's spell in the middle overs was decisive. He dismissed the big-hitting Axar Patel, the dangerous Tristan Stubbs and the well-set Faf du Plessis, finishing with figures of 3 for 29. His wickets came at a crucial juncture, derailing Delhi's chase and sealing a 14-run victory for KKR.

Despite his heroics with the bat and ball, Narine enjoyed most the run out he effected of KL Rahul. His dead-eye pick-up-and-throw from short fine leg was perfect, catching Rahul just short of his ground at the striker's end. Sending back Rahul, who has been a key figure for Delhi this season, was another key moment of the match that went in favour of KKR. "I'm obviously not the greatest fielder. But it's always good to give a good run out whenever it's possible. My mantra is just pick up and swing, and throw the ball as hard as possible," Narine said.

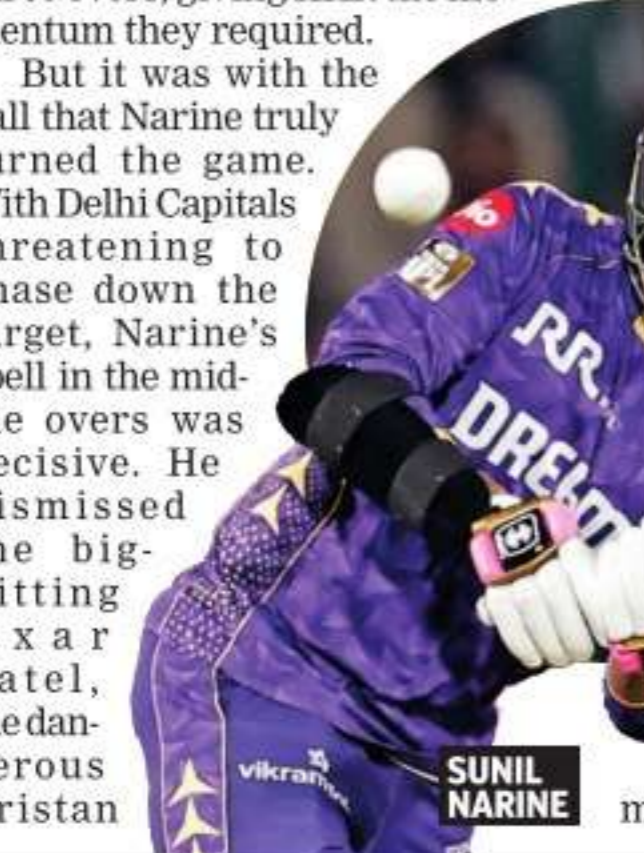
Narine's value to KKR extends beyond his runs and wickets. In the same match, when regular captain Ajinkya Rahane left the field due to injury, Narine stepped in as stand-in captain and made some astute tactical decisions. One such being entrusting Varun Chakravarty to bowl the critical 18th over, which yielded two wickets and stifled Delhi's chase.

"I back myself to deliver for the team. There are games where you don't start well but end well. Self-pride keeps me going. I always want to be the go-to option for my captain in pressure situations," Narine said.

Rahane termed Narine a "banker" for the side who can deliver under any pressure situation. "He has been a champion bowler for the franchise. It's so good to have him and Varun in the team. I can always go to him whenever we are in trouble. He has been working really hard, coming early for the practice sessions, bowling for hours and hours in the nets," Rahane said.

The 2024 season was particularly remarkable for Narine. He amassed 488 runs at a staggering strike-rate of 180.74 and claimed 17 wickets with an economy rate of 6.69. His all-round prowess earned him the 'Most Valuable Player' award for the third time (2012, 2018 and 2024), making him the first player in IPL history to achieve the feat.

This season Narine hasn't touched the lofty standards of 2024, but has still delivered the goods for KKR with both bat and ball in two of the franchise's four wins so far. It is his 14th consecutive IPL season, and Narine's enduring presence and consistent performances are cementing his legacy as one of IPL's best ever.



SUNIL NARINE

Vaibhav will have to keep working hard: Dravid

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Jaipur: When Vaibhav Suryavanshi announced his arrival with a jaw-dropping 38-ball 101, a chuffed Rahul Dravid forgot about his injured leg and stood up beaming to applaud the 14-year-old. On Wednesday, putting Vaibhav's knock in perspective, Dravid said that the 14-year-old's ability to remain unfazed by the occasion was what stood out.

"You don't get to see (knocks like that) with people who are so young. The range of shots he showed, he is only going to develop and get better. Nobody is saying he is a finished article. He will have to keep working hard. No one should be in a rush to proclaim him as something he is not. He is what he is, an exceptionally talented young player," Dravid said during the Star Sports Press Room show.

The former India captain and coach said that the Royals coaching staff had given Vaibhav the freedom to express himself. "He is going to have his share of ups and downs. The nature of the T20 format is such that he is going to have some days where things won't work out. From our side, we encourage him to play the game he enjoys. It's important that we allow him to express himself and as he goes on, there will be lessons he will learn and mistakes he will make. He will refine himself and mould himself as time goes on. But as of now, from our side it's all about letting him go out and have some fun and soak in everything," the head coach said.

Now that Vaibhav is the talk of the town, how does one protect him from the intense public glare? "He can't completely avoid experiencing what's going on around him. A lot of things will be beyond his and our control. We can't control how much people are going to talk about him. It's about recognising that this is what happens and helping him navigate all of this attention and still allowing him that space to be a youngster. But I think that is part of being a cricketer in this country," Dravid said.



RAHUL DRAVID

Shooting coach Thomas passes away

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Kochi: Sunny Thomas, the man who took Indian shooting to new heights as a national coach, died in Uzhavoor in Kottayam district of Kerala on Wednesday after a cardiac arrest. He was 84.

In the mid-90s, when Thomas stated that Indian shooters would go on to break the hegemony of Chinese shooters on the global stage, there were quite a few raised eyebrows. India may not have topped the Chinese as Thomas predicted, but the birth of the new millennium saw our national shooters enjoying a golden run. It started with Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore's historic silver at the 2004 Athens Olympics, followed by Abhinav Bindra's groundbreaking gold at Beijing. Four years later, Vijay Kumar and Gagan Narang won a silver and bronze in London.

Soon after, Thomas stepped down from his role as national coach. During his almost two-decade-long stint from 1993 to 2012, Indian shooters accumulated 108 gold, 74 silver, and 53 bronze medals in international competitions spread across the Olympics, World Championships, Asian Games, and Commonwealth Games.

More than a coach, Thomas was a mentor to many of India's top shooters. "He was more than a coach. He was a mentor, guide, and father figure to generations of Indian shooters."

"His belief in our potential and his relentless dedication to the sport laid the foundation for India's rise in international shooting. He played a big role in my early years, and I'll always be grateful for his support and guidance," Bindra wrote on his X handle. Thomas was bestowed with the Dronacharya Award in 2001.

shaved his head," former pistol ace Jung told TOI, giving an example of the bond between top shooters and the national coach Thomas.

"Most of the credit for all the superb performances can be traced back to the process that began during his time," Jung said. "As he was a college professor, he knew how to handle the young shooters."

Rathore added: "He knew the sport intricately, he knew shooters very well. Most shooters in India have worked with him one time or the other. It's a loss to the sport of shooting."

London bronze medalist Narang said: "Sunny sir was like the Godfather of Indian shooting."



SUNNY THOMAS

'Doubt Freestyle chess can sustain on its on'

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Pune: Chess Olympian Sandipan Chanda, who was V Anand's second and now works as trainer at his academy in Chennai, has given thumbs up for Freestyle chess. But with a caveat. "One does not need to prepare openings and that's a very attractive part about it," said Chanda, 41, during the Maharashtra Open GM tournament recently.

"So, for top players, it can really be very interesting. Because after all, chess is supposed to be fun. It is supposed to be a game and not supposed to be like work (prep) — like you have to study and then reproduce at the board. That way Freestyle makes it much easier."

Chanda, who trains R Vaishali, doesn't quite agree with the statement that chess suffers from drawn games only because of frequent display of opening theory. He said humans still have not cracked normal chess as today's top engine would hold a top player to a draw even if it starts with two pawns less. "Normal classical chess still has a way to go. It really has many years left, provided enough people believe in that."

Chanda also argues that if the fans cannot comprehend and fully enjoy the live games of normal chess, and if the sport itself is deemed not spectator friendly, how are the fans going to get truly connected while following Freestyle games?

"I feel Freestyle chess is giving more fascination to those players and people who already know a lot about standard classical chess. So that way I have my doubts about Freestyle sustaining on its own as a stand-alone format," he said.

"It is not that we (humans) have generally become so strong in normal chess that almost all top games end in draws with precise play. So, I understand the problem, but I don't think that it really has to stop yet."

Chanda lauded Magnus Carlsen for taking the Freestyle experiment further with a series of events and playing in the Grenke Open in Germany. "He is bringing in investors, he's taking initiative, he's doing stuff," said Chanda.



SANDIPAN CHANDA

B'desh win 2nd Test, level Zimbabwe series

Chattogram: Mehidy Hasan hit a century and claimed five wickets in a stellar all-round display as Bangladesh beat Zimbabwe by an innings and 106 runs in the second final Test on Wednesday.

Mehidy became the third Bangladeshi player after Shakib Al Hasan and Sohag Gazi, and 39th overall in world cricket, to score a century and get a five-for in the same match.

He struck 104 for his second century as Bangladesh finished their first inning on 444 for a 217-run lead. Mehidy then took 5-32, his third five-wicket haul in two Tests, as Zimbabwe were limited to 111 in 46.2 overs in an extended last session on Day 3.

Left-arm spinner Taijul Islam took 3-42 after taking 6-60 in the first innings. The victory earned Bangladesh a series draw after losing the first Test by three wickets.

On an increasingly deteriorating pitch, Bangladesh's two spinners tormented Zimbabwe batters, turning the ball viciously right from the start. Opener Ben Curran was the only one to offer some resistance, scoring 46 before being the eighth batter out. Skipper Craig Ervine (25) and Wellington Masakadza (10) were the only others to reach double digits.

BRIEF SCORES: Bangladesh 444 (Shadman 120, Mehidy 104; Masekesa 5-115) beat Zimbabwe 227 and 111 (Curran 46; Mehidy 5-31). AP



MEHIDI HASAN

'He knew how to motivate young shooters: Samaresh

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Bengaluru: Former shooting stars Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Gagan Narang and 'Goldfinger' Samaresh Jung mourned the demise of celebrated coach Sunny Thomas. They hailed him as the "Godfather of Indian shooting" who was the bridge between the shooters and the national federation.

"There was one instance during a national camp in 2000-01 in Bangalore when five of us — Jaspal Rana, Ved Prakash, Satendra Kumar, Vivek Singh and I — got our heads shaved. This was after Sunny Thomas had jokingly told us that if the five of us went bald, then he would too.

"In the evening, we went to the dining hall with our heads shaved. He was sitting there. He packed up his dinner, washed his hands and simply walked out. After 15 minutes, he returned. He had

Ex-RAW chief to head Security Advisory Board

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New Delhi: Days after the Pahalgam terror attack, in which a Pakistan link has emerged during investigations, the Centre has reconstituted the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB), appointing former RAW chief Alok Joshi as its chairman and 14 other domain experts that include ex-commanders from the three armed forces, former diplomats, officers and technocrats.

NSAB, tasked with undertaking long-term analysis of and providing perspective to the PM-led National Security Council on issues related to national security, now has 15 serving members. The other new members appointed are former Western Air Commander Air Marshal P M Sinha, former Southern Air Commander Lt Gen A K Singh and Rear Admiral (Retd) Monty Khanna, former IPS officers Rajiv Ranjan Verma and Manmohan Singh, and former diplomat B Venkatesh Varma. NSAB also comprises technical experts like Prof K Kamakoti and B S Murthy.

The board is reconstituted from time to time, with appointments usually for a two-year term. The members' tenures do not run concurrently.

The decision to get Joshi, a top intelligence brain — who served in Intelligence Bureau before he joined RAW and retired as its director, and then went on to head the country's technical intelligence agency, National Technical Research Organisation, post-retirement — to lead NSAB comes at a time when India is bracing to give a befitting response to Pakistan for continuing to sponsor

PM must not dilly-dally: Rahul

Stating that PM Modi must not "dilly-dally" and should take immediate action on the Pahalgam attack, Congress' Rahul Gandhi Wednesday said the response against those responsible for the Kashmir outrage has to be exemplary so that it acts as a deterrent against future misadventure. Hours after he met the family of a Kashmir terror victim in Kanpur, Rahul told reporters, "Those responsible for this act, wherever they are, have to pay for it. And they have to pay for it properly. Not in some half-hearted way, but properly, so that they remember that it cannot be done with India."

"It is pretty clear who are responsible (for the attack) and they must pay the price. The PM has to take action. It has to be clear and it has to be strong. Without any confusion, the PM must not dilly dally, he must not waste time and must make it clear that India will not tolerate this kind of nonsense. He can act in whatever time frame he thinks necessary, but he has to act soon," Rahul said. **TNN**

terrorism in J&K by facilitating recurrent attacks on innocent civilians, the Pahalgam carnage by Pakistani terrorists, facilitated by local aides, being the most recent.

With the carnage at Baisaran being seen as an intelligence failure, bringing in Joshi as head of the NSAB is seen as a clear move to focus the national security policy on revamping intelligence gathering to foil future misadventures by Pakistani elements.

Hit-back set to be calibrated, short of full-fledged conflict

Punitive Strike Plans Already In Place, Says Senior Officer

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New Delhi: The use of long-range weapons for limited punitive strikes against Pakistan, without crossing the LoC, is currently being considered the preferred military option. This comes amid a review of the situation by the PM-led cabinet committee on security, even as firing exchanges between the rival armies have now spilled over to the international boundary in J&K.

Indian Army warned Pakistan Army to desist from "unprovoked" small arms firings being initiated by its troops all along the 778-km LoC, from Kupwara, Baramulla and Uri to Naushera, Sunderbani, Akhnoor and Poonch, over the DGMO hotline on Tuesday afternoon.

"But later in the night, Pak Army escalated the situation by opening fire in Pargwal sector of the 198-km IB in Jammu region. Our troops are effectively responding in double measure to all ceasefire violations," an officer told **TOI**.

The CCS meeting Wednesday, the second since the Pahalgam massacre on April 22, came a day after PM Modi told the military chiefs they had "complete operational freedom" to decide on the "mode, targets and timing" of the country's response to crush terrorism.

Consequently, it is no longer a question if kinetic mili-



A farmer drives a tractor next to a BSF checkpoint on a farm in Neshta, next to the Pakistan border on the outskirts of Amritsar, Wednesday

Lt Gen Pratik Sharma is new chief of Army's crucial Northern Command

Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma will be the new chief of Indian Army's crucial Northern Command in J&K, while Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari will take over as the Indian Air Force vice-chief, amid heightened tensions with Pakistan.

"Pakistani social media handles are spreading fake news that India is shunting out top military officers in wake of the Pahalgam massacre. In fact, the new appointments have taken place since the incumbents superannuated Wednesday," an officer said.

Lieutenant General Sharma, who has earlier served as the director-general of military operations and deputy chief (strategy), replaces Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar at the Udhampur-based Northern Command. Air Marshal Tiwari, the South-Western Air Command chief, in turn, succeeds Air Marshal SP Dharkar as the IAF vice-chief in New Delhi.

In another top appointment, Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit will be the new chief of the integrated defence staff and succeeds Lieutenant General JP Mathew, who also retired Wednesday. **TNN**

tary options will be exercised but when, while the public messaging was also clearly meant to keep Pakistan on tenterhooks. "The plans for punitive strikes and the graded dynamic response strategy are already in place. It won't be a knee-jerk response but a calculated, credible and calibrated one under the threshold of a full-fledged conflict," a senior officer told **TOI**.

With Pakistan already on guard and mobilising its forces as well as activating

their infrastructure along the frontier. There are reports Pak Army is facing major shortages of 155 mm artillery shells, with its reserves being sent to Ukraine through third-party channels to make money," he said.

Then, there are shallow cross-border ground raids that can be carried out by Army Para-Special Forces like the "surgical strikes" conducted in Sept 2016 against terror launch pads in four different locations in Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir after 19 Indian soldiers were killed in a suicide attack at Uri.

Calibrated air strikes also remain an effective though escalatory step, much like the one conducted against the JeM terror facility at Balakot in Pakistan in Feb 2019. "The IAF did not have the 4.5-generation Rafale fighters during the Balakot air strikes. This time the targets can be the headquarters of JeM at Bahawalpur or LeT at Muridke," another officer said.

This will involve jets like Rafales, Mirage-2000s and Sukhoi-30MKIs, armed with long-range weapons like the French 'Scalp' air-to-ground cruise missiles, Israeli Crystal Maze missiles and Spice-2000 precision guided penetration bombs, hitting pre-designated targets, as reported by **TOI** earlier.

The military options are being contemplated after a raft of retaliatory diplomatic measures against Pakistan were announced when the CCS met on April 23, which ranged from the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty to downgrading of the Pakistani high commission and revocation of visas of all Pakistani nationals in India.

Rajnath to represent India at Russia's Victory Day event

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India confirmed Wednesday that defence minister Rajnath Singh will represent India at Russia's Victory Day parade in Moscow on May 9. Russia had invited PM Modi for what would be the 80th Victory Day celebrations but, govt sources said, India had conveyed to Russia weeks earlier that Singh will visit Moscow in his place.

Russian agencies had reported earlier that India was going to send Singh for the event. Russia celebrates May 9 annually, holding a parade in Moscow's Red Square, as victory day to mark the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany in 1945.

An Indian contingent is also likely to participate in the

Although Russia had invited PM Modi for the event, Delhi had conveyed to Moscow a fortnight ago that Rajnath Singh would be going in his place

parade even though it is yet to be officially confirmed. Russian deputy foreign minister Andrey Rudenko had earlier been quoted as saying by a Russian agency that Modi had been invited for the event and he was expected to participate.

However, Modi twice visited Russia in 2024 and it's the turn of President Vladimir Putin to visit India this year for the annual India-Russia summit. Both sides remain in touch diplomatically to finalise dates for the summit that India will host towards the end of this year.

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Amul Diamond	500 mL	38	39
	1L	75	77
Amul Gold	500 mL	34	35
	1L	67	69
Amul T-Special	2L	132	136
	500 mL	30	31
Amul Cow Milk	1L	59	61
	500 mL	29	30
Amul Taaza	1L	57	59
	500 mL	28	29
Amul Slim 'n' Trim	1L	55	57
	2L	108	112
Amul Slim 'n' Trim	500 mL	25	26
	1L	49	51

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Heartbreak at Attari: Couples separated, kids left behind

Yudhvir Rana | TNN

Attari: Cradling her 14-day-old infant, Sara Khan stood at the Attari-Wagah border in her washroom slippers, holding back tears. A resident of PoK, she had been living in India since 2017 after marrying Aurangzeb Khan from J&K. "I had a C-section recently. My stitches haven't healed. Doctors advised me not to travel," Sara said Wednesday as her pleas to stay with her family in J&K, citing her newborn's Indian citizenship, went unanswered.

Sara is among dozens of Pak nationals — mostly women married to Indian men — who have been forced to leave India in the wake of a govt directive issued after Pahalgam attack. The directive has triggered scenes of heartbreak, confusion, and uncertainty at Attari.

Anjum Tanveer, father of a two-year-old Ayeza, was told his wife Attiya Aslam — a Pak national from Gujranwala — must leave India despite four years of marriage. "She was summoned for verification on April 28, and we were told her visa stands revoked," said Anjum, who will now have to play mother to Ayeza. "Punish the terrorists, yes, but why must innocent families suffer?"

Then there's a story of heartbreak for Kashmir's Aamir and Pakistan's Hajira who got married just two days ago. "One day, I brought my wife home with joy, and the next, she was told to leave — it all happened so suddenly," said Aamir.

Fearing covert op, Pak steps up LeT chief's security

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ISI and Pakistan govt have stepped up security for Lashkar-e-Taiba & Jamaat-ud-Dawa chief Hafiz Saeed, fearing a covert operation in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack, sources have said.

Former commandos from Special Service Group have been assigned to his security detail and additional men deployed at his residences, including the one in Mohalla Johar in Lahore, sources added. He has been deliberately placed in a densely populated area that has a mosque and madrasa besides homes of common Pakistani citizens.

As he is currently imprisoned, on paper, his house has been converted into a temporary sub-jail. A control room has been formed to monitor all movements through gesture detection CCTV cameras in a one km radius, sources added.

The 77-year-old LeT founder is wanted by the US and India for the deadly 2008 Mumbai attacks, besides the Pahalgam killings. The Lawrence Bishnoi syndicate also vowed Wednesday to retaliate for the killing of the civilians in Pahalgam. Attaching a picture of Saeed, Bishnoi issued the threat on a social media platform, stating that the group will target an individual of immense value to Pakistan.



The 77-year-old LeT founder is wanted by the US and India for the deadly 2008 Mumbai attacks

Saeed is in the so-called custody of the Pakistan govt, serving a 46-year-sentence as a result of his conviction in seven terror financing cases.

In an order dated April 7, 2022, Saeed was sentenced to 31 years in prison in two cases of terrorism financing. Shown as arrested on paper since 2019, Saeed was already serving a 15-year sentence on similar charges awarded in 2020. The court ordered the sentences run concurrently.

Saeed has made over two dozen public appearances in the last three years, the latest being in Feb this year. Surrounded by a multi-layer security ring, which also has former SSG commandos, Saeed is frequently spotted at terror launch pads in PoK as well as camps in Muridke, Bahawalpur and Rawalkot.

After India nullified Article 370, Saeed renamed Lashkar as 'The Resistance Front' in 2020.

In charged atmosphere, Pak chases ghosts of IAF fighters

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: An official 2am warning in Pakistan about an impending Indian military offensive "within 24 to 36 hours" set the stage for an information blitzkrieg throughout Wednesday, including claims by state-run media that air force jets scrambled to force four IAF Rafale fighter jets to "retreat in panic" from near the LoC.

Some reports said two Indian surveillance quadcopters hovering over LoC in Bhimber & Kotli sectors were shot down. Pakistan's defence minister Khawaja Asif vowed a "decisive response" to any aggression from across the border.

Hours before PTV News reported that several IAF Rafales and Su-30MKIs were "spotted and chased" during reconnaissance along the LoC, information minister Attaulah Tarar put out a statement citing "credible in-



Pakistan's state-run media claimed its air force jets scrambled to force four Rafales to 'retreat'

telligence" that India could strike at Pakistan any time.

"India's refusal to allow neutral probes (into the terrorist attack on tourists in J&K's Pahalgam) reveals its intent," Tarar said, accusing New Delhi of "escalating tensions".

Islamabad denies its involvement in the attack, while India blames Pakistan-backed terrorists of targeting tourists after identifying them as Hindus. Delhi has also demanded

an independent investigation. Jailed ex-PM Imran Khan put out a message through the Tehreek-e-Insaf's X account, "India must avoid reckless actions in this nuclear flashpoint. Peace is not weakness."

Pakistani author and political scientist warned of "catastrophic risks" of going to war. "Domestic pressures are driving this dangerous escalation," she said. "Media frenzy is sidelining restraint."

Former Indian Army officer and strategist, Lt Gen D S Hooda (ret), said "missteps in this charged atmosphere could spark a conflict neither side can contain". US secretary of state Marco Rubio has already engaging with both nations, and UN spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric has urged "urgent dialogue". But diplomacy faces hurdles as the drums of war grow louder. PM Modi has already authorised "full operational freedom" for the forces.

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CSK becomes the first team to drop out of contention for IPL playoffs as Chahal takes a hat-trick in Punjab Kings' 4-wicket win, P 19



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Man loses interim custody of daughter for failing to give home-cooked food during her stay with him

Had Custody For 15 Days A Month, Would Fly From Singapore To Thiruvananthapuram

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
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New Delhi: A man lost interim custody of his eight-year-old daughter, ordered by Kerala HC to stay with her estranged parents alternatively for 15 days in a month, for not being able to provide home-cooked food even for a single day during the stay with him.

After interacting with the child, a bench of SC Justices Vikram Nath, Sanjay Karol and Sandeep Mehta found several reasons — the girl not getting home-cooked food, separated from her three-year-old brother, and no one except father for company — for quashing the HC order on the ground that even though he is

a doting father, the surroundings and circumstances at his place is not conducive for her.

The man, working at Singapore, had rented out a place in Thiruvananthapuram and used to fly down every month to be with his daughter.

Writing the judgment, Justice Mehta said, "Continued consumption of food procured from restaurants/hotels would pose a health hazard, even to a grown-up person, what to talk of a tender aged child of eight years. The child requires nutritious home-cooked food for her overall well-being, growth and development. Unfortunately, the father is not in a position to provide such nutrition to the child."

SC said it would have con-

Continued consumption of food from hotels would pose a health hazard... the fact that the child gets no company whatsoever except for that of the father during the interim custody period is an additional factor which weighs against his claim

SUPREME COURT

sidered asking the father to provide home-cooked food, but "the fact that the child gets no company whatsoever except for that of the father during the interim custody period of 15 days is an additional factor which weighs heavily against his claim for the child's custody at this stage."

Finding the mother works from home and has her parents with her, SC said the girl would get better company at

mother's place in addition to the company of her brother.

SC also frowned at the HC order granting 15-day custody every month of the three-year-old son to the man, terming it "grossly unjustified" which could have serious adverse effect on the emotional and physical well-being of the son being forced to be separated from the mother at a tender age.

"Hence, the emotional and moral support which the child

gets at her mother's home is manifold than what is being provided by the father during the interim custody period. The period of 15 days during which the daughter would be with the father would also lead to deprivation of her company to her sibling, the boy child aged three years," it said.

SC allowed the man to get interim custody of the daughter on alternate Saturdays and Sundays of every month and interact with them on video call two days every week. "On either of these two days, father will be entitled to meet & have interim custody of the child for a period of four hours subject to the comfort of the child and under supervision of a child counsellor," it said.

Courts can modify arbitral awards: SC

One Judge On 5-J Bench Dissents

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We are of the opinion that the court can apply the doctrine of severability and modify a portion of the award while retaining the rest. This is subject to parts of the award being separable, legally and practically

CJI SANJIV KHANNA

New Delhi: Settling divergent judicial pronouncements on the scope of judicial interference in an arbitral award, a five-judge bench of Supreme Court on Wednesday said that to avoid protracted litigation, courts have powers to modify an award to sustain it by severing the 'invalid' portion from its 'valid' part rather than quashing it entirely.

A bench of CJI Sanjiv Khanna, CJI-designate B R Gavai and Justices Sanjay Kumar, K V Viswanathan and A G Masih was grappling with a long-standing grey area — when the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, does not expressly permit courts to modify or vary an arbitral award, should courts strike down awards even when it could be saved by minor modifications? Under Section 34 of the Act, a court can only strike down an award.

Writing the 37-page 4:1 majority judgment, CJI Khanna said, "We are of the opinion that modification represents a more limited, nuanced power in comparison to the an-

nulment of an award, as the latter entails a more severe consequence of the award being voided in toto."

"The limited and restricted power of severing an award implies a power of the court to vary or modify the award. It will be wrong to argue that silence in the 1996 Act, as projected, should be read as a complete prohibition," he said.

Justice Viswanathan penned a 130-page dissent and said courts do not have the power to modify an award as the parties had eschewed the path of litigation to go for arbitration.

CJI Khanna said, "We are thus of the opinion that the court can apply the doctrine of severability and modify a portion of the award while retaining the rest. This is subject to parts of the award being separable, legally and practically."

The majority judgment said courts can also correct clerical, computational and typographical errors apparent in the

award and modify the post-award interest rate. CJI Khanna said striking down an award in its totality just because there was no agreement over rate of interest would cause grave prejudice to parties, who would then have to undergo a fresh round of arbitration.

"This limited power is significant, as it can help avoid further rounds of litigation. Without it, the court may be forced to set aside the entire award or order a fresh round of arbitration because of an erroneous interest rate rather than simply adjusting this rate," the CJI said.

Referring to the extraordinary powers of SC under Article 142 of the Constitution, which enables it to pass any order for the purpose of doing complete justice, the five-judge bench sounded a caution and said this power must be exercised with great care and caution while dealing with arbitral awards.

Mother is a 'lawful guardian', can't be accused of kidnapping kid, says court

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Chandigarh: Punjab and Haryana HC ruled Wednesday that a parent cannot be charged with kidnapping her own child, granting custody of a 12-year-old boy to his Australia-based mother amid a family dispute.

Justice Harpreet Singh Brar made the ruling while hearing a habeas corpus plea filed by Raja Rekhi of Gurgaon, the child's paternal uncle. Rekhi sought the boy's release from what he called the illegal custody of the mother, who had taken the child while his father was away on a business trip to Belgium.

"For an act to amount to kidnapping, it is necessary that the minor is taken from the custody of a 'lawful guardian'. However, a mother falls well within that ambit, especially in the absence of an order passed by a competent court, divesting her of the same," the court said.

The boy's father Amit Rekhi was abroad on April 24 when the mother allegedly broke into his office, took the child's passport, and left with him. According to the uncle's plea, she falsely told police she was taking the boy briefly to visit her parents in Delhi — a claim he disputed, saying her mother does not live there. The petitioner also alleged she intended to

'Marriage not must for individuals in live-ins to seek relief under Domestic Violence Act'

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A magistrate court ordered the man to pay monthly maintenance of Rs 5,000 to his estranged live-in partner

Mumbai: In a significant order, a magistrate's court ordered a man to pay monthly maintenance of Rs 5,000 to his estranged live-in partner and her son from her earlier marriage. The court reiterated that a marriage is not a prerequisite for individuals in a live-in relationship to seek relief under Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (DV Act). The court emphasised that cohabitation in a relationship akin to marriage is sufficient to warrant protection under the Act.

The court's observation came while examining a case where the woman filed for relief under the DV Act against the man with whom she was in a live-in relationship. "Upon reading the Act, it could be held that a live-in relationship in a couple under the same roof, like a relationship

take the child to Australia, where she currently resides.

The mother told the court she came to India because the boy had been left in the care of house help and had requested her presence. She produced call logs and mess-

ages exchanged with the child and argued that as his mother and natural guardian, she retains custody rights until the pending guardianship case before Gurgaon family court is resolved.

The magistrate clarified that the act of filing a rape case by a woman against her live-in partner does not disqualify her from seeking protection and relief under the Act. The magistrate asserted that the existence of a live-in relationship characterised by a physical and emotional bond akin to marriage is the primary criterion for claiming relief, irrespective of any parallel legal proceedings.

The woman moved court in 2024. While she sought Rs 55,000 a month, claiming the man earned monthly income of Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1.5 lakh, the magistrate termed her claim exaggerated and unfair considering the actual income.

"It would be just and

prudent for this court to take into account the wishes and well-being of the detenu, who is 12 years old, and capable of forming a rational opinion about his living situation," the HC said, siding with the mother.

Khan's counsel argued that HC prematurely purged substantive content from the petition and failed to assess pleadings holistically. He cited precedents to assert that arguable claims should not be struck down solely on perceived weakness. SC found no merit in these submissions and upheld HC's reasoning, reiterating that courts are empowered to eliminate material that is unnecessary or obstructive to fair adjudication.

The division bench went through the judge's records and saw that a vigilance team of MP HC, during an inspection in 2012, had found that Taram had acquitted the accused in three criminal cases without writing a final judgment and adjourned proceedings in two cases without writing an order. Following this, he was issued a show-cause notice and a departmental enquiry (DE) was conducted against him.

The enquiry officer found him guilty on all five points included as terms of reference in the DE. It was then that MP HC recommended his dismissal from service. HC held him guilty of grave professional misconduct and dismissed his petition, upholding the termination of service.

In a relief for Nitin Gadkari, SC junks SLPs on 2019 LS polls

Nagpur: SC Wednesday dismissed a bunch of special leave petitions challenging a 2021 order of Nagpur bench of Bombay HC that struck down portions of an election petition against Union minister Nitin Gadkari's 2019 Lok Sabha victory, reports Vaibhav Ganjapure.

A bench comprising Justices Surya Kant and N Kottiswar Singh upheld HC's application of procedural law, concluding there were no grounds to interfere. The petitions were filed by former Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole, who lost to Gadkari in 2019 general election, Nagpur voter Nafis Khan, and other candidates.

Although Gadkari was re-elected to LS from Nagpur in 2024 polls, the court decided to hear the matter on merit. It also directed Nagpur bench to expedite proceedings in the original 2019 election petition, which has been pending for over five years, the petitioners' counsel Shakul Ghatole told TOI.

The case stems from accusations that Gadkari, while filing his nomination in 2019, failed to fully disclose his assets and under-reported campaign expenditure, allegedly violating the Representation of People Act, 1951. In response, Gadkari filed a plea seeking deletion of certain paragraphs from the petition.

Khan's counsel argued that HC prematurely purged substantive content from the petition and failed to assess pleadings holistically. He cited precedents to assert that arguable claims should not be struck down solely on perceived weakness. SC found no merit in these submissions and upheld HC's reasoning, reiterating that courts are empowered to eliminate material that is unnecessary or obstructive to fair adjudication.

SC seeks Centre response on 'illegal clinical trials' in Gujarat

New Delhi: SC Wednesday sought central govt's response to allegations by an NGO that as many as 58 illegal clinical trials have been conducted by national and international pharmaceutical companies in the last four years at Ahmedabad municipal corporation-run Sheth Vadilal Sarabhai Hospital.

Appearing for the NGO, Swasthya Adhikar Manch, senior advocate Sanjay Parikh informed a bench of Justices P S Narasimha and J Bagchi that these trials were conducted in the absence of an ethical committee, which is mandatory under New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019.

The allegation about illegal clinical trials in hospital was narrated, with support from news reports published in TOI, in an affidavit, which was filed in the main petition that highlighted how multinational pharmaceutical majors are conducting clinical trials without adhering to the safeguards provided under the rules and regulations, and treating those undergoing clinical trials as guinea pigs.

The NGO said, "...After coming to know of these clinical trials, Ahmedabad municipal commissioner formed an inquiry committee, which in its report highlighted the irregularities, and has recommended action against the wrongdoers." TNN

Deven Bharti new Mum police chief, supersedes 11

Ahmed Ali | TNN

Mumbai: Deven Bharti (56), an IPS officer of the 1994 batch who's held several key positions including a newly minted role as Special Commissioner of Police for the metropolis — which made him a de facto number two in the Mumbai hierarchy — took over as the city's police commissioner on Wednesday replacing Vivek Phansalkar.

After taking charge, Bharti said "Govt has entrusted me with a great responsibility... I will give it my best to ensure that police services reach the last man. Wherever there is a gap, we will fill it — and we will do so with the help of technology."

To accommodate Bharti as commissioner, govt has downgraded the post of commissioner to the rank of additional DGP. Earlier, the post was upgraded to DGP rank with officers such as Datta Padsalgikar, Subodh Jaiswal, Parambir Singh, Hemant Nagrale and Sanjay Pandey occupying it. Bharti superseded 11 IPS officers who are senior to him.

Bharti told media he would build upon existing frameworks and policies. "I have been part of this force for a major part of my career, and I will continue the same policies. My priority will be to maintain law and order and reach out to every citizen." He reiterated the department's commitment to inclusivity and modernisation, underlining the importance of technolog-



CHANGE OF GUARD: Deven Bharti (R) and Vivek Phansalkar

ical tools in closing systemic gaps in service delivery.

Bharti is considered a confidante of CM Devendra Fadnis, who is also home minister. There is no clarity whether the post of special commissioner which he has been holding will continue.

A native of Bihar, Bharti has had a long and influential career in Mumbai Police. He served as Joint Commissioner of Police (Law & Order) — one of the longest tenures in that role — and headed Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad. He also held the key post of Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) and Inspector General of Police (Law & Order) at the state headquarters.

Bharti handled supervision of a few important cases like the Sheena Bora murder, Indian Mujahideen bombings, Chhota Rajan aide Farid Tanasha's murder and journalist J Dey's assassination. He was also part of the 26/11 investigation headed by IPS officer Rakesh Maria.

Forces reclaim Koragutta Hills in C'garh from Maoists

New Delhi: Chhattisgarh govt sources Sunday claimed to have cleared a portion of Koragutta Hills in Bijapur, which borders Telangana, of Maoists' presence as counter-Naxal forces, who had encircled the Naxal bastion in a massive operation under way for the past nine days, reclaimed the hilltop and hoisted the tricolour there at 5,000 feet, reports Bharti Jain.

Though top Maoist leaders and cadres of the notorious People's Liberation Guerrilla Army's Battalion No. 1 were initially contained at the hilltop and supply lines to them cut as commandos from Chhattisgarh Police's District Reserve Guard and Special Task Force and CRPF's CoBRA battalion dominated access from Chhattisgarh side, a top officer of Chhattisgarh govt said the Naxalites managed to escape to Telangana from the other side of the hill. "It appears Telangana special forces, which were part of the operation initially, were not manning the escape routes on their side," said the officer.

"This region was the bastion of top Naxal commanders like Hidma, Deva, Damodar, Azad and Sujata. Chhattisgarh police and CoBRA battalion have reclaimed the hills on its side. The forces will now set up camps or forward operating bases in Koragutta Hills and hold the area to prevent return of Maoists," an officer told TOI.

After the Maoists were surrounded by the forces and three PLGA cadres killed in the Koragutta operation, CPI(Maoist) central committee on April 25, appealed for a time-bound ceasefire to "create a conducive atmosphere" for peace talks.

Principal, staff acquitted in '14 student's death

Dehradun: The principal of Sherwood College, Nainital, Amandeep Sandhu, who was earlier sentenced to two years' imprisonment for the 2014 death of a Nepalese student by a lower court, has been acquitted by a district court in Nainital, reports Pankul Sharma. The court of the additional district and sessions judge also acquitted school nurse Payal Paul and warden Ravi Kumar, overturning the 2022 verdict by a trial court that sentenced all three to two years in prison.

The court found "no negligence" on the part of the school staff in the death of Shaan Prapatti, who died of septicemia (blood poisoning) in Nov 2014 while being shifted from Haldwani's Bombay Hospital to Delhi. His mother, Neena Shrestha, had alleged school authorities failed to provide timely and adequate medical aid, leading to a case being filed against the three under IPC Section 304A (death by negligence).

HC: Axe judge who acquitted man in 3 cases sans judgment

Ashutosh Shukla & Siddharth Pandey | TNN

Bhopal/Jabalpur: Madhya Pradesh high court has upheld the dismissal of a civil judge who acquitted the accused in three cases without writing an order. He also adjourned proceedings in two cases without passing an order.

Hearing a petition filed by the accused judge, Mahendra Singh Taram, the bench comprising Chief Justice Suresh Kumar Kait and Justice Vinay Jain held him guilty of "grave professional misconduct" and said his dismissal from service was appropriate.

Taram's petition said he had joined as a trainee civil judge class-II at Narsinghpur in July 2003. After training, he was posted at Nagaon in Chhatarpur district and then at

only two annual increments withheld, he had been dismissed from the job.

The division bench went through the judge's records and saw that a vigilance team of MP HC, during an inspection in 2012, had found that Taram had acquitted the accused in three criminal cases without writing a final judgment and adjourned proceedings in two cases without writing an order. Following this, he was issued a show-cause notice and a departmental enquiry (DE) was conducted against him.

The enquiry officer found him guilty on all five points included as terms of reference in the DE. It was then that MP HC recommended his dismissal from service. HC held him guilty of grave professional misconduct and dismissed his petition, upholding the termination of service.

Upholding the dismissal of a civil judge, HC held the accused guilty of 'grave professional misconduct' and said his termination of service was appropriate

Nivas in Mandla district. On HC's recommendation, he was dismissed from service in 2014. He presented a rejoinder against the dismissal order, but it was rejected, after which he filed a writ petition.

Taram pleaded that in addition to work pressure, he was passing through personal problems, and because of his situation, he might have committed some mistakes in discharging his duties. Taram's petition argued that while another civil judge had been let off for similar mistakes with

has been almost six months... Prima facie, the disobedience appears to be contemptuous of the direction issued by this court. Hence, the respondent must show cause as to why the disobedience should not be made the subject of contempt proceedings."

Counsel representing the departmental secretary informed court that in complian-

ce with its order, the departmental promotion committee (DPC) convened on Oct 16, 2024, and approved the petitioner's promotion from deputy director to joint director.

On April 24, the court ordered, "In such view of the matter, the writ petition is disposed of with a direction to the state to implement the recommendation of the DPC as early as possible, but not later than April 28."

Following the directive, additional secretary Prashant Arya issued the promotion order. The division bench of Chief Justice G Narendar and Justice Alok Mehra subsequently disposed of the petition after the department's compliance.

U'khand HC steps in, woman gets promotion pending for 4 years a day before retirement

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Dehradun: Uttarakhand's women welfare and child development department has issued an order to promote deputy director Sujata (goes by her first name only) to the post of joint director, just a day before her retirement, after receiving a warning of contempt notice from the high court over non-compliance with its earlier order.

Sujata, who had been awaiting promotion for four years, retired on Wednesday. The promotion order was issued on Tuesday after the court questioned the departmental secretary for defying its directive and asked why contempt proceedings should



Sujata had alleged govt was deliberately delaying her promotion

uld not be initiated. HC had initially ordered her promotion on Sep 5, 2024, but the department had not acted on it.

In her petition, Sujata alleged govt was deliberately delaying her promotion. Given Sujata's imminent retirement, her counsel urged court for urgent intervention.

During an earlier hearing, the court observed, "It

Khemka ends career marked by 57 transfers & 'inconsequential' roles

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chandigarh: Haryana bureaucrat Ashok Khemka, whose 2012 decision to cancel controversial Gurgaon land deal involving Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's husband Robert Vadra and realty firm DLF cemented his reputation as a stickler for rules, retired from service on Wednesday after a career marked by an astonishing 57 transfers. The 1991 batch IAS officer retired as additional chief secretary of transport department.

BJP had flagged the Vadra-DLF deal as a symbol of corruption during its 2014 Lok Sabha campaign against the then UPA govt. But Khemka didn't quite become anyone's blue-eyed boy. While BJP came to govt at the Centre and the state, the bureaucrat remained a rolling stone, with no consequential assignment coming his way until the fag end of his career. He was appointed additional chief secretary last Dec in a department headed by minister Anil Vij, who is known to trust him.

For some time, Khemka



Ashok Khemka plans to start a new innings as a lawyer

was posted in the science and technology department, which Vij previously headed. Most of his tenure, first under Bhubinder Singh Hooda-led Congress govt and then BJP ministry, was spent in the archaeology and museums department.

BJP had once cited Khemka's alleged persecution as a manifestation of Congress getting even with "a whistleblower". But even before the party had completed a year at the Centre since winning the 2024 polls, he was back in a purportedly inconsequential role.

Khemka had vented on social media and written to the govt about "mistreatment" on

several occasions. In a letter ex-Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar in 2019, he said some of his transfers at the time were "not in public interest, but based on extraneous and personal considerations".

Referring to the DLF-Vadra land deal, which he cancelled after noticing alleged irregularities, Khemka had said: "The promise made to the nation at the time of the 2014 elections is now forgotten."

"Governance is no longer a service; it is a business. Only a few fools like me will think and act like trustees of the public faith. Hoping against hope you will not throw this letter into the dustbin, I also request you to please accord me permission to write and seek an audience from the PM on the issue highlighted in this letter in public interest," he wrote.

He was given a farewell by the IAS Officers Association in the presence of chief secretary Anurag Rastogi.

Khemka told TOI he planned to start a new innings as a lawyer: "I will apply to the bar council for a licence to practice as an advocate," he said.



THE TIMES OF INDIA

Deven Bharti (56), an IPS officer of 1994 batch who's held several key positions, takes over as Mumbai police commissioner, **INSIDE JACKET**

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