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FM: Most people will be better off even without indexation

'Kept Word To Andhra, Tried To Address Flood Havoc In Bihar'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said most people will be better off under the new capital gains tax structure.

TOI INTERVIEW: 19
▶ EDIT PG: Now's The Turn Of Interns/Sense Of Us...

re, despite the indexation benefit being withdrawn, and asserted that govt decided on the new structure after an elaborate assessment.

"This perception that you will be at a disadvantage is not real, it's absolutely not correct... In almost every case, people have a lower tax burden under this system. The small or the medium people who are going into the market or property investments are going to benefit from it," the FM told TOI in an interview. On Tuesday, she had anno-



THE DAY AFTER: FM checks out TOI's special Budget Edition

Look at K'taka. They must honour poll promises without complaining they don't have money for development

It (internship scheme) is optional. We're not forcing anybody. We had a lot of discussion with CII & Ficci...

unced a reduction in long term capital gains tax on property and gold from 20% to 12.5%, while withdrawing the benefit to adjust prices for inflation. This came with the provision that indexation benefit will be available for pro-

that the measures announced for Andhra Pradesh were part of the commitments given at the time of bifurcation of the state. "In Bihar's case, can anyone deny the devastation that happens because of Kosi flooding?" she said.

Sitharaman also said the skilling plan through internship was voluntary for companies and she had received suggestions for such a scheme from various industry bodies. "We're not forcing anybody, we've had a lot of discussion with CII and Ficci and they thought it is possible to do it. It will actually help them because they will have industry-ready people, who can be employed."

She hit out at the Opposition for creating a 'smoke-screen of false narratives' about the Budget allegedly discriminating against some states, asserting that people will see through this. "This brazen method of building a false narrative, repeating it and re-stating it with the hope that it will stick has been tried in the Lok Sabha elections. They are trying it again."

▶ **'Substantial savings', P 18**

Don't travel to NE, J&K, central, east India: US advisory

The US has asked its nationals not to travel to Manipur, J&K and parts of central and eastern parts of the country where Naxalites are active. In a revised travel advisory for India, State Department said it has updated to reflect information on the northeastern states. "Exercise increased caution in India due to crime and terrorism. Some areas have increased risk," it said. Overall, India has been placed at Level 2. But several parts of the country have been placed on Level 4, including J&K & Manipur. US govt employees must get special authorisation to travel to these areas, it said.

Nitish: Asked Centre to put 65% quota provision in 9th Schedule

Manoj Chaurasia
 @timesofindia.com

Patna: Bihar govt is doing its best to unlock the state's revised reservation limit of 65% that was struck down by Patna HC, including urging the Centre to incorporate it into Ninth Schedule of the Constitution to make it immune from judicial scrutiny, CM Nitish Kumar said Wednesday as the assembly descended into bedlam.

Nitish informed the House that JD(U)-BJP coalition had already moved Supreme

Bihar assembly passes bill stipulating up to 10-yr jail, ₹1cr fine for exam malpractices

Amid the NEET-UG paper leak scandal, Bihar assembly on Wednesday passed a bill that stipulates fines up to Rs 1 crore and jail terms ranging between 3 and 10 years for question paper leaks and other malpractices in competitive and govt recruitment exams, reports Manoj Chaurasia. 'Service providers' (entities entrusted with conducting these exams) can be debarred for up to four years and their properties attached, if found involved or are guilty of any lapse.

Court against the ruling by an HC bench in June, based on a PIL challenging the hike in reservation for SC, ST and backward classes from 50% to 65%.

As opposition refused to relent, shifting the focus to Bihar's unfulfilled demand for special status, Nitish said, "Kuchh idea tha (Did you have any idea)? You've been protesting since Tuesday while we've been fighting for it (special status) since 2010."

▶ **'My initiative', P 26**

Kanwariya dead in UP; bid to murder case on 7 pilgrims

Akanwar yatra pilgrim died and another was injured when a speeding bike ran over them as they rested by the roadside in UP's Muzaffarnagar. In another incident, seven kanwariyas were charged with attempted murder and rioting after allegedly attacking two bike-borne men in Saharanpur. 7NN

HDFC Bank hikes deposit rates

HDFC Bank has hiked its deposit rates by up to 20 bps, offering 6.6% to 7.4% interest on 1-year and 55-month deposits, respectively. Senior citizens will get an extra 50bps for all time periods. After HDFC & SBI hikes, other banks may follow suit. P 21

Agniveer turns out to be robber, held

Ishmeet Singh, an Agniveer, was arrested in Mohali Wednesday for leading a gang of highway robbers. Stolen vehicles and arms were found on him. Singh took to crime after returning home to Punjab from his post in Bengal two months ago. 7NN

'3 issues behind BJP poor show in UP'

Around 50,000 grassroots workers of BJP, asked by the party brass to provide their feedback over its poor Lok Sabha poll show in UP, have listed "choice of candidates", "overconfidence" and "worker apathy" as crucial factors. P 14

Selection for the internship scheme will be from a list... It won't be a way for a company to take people they would have recruited anyway and claim subsidy. The entire process will be done in an objective manner through a portal and based on open access. Those with lower employability will be chosen... Govt will soon decide the criteria

—T V Somanathan | FIN SECY

Capital gains changes should be seen as a rationalisation exercise. It was a monumental transformative reform. Similarly, on the I-T side, you have seen a no. of measures towards simplification. Most people gain from the removal of indexation. People are looking at indexation being removed, they are not looking at reduction in rate from 20% to 12.5%

—Sanjay Malhotra | REVENUE SECY

The economy did better last year, and is estimated to continue to do equally well this year. The new expenditure is of the order of ₹50-60k crore plus the RBI dividend being more than what we had estimated. We can say with reasonable confidence 4.9% is an achievable aspiration. This should put less pressure on the market, more money for the pvt sector

—Ajay Seth | ECO AFFAIRS SECY

Seven years of GST have passed, it has now stabilised, the time has come that we look into simplification of the rate structure. There are five petroleum items which are outside GST: crude oil, natural gas, petrol, diesel and ATF. We can see that there can be 2 categories of these items: One used by end consumers and one for further mfg. It has to be gradual but not in one go

—Sanjay Kumar Agarwal | CSIC CHAIRMAN

India tests Ph-II ballistic missile defence system

New Delhi: India Wednesday successfully flight-tested an endo-atmospheric interceptor missile under Phase-II of its two-tier ballistic missile defence system, with the defence ministry promptly proclaiming it demonstrated the indigenous capability to defend against hostile N-capable missiles in the 5,000-km range, reports Rajat Pandit.

The "target missile" mimicking an enemy's long-range ballistic missile was first launched at 4.20 pm from the Dhamra missile complex in Odisha. Swiftly "detected" by radars, the BMD system launched the "advanced area defence endo-atmospheric interceptor missile".

▶ **In works since '90s, P 26**

Agnipath scrapping, MSP guarantee among PC's 5 demands from govt

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Senior Congress leader and former finance minister P Chidambaram on Wednesday cautioned the govt against taking inflation lightly and said every family was hit hard by price rise.

Initiating the discussion on the budget in Rajya Sabha, he raised five demands — that the govt ensure Rs 400 as the daily minimum wage, provide legal guarantee for purchase of farm produce at MSP, waive off unpaid balance of education loans till March 2024, abolish the Agnipath scheme, and allow states to exit from

INDIA bloc slams 'biased Budget'

Slamming the "discriminatory" Budget, INDIA bloc protested at Parliament's 'Makar Dwar'. This seemed to be part of a strategy to put BJP on defensive in poll-bound states of Haryana, Maharashtra & Jharkhand, and those where BJP wants to expand. P 15

NEET if they don't wish to be part of the national exam. During his speech, Chidambaram focused on four themes — jobs, inflation, wages and federalism. "Unemp-

'Pakoda, jalebi for 2 states, zilch for rest'

In both Houses, the Opposition accused govt of giving the lion's share of budgetary allocations to Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. "Sabki thali khali, sirf doke thali me pakoda aur jalebi," Congress chief Kharge said. INDIA bloc parties staged a walkout. P 15

loyment is the biggest problem," he said, citing instances of job seekers far exceeding available openings.

▶ **People's punishment, P 26**

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Humayun Museum brings Mughal era back to life | 4

TEMP ON WEDNESDAY
33.8° MAXIMUM
24.8° MINIMUM
 FORECAST: Generally cloudy sky with light rain. Max and min on Wednesday will be around 34 and 26°C
 SUNSET 7.16 PM (THU) MOONSET 10.42 AM (FRI)
 SUNRISE 5.40 AM (FRI) MOONRISE 10.12 PM (THU)

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 AQI IN DELHI ON WEDNESDAY (SATISFACTORY CATEGORY)

Red Fort scramble crossing hinders traffic flow | 8



Negligence at E Delhi hospital killed 7 babies, says chargesheet | 7

A Thin Red Line That's Blocking Progress Route In Delhi Villages

Haryana Has Used Central Scheme To Demarcate Lal Dora Areas To Good Effect

Atul Mathur@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Living in a small, dilapidated, ancestral house in the urbanised village of Zamrudpur in south Delhi, Rajeev Kumar (name changed) decided to add a floor in 2019. Since the plot measured just 30 square yards and his property was inside the Lal Dora, Kumar did not bother to get the building plan sanctioned. Days later, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi issued him a demolition notice and his close relative had to file a civil suit in court.

Kumar's argument that there were no building by-laws applicable to Delhi's urbanised villages fell on deaf ears. He has been going to the court regularly while braving the frequent MCD notices.

Lal Dora was used in the past to demarcate the jurisdiction of a village on land where the population resided. When the population increased and villagers got a plot for a house against their scattered agricultural land holdings under the 'chakbandi' scheme, the concept of extended Lal Dora was introduced.

As a result, thousands of people living in the city's villages, both rural and urban, do not have clear ownership rights to their properties since the abadi area (the part of a village with residential structures when the rest is farmland) was earlier considered as one khasra, or a plot of land. To add to their woes, despite the division of land among the members of extended families, the names of the next generation were never entered in the revenue records.

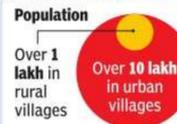
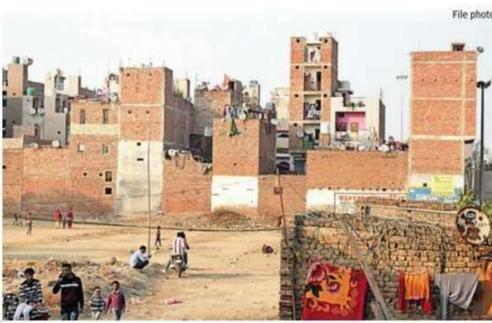
Today, therefore, kin are fighting each other in court for ownership of properties even as it is difficult to renovate or rebuild houses in Lal

HURDLES DUE TO LACK OF CLEAR OWNERSHIP

LAL DORA (red thread) | Used in the past to demarcate jurisdiction of a village; it now denotes boundary of a village, where municipal laws are not applicable

EXTENDED LAL DORA | As population grew and habitation spilled outside village boundary, a new outlying boundary was created and called phirni. Extended Lal Dora areas were the lands between Lal Dora bounds and phirni

- 1908 | Lal Dora notification
- 1952 | Extended Lal Dora notification
- 357 | Revenue-recorded villages in Delhi
- 308 | Urbanised or declared urban villages
- 49 | Rural villages



More than **18,000 acres** under Lal Dora SVAMITVA scheme | Uses drones to map rural land parcels, aiming for integrated property validation. 32 villages in Delhi surveyed

Unauthorised constructions are protected from legal action under National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Act, 2023, till Dec 31, 2026

Issues in areas under Lal Dora

- > No clear demarcation of structures
- > No clear ownership of properties
- > Mutation of properties not done
- > Properties can't be mortgaged
- > Legally repairing or renovating properties difficult
- > Building plans not approved unless properties mutated or sale deed registered
- > Family disputes over ownership
- > Judiciary overburdened due to property litigation
- > Encroachment of public land

Dora areas, with banks also providing no loans against these properties.

Though various states have brought in land reforms to establish a clear land title for villagers, Delhi has not benefited in this regard so far. Even the central gov't's Svamitva (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) scheme, launched in 2020 with the objective of mapping the land parcels in rural inhabited areas using drones, hasn't become operational yet in the city.

Though the scheme is restricted to rural villages, Haryana has claimed to have achieved the status of 'Lal Dora mukt' in rural and urban areas by implementing Svamitva scheme. Paras Tyagi

of the Centre for Youth, Culture, Law, and Environment (CYCLE), an organisation working for public policy reforms with a special focus on villages, wondered why Delhi couldn't do away with the Lal Dora system if Haryana did. Tyagi said Delhi's vil-

TIMES Special

lages could have easily benefited under Svamitva had it been rolled out in the city.

No reaction was available from Delhi gov't on this matter.

It was only on Delhi's insistence that the Union panchayati raj ministry extended Svamitva to the capital despite it having no rural local bodies. In the 49 rural villages, drone survey was completed in 32 in

2022, according to officials. "After that, the draft map was submitted to Delhi gov't, but the ground verification hasn't been conducted. Delhi gov't has been reminded about this through letters and phone calls," claimed an official connected with the scheme.

Tyagi said people should get ownership documents or some alternative that could help them for administrative purposes when rebuilding the house, repairing it or taking a loan on land. "MCD wrote to the revenue department in 2012 to consider some kind of documentation for people living in Lal Dora areas. Even the Master Plan of Delhi 2021 talks about 'abadi/extended abadi certificate' to be issued to people," he said. "But it was only recently that

the revenue department uploaded the facility on its website. It would have saved people a lot of hardship if it had been done earlier."

Deepika Jha of the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, who has studied land administration systems in Delhi, noted that the properties inside the Lal Dora periphery were probably the worst mapped. "It is difficult, therefore, to prove ownership of these properties. Since these areas are exempted from property tax, even MCD doesn't have proper records," said Jha.

Former DDA official Prem Parkash Shokeen, resident of Mangolpur Kalan village, said the absence of land records was the cause of most problems faced by the rural and urban villagers in Lal Dora areas.

SEVERAL AREAS WATERLOGGED DURING RUSH HOUR

After early morning rain, humidity makes city sweat

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Several parts of Delhi got moderate to heavy showers on Wednesday morning. Light to moderate rain is likely on Thursday.

The city recorded an intense spell of rain early on Wednesday. Safdarjung, the city's base station, logged 27mm of rainfall till 8.30am. In the same duration, Pusa and Pitampura reported heavy rain — 80mm and 73 mm, respectively.

This marked the second instance of heavy rainfall in parts of the city since the arrival of the monsoon. The intense rain happened because the monsoon trough was close to Delhi and additional moisture from a western disturbance also came in.

India Meteorological Department's data shows that moderate showers were recorded at Narela (34), Palam (17.8), Lodhi Road (24.2), Ridge (26.6), Ayanagar (14.2), Delhi University (29), and Najafgarh (10.5 mm) till 8.30am.

However, another spell of rain was observed in some areas, as Safdarjung and Pusa received 9mm and 7mm of rainfall, respectively, between 8.30am and 11.30am. Pitampura logged 9.5mm of rainfall from 11.30 am to 2.30pm.

Several areas in Delhi, including the Zakhira underpass and the end of the IP flyover on Ring Road, saw waterlogging. PWD officials later said the water was cleared the same day. MCD received over 30 complaints related to waterlogging and 15 complaints related to the falling of tree branches.

Waterlogging also happened at Ashok Park Extension in East Punjabi Bagh, Pitampura, West Patel Nagar, Kirti Nagar, Rohini, Okhla Industrial Area, West Punjabi Bagh, Shastrri Nagar, West Azad Nagar, Mundka, JJ Cluster in Bawana, Kotla Mubarakpur, Naharpur and Chawri Bazar. Complaints of branches falling were reported from

Photos: Anindya Chattopadhyay



Several parts of Delhi received moderate to heavy showers, with Safdarjung, the city's base station, logging 27mm of rainfall till 8.30am. Nigambodh Ghat (above) was among areas that saw waterlogging

Gaushala Road in Rohini, West Patel Nagar, Naraina Vihar, Raja Garden, Yamuna Vihar, Nimri Colony and Tri Nagar.

After the rain ceased and the sun returned, the high humidity made outdoors uncomfortable for Delhiites. The maximum temperature dipped to 33.8 degrees Celsius, one degree below normal, and 2.4 degrees lower than Tuesday's maximum. The relative humidity oscillated between 74% and 100%. The minimum temperature stood at 24.8 degrees Celsius, three degrees below normal. "A 'yellow' alert has been issued for Thursday for light to moderate rain. However, light rain or thunders-torm is expected from July 26 to 30," a Met official said. IMD

has predicted that the maximum temperature will hover around 34-35 degrees Celsius the next few days. The minimum temperature is predicted to stay 26-27 degrees Celsius.

The city has recorded a rain deficit in July so far: It has received 154 mm of rainfall, against the month's normal of 209.7 mm.

Though the sultry weather has been causing discomfort, IMD has discontinued sharing the heat index or feel-like temperature, which considers both temperature and humidity.

On June 28, when the monsoon arrived in Delhi, Safdarjung had received extremely heavy rainfall of 228.1 mm. The city has been recording only light to moderate showers in July so far.



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CBI Raids On Policemen Intensify But When Will Brass Crack Whip?

Measures To Ensure Transparency & Accountability Must, Say Senior Cops

Rajshankar Jha
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New Delhi: CBI raids, which would earlier sent tremors through the Delhi Police brass and cause the headquarters to go into a heightened state of alarm and do damage control, have become a routine affair. These raids were sporadic earlier, occurring only a handful of times in a year but they were sufficient to cause a significant upheaval in the department.

Now such raids are taking place nearly every week, with several police stations being raided within a single day but the police brass is yet to wake up. No official warnings have been issued, and the officers seem to be unperturbed in the face of these frequent investigations.

This begs the question: what has led to this 'normalisation' of CBI raids? A Delhi Police spokesperson refused to comment when asked what action was being taken against the personnel and their supervisors or if any remedial measures were in the works.

Former top cops and retired senior officers say that this state of inertia may be fostering a sense of brazenness at the ground level. A former

A TAINTED YEAR

<p>July</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-inspector (SI), assistant SI from Sarita Vihar police station held for demanding ₹ 35,000 in a case of matrimonial dispute Two head constables from Patparganj police station held for demanding ₹ 50,000 from woman to not implicate her SI from Hauz Khas police station arrested while accepting ₹ 2.5 lakh to file a favourable action taken report Head constable detained in raid in Govindpuri Two cops booked for demanding bribe to facilitate man's release from Tihar 	<p>June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cop posted at Chhawla police station held Five cops arrested for kidnapping, extorting money from liquor sellers Head constable from Shahdara district held while accepting bribe <p>May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head constable arrested for accepting ₹ 10,000 from man to allow construction <p>March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cop posted at Welcome police station held for extorting money from bus operators 	<p>Feb</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cop posted at Nand Nagri police station held for accepting bribes to allow construction Cop posted at Jamia Nagar police station held for demanding bribe to not make arrests <p>Jan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic cop caught red-handed while accepting bribe to allow garbage collection vehicle to run Cop in Narela booked for extorting money from accountant Cop posted at Sagarpur police station arrested for demanding ₹ 1 lakh to not make arrests
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mer police chief recalled how earlier, SHOs would be swiftly transferred following any such raid at their police station, regardless of their involvement. "Agle transfer list mein naam hota hi tha us SHO ka (the SHO's name used to be in the next transfer list) ... This was done to send a strong signal to ensure supervision at the police station level. I doubt anything of this nature is being done now."

Another top officer, who retired from the post of special commissioner of police (deputy to the top cop in Delhi), said that such raids would leave even the district DCP so mortified that he would be reluctant to come to the police headquarters and make excuses not to turn up for a month or two after the raid.

"There was this young officer who was given a district for the first time... He cited medical issues and didn't come for two meetings after the raid. I remember calling him up and asking him to take it easy as he was the DCP. He was a very sincere officer and was feeling guilty that there had been a raid in his jurisdiction..." the former special commissioner recalled.

Two serving senior officers of different ranks told TOI that they believe the commissioner has himself "informally requested" CBI for the crackdown. "This is what has been conveyed to some officials of the MHA as well, and we were also told the same thing... So, isn't this a good thing? That the police brass is facilitating this action," asked an officer, not wishing to be named.

CBI officials, however, dismissed these as conjectures

and said Delhi Police itself had a vigilance unit that should have been keeping a check on these activities. "There is a complete system in Delhi Police where the cops are kept on lists like one of 'doubtful integrity' and FIRs are registered on receipt of complaints. Had they been proactive about it, we wouldn't have needed to step in," said a source.

Interestingly, while nearly two dozen cops have been arrested and FIRs filed against them by CBI in the last year, the police's vigilance unit has registered barely two-three FIRs so far, according to sources.

Both retired and serving officers concurred that a systemic change was necessary and there should be a fear of consequences for lack of supervision. Many officers acknowledged that the implications of this nonchalant approach towards CBI raids would be far-reaching as they raised concerns about accountability and integrity of the police force. They said the Delhi LG and MHA should take a proactive stance on the issue.

As the frequency of the CBI raids continues to escalate, it is imperative that the Delhi LG and MHA take a proactive stance in addressing this issue, said officers.

Kanwar camp at Kashmere Gate can cater to 20k people: Atishi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi's revenue minister Atishi inspected the kanwar camp being set up at Maharaja Agrasen Park, Kashmere Gate, on Wednesday to ensure "everything was in place" for the comfort and safety of pilgrims. A total of 185 camps are being set up in the capital for the Shiva devotees.

Govt in a statement said the Kashmere Gate camp was one of the largest in the country where arrangements can be made for the stay of about 20,000 kanwariyas at a time. Separate halls are being set up for men and women kanwariyas and a large dining hall has also been prepared for them, it added.

"Serving the Shiva bhakts in the holy month of Sawan is a work of virtue and faith. Kejriwal govt is fulfilling its responsibility by providing all the facilities to kanwariyas," Atishi said.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva, however, said the camps were still being set up while the kanwariyas would start reaching Delhi in large numbers from Thursday. "The arrangements should have started a month earlier. Due to the arbitrariness of AAP govt, tents have not yet been installed and electricity connections are missing. Govt assistance has reached barely a hundred camp organisers," Sachdeva added.

Several Delhi govt officials reshuffled

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Effecting a bureaucratic reshuffle, the services department of Delhi govt on Wednesday relieved senior IAS officer A Anbarasu of the additional charge of principal commissioner (trade and taxes). Anbarasu, a 1996-batch IAS officer, will continue to hold the dual charge of principal secretary of Public Works Department and chief executive officer of Delhi Jal Board. Officials stated that the order was issued following the direction of lieutenant governor VK Saxena.

Sources also mentioned that AAP govt had pointed out that the officer was overburdened with the responsibilities of three important departments, which was affecting the work.

Additionally, the services department appointed 2002-batch IAS officer Nikhil Kumar as secretary in the land and building department. Kumar, who was transferred to Delhi from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands some time

back and was awaiting posting, has held several important positions in Delhi during his previous tenures. The order also announced that Chanchal Yadav, a 2008 batch IAS officer, will take charge as secretary (home).

In another development, KM Uppu, a 2009-batch officer who was looking after the additional charge of excise commissioner, has been relieved of this responsibility. He will now serve exclusively as secretary of New Delhi Municipal Council.

The services department sent 2001-batch IAS officers Arti Lal Sharma and Jitender Yadav, who were awaiting postings, to DDA and MCD, respectively. Ravi Jha, another IAS officer awaiting posting, has been appointed as district magistrate in New Delhi, while Marathe Onkar Gopal has been posted to MCD.

The transfers and postings were made by LG in only those offices which are under his direct control, an official said.

Extortion case against 3 cops; 1 sacked for rape bid

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Two more cases of alleged misconduct by Delhi Police personnel have come to the fore. In the first case, three policemen from the West district cyber unit allegedly thrashed a BBA student and extorted Rs 19 lakh from him by threatening to implicate him in a scam. In the second case, a constable was dismissed from service for an alleged rape bid.

The cops in the extortion case were identified as sub-inspector Brijesh Redhu, and head constables Satish Kumar and Anil Yadav.

The complainant, Sushan, who lives in IP Extension, runs an e-commerce firm. In his complaint, Sushan claimed last year, he

received a call from a "shipping company executive" informing him that one of his customers had been cheated of Rs 25,000 in an OTP scam and had nabbed the delivery boy. He was then asked to reach Tilak Nagar police station.

At the police station, Sushan, his brother Sulav and their friend Aditya were met by cops. In his complaint, Sushan alleged the police confiscated their phones, forced them to sit on the floor and began questioning them in a room where SI Redhu and the two other cops were present.

"From the moment we entered, they treated us like criminals. They accused us of being involved in an OTP fraud, claiming we had come from Darjeeling for this purpose. When I denied the accusations, Brijesh verbally abused me. When I countered him, he ordered his colleague Satish to take me to another room and beat me," Sushan stated in his complaint.

Satish allegedly hit Sushan 10-15 times with his hand and fist and pushed him, causing an injury to his leg. After this, the cops allegedly thrashed Sulav. They allegedly threatened to falsely implicate Sushan and his parents and demanded Rs 40 lakh. Sushan claimed he eventually had to pay Rs 19 lakh.

On July 10, an FIR under sections 384 and 34 of IPC and Section 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act was lodged in the case by the vigilance unit, Delhi Police. Meanwhile, a constable stationed in central Delhi was dismissed from service for allegedly attempting to rape a trainee cop from Jharoda Kalan training academy. He was allegedly in an inebriated state. The incident took place on June 9 when the trainee was walking around the academy with three other people. The constable arrived in a car and reprimanded them. Thinking he was a senior officer, the other three fled but the woman was caught. The constable allegedly took photos of her, threatening to send them to senior officers and have her expelled, said a source. "He coerced her into his car, took her to a secluded spot and tried to rape her. She escaped, informed other trainees and filed a complaint," the source added.

'Spiderman' fined for traffic violation

New Delhi: A 20-year-old man dressed as Spiderman was nabbed in connection with a dangerous driving case by Delhi Traffic Police from Ramphal Chowk, Dwarka, on Wednesday. The accused has been identified as Aditya, a resident of Najafgarh.

In a viral video, Aditya was sitting on the bonnet of a car, dressed like Spiderman, while his friend, Gaurav (19), was driving the car dangerously without wearing a seatbelt and filming a reel. Aditya has been charged under various sections of the Motor Vehicles Act, with a maximum fine of Rs 26,000 and/or imprisonment. He was earlier caught in April after a video of him riding a bike with a girl, also wearing a similar costume and doing stunts, surfaced on social media. TNN

Imam's objection to removal of Sunehri Bagh mosque will be considered, HC told

New Delhi: Delhi High Court on Wednesday said it was not inclined to issue any direction in relation to the proposed removal of Sunehri Bagh Masjid after New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) gave an assurance that the objections raised by its imam would be considered before arriving at a final decision.

Justice Purushendra Kumar Kaurav disposed of the petition by imam Abdul Aziz, challenging a Dec 24, 2023 public notice by NDMC asking people to submit objections/suggestions on removing the religious structure due to alleged traffic congestion in the area in Lutyens' Delhi. "At this stage, the court is not inclined to pass any positive directions," the judge said.

The court took on record the statement made by the additional solicitor general that the objections of the public would be considered as per the law. He also said the decision of the heritage committee on the removal was still awaited.

The petitioner's senior counsel said he would withdraw the petition if the authorities were directed to decide the objections submitted by him before taking any final call. The petitioner submitted that the mosque was more than 150 years old and several government buildings in the area had contributed to the traffic, if any.

In Feb, the court was told by Delhi Traffic Police that the issue was being considered by Heritage Conservation Committee. The NDMC counsel then said a final call would be taken by the committee.

On Dec 18, the court had closed the proceedings in a separate petition by Delhi Waqf Board while recording that the parties would act as per law. PTI

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When Every Artefact Tells A Tale: Mughal Era Brought To Life At Humayun Museum

Complex To Open Doors To Public On Aug 1; To Showcase Architecture Commissioned By Emperors, Collection Of Coins

Anuja Jaiswal
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Stepping into the doors of the newly curated Humayun Tomb World Heritage Site Museum, one is transported back in time to the grandeur and magnificence of the Mughal era. The 700 beautiful artefacts, including the imposing throne of Bahadur Shah Zafar and the intricately carved antiques, could almost make you feel like royalty.

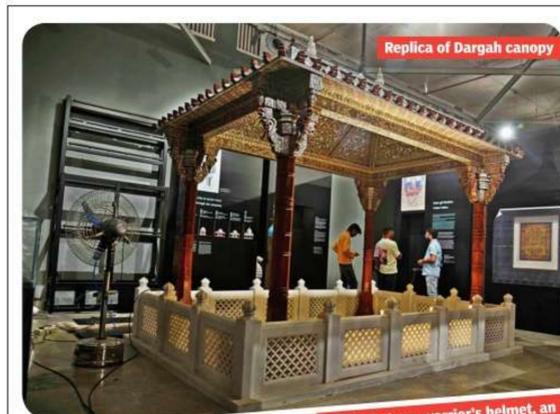
The museum, located in the sprawling Humayun Tomb complex, is set to open its doors to the public on Aug 1. The museum not only showcases the magnificent architecture commissioned by Mughal emperors, but also has some of the finest collections of coins ever minted.

Among the eye-catching exhibits is Emperor Akbar's silver rupee, inscribed with Ram, CE 1596. There is an extensive array of coins representing all 18 Mughal emperors, offering an interesting glimpse into the dynasty's history.

Alongside the numismatic display, the throne of Bahadur Shah Zafar, the last Mughal emperor, stands as a poignant reminder of the empire's decline. The throne's cushion is a work of art, crafted using beetle wings and gold thread.

The museum aims to be more than just a collection of artefacts; it seeks to tell stories through each object on display. One such object is a warrior's helmet from the 16th or 17th century, which holds its own unique tale. During Humayun's journey towards Persia, he and his entourage faced immense hardships. In one instance, the emperor had to resort to sacrificing a horse and cooking its meat in a helmet to survive.

Another notable exhibit is the original golden finial, also known as the 'kalash', which once adorned the dome of Humayun Tomb. Standing at an impressive height of 18 feet, the kalash has undergone meticulous restoration over several years by



Replica of Dargah canopy



A Mughal-era warrior's helmet, an astrolabe and a celestial sphere



Coins of each of the 18 Mughal emperors



Humayun called it Taj-i-izzat or 'the crown of glory'. Its colour was determined by the colour of the planet governing each day of the week



Photos: Jatin Kumar



18-foot-tall original golden finial or kalash that once crowned the dome of Humayun's Tomb



Finial of Neela Gumbad

skilled traditional coppersmiths. The exhibit showcases the fascinating story behind the kalash's design, which draws inspiration from temple architecture.

Upon closer examination, the intricacy of the metallurgy becomes apparent. The teeth of the kalash are interlocked in such a manner that

it has withstood the test of time, remaining atop the dome for 500 years, enduring monsoon winds and various environmental factors.

The museum also houses an intricately carved chattri, or rooftop canopy, which serves as a testament to the grand scale of Humayun's mausoleum. This architectu-

ral element showcases the influence of Rajput funerary design on the mausoleum's construction.

The museum boasts an impressive collection of artefacts, many of which have never been displayed to the public before. The collection is a result of collaborative efforts between National Mu-

seum, Archaeological Survey of India and Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC). The curators have carefully selected and arranged the artefacts to provide visitors with a thorough understanding of the region's rich cultural heritage and history.

"The exhibits showcase a wide array of objects, each

with its own fascinating story to tell. Visitors can explore the lives and traditions of ancient civilizations through these meticulously preserved artefacts. The museum's displays are designed to highlight the beauty and significance of each piece, allowing visitors to fully appreciate their value," said AKTC CEO

Ratish Nanda.

The museum's inauguration will take place on July 29. The event will be attended by tourism and culture minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Prince Rahim Aga Khan.

The museum promises to be a significant addition to Delhi's cultural landscape. "It is expected to considerably lengthen the duration of visits made by people to the World Heritage precinct encompassing Humayun's Tomb and Sunder Nursery," said Nanda.

Visitors can access the gallery block by using the stone ramps. The entrance area leads to an immersive gallery, where visitors are surrounded by a 270-degree immersive screen that offers a virtual journey through the monuments and gardens of the World Heritage site. The gallery features more than 12 films, including an animated production that illustrates the site's development over five centuries and displays the intricate tile patterns that previously embellished the chamber of Humayun's tomb.

The primary gallery, titled "Where the Emperor Rests", centres around the architectural features of Humayun's mausoleum and delves into the emperor's character. It explores various facets of his life, including his journeys across the empire, approach to governing his realm, and his profound passion for literature, astrology and the arts. It also highlights his role as a patron of architecture.

The "Icons of a Sacred Landscape" gallery showcases the contributions of four renowned cultural figures who left an indelible mark on the Nizamuddin area from the 14th century onwards. Among those featured are Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya, a revered Sufi Saint whose teachings continue to inspire devotees to this day. His disciple, Amir Khusrau Dehalvi, a celebrated poet, is honoured for his contribution to the world of music through the creation of the qawwali genre.

DU's MA Urdu students may be taught Kabir couplets

New Delhi: Couplets of mystic poet and saint Kabir will be taught to the students pursuing master's in Urdu at Delhi University from the 2024-25 academic session if the proposed revisions to the first-year syllabus are approved by DU's Executive Council.

The students will be taught a selection of 40 couplets from 'Kabir Bani' in the first semester as part of the revisions recommended by Faculty of Arts, officials said. The suggested readings include 'Kabir Bani' by Ali Sardar Jafri and 'Kabir' by Prabhakar Manchve. The revisions will be part of a paper titled 'Basic Text: Early Urdu Literature'.

The changes were proposed in a Faculty of Arts meeting held on Feb 19. It has been tabled for approval before Executive Council, the highest decision-making body of the university, which will meet on July 27. DU's Academic Council approved the changes in a meeting on July 12. The session is likely to begin in Aug.

The move is aimed at introducing students to the early literary traditions of the Deccan and north India, the programme brochure of the Urdu department stated. "At the completion of this course, students will be able to understand and appreciate the classical poetry and prose in the context of early literary Urdu traditions," it added.

The first-year students will begin their course with 'Kabir Ke Muntakhab Dohe' from 'Kabir Bani', which will be part of Unit 1. Previously, students were taught 'Sub-Ras' by Mulla Wajhi (first half) under Unit 1. PTI

Kanwariya from city run over in Agra

Agra: A kanwar yatra pilgrim died and another was injured when a speeding bike ran over them as they rested by the roadside in UP's Muzaffarnagar. While Amit Kumar, 25, from Mahipalpur, Delhi, died, his companion, Sanni Kumar (23), sustained injuries. The incident took place near Raipur Nanli Khalasi bridge on Khatauli bypass on Tuesday evening. TNN



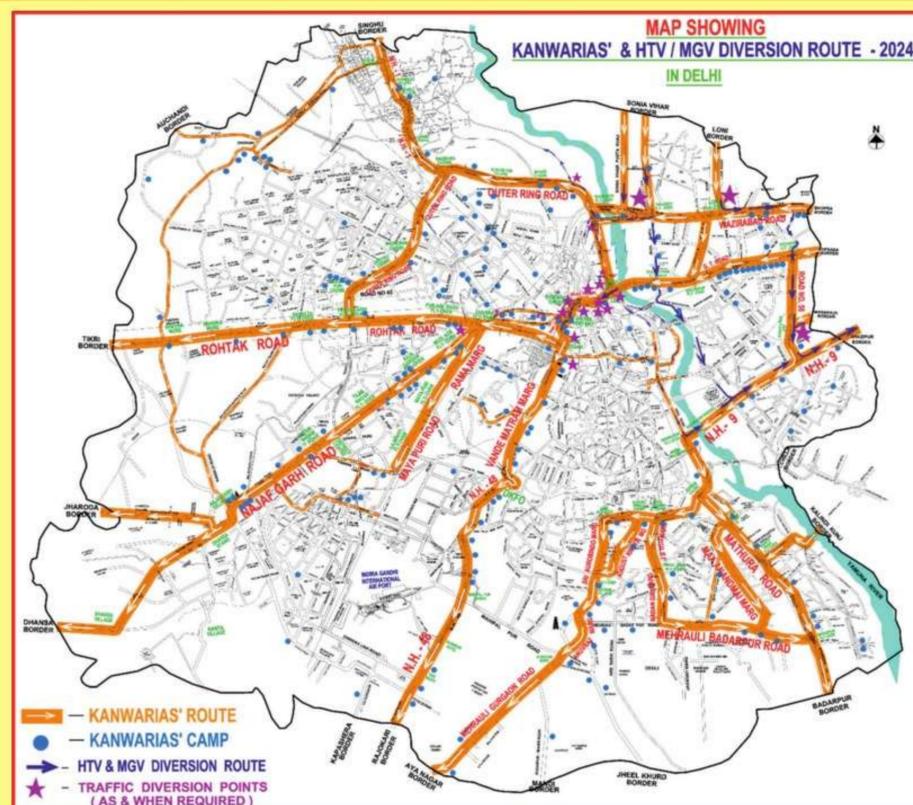
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DUE TO MOVEMENT OF KANWARIAS



Every year during the Hindu lunar month of "Shravan", devotees (Kanwarias) travel on-foot from Gau Mukh, Gangotri Dham and Haridwar carrying holy "Ganga Jal" for offering the same at Shiva Temples on "Shravan Shivratri". The holy expedition called Kanwar Yatra commences on the first day of Sawan (Shravan) i.e. 22.07.2024. It culminates on the Chaturdashi Tithi i.e. 02.08.2024 as holy Ganga water will be offered to Lord Shiva. A large number of Kanwariyas reach Delhi and some of them go to Haryana & Rajasthan via Delhi borders. This year the expected number is about 15-20 Lacs.



These devotees carrying kanwars will pass through below mentioned routes:

- Apsara Border - Shahdara Flyover - Seelampur 'T' Point - ISBT Flyover Boulevard Road - Rani Jhansi Road - Faiz Road - Upper Ridge Road - Dhaura Kuan - NH-8 and exit from Rajokri Border for Haryana.
- Bhopura Border - Wazirabad Road - Loni Flyover - Gokulpuri 'T' Point - 66 Foota Road - Seelampur 'T' Point - NH 1 and further towards new ISBT Bridge.
- Entry/Exit from Loni Border to Loni Flyover from UP or Entry/Exit from Sonia Vihar Border - Pusta Road - Khajoori Flyover - Wazirabad Road from UP.
- Bhopura Border - Wazirabad Road - Wazirabad Bridge - Outer Ring Road - Mukarba Chowk - NH 1 and exit/entry from Singhu Border or Mukarba Chowk - NH 1 - Bawana Road and exit/entry from Auchandi Border or Madhuban Chowk - Peeragarhi and exit/entry from Tikri Border for Haryana.
- Maharajpur Border, Road No.56, Ghazipur Border - NH 24 - Ring Road - Mathura Road and exit from Badarpur Border for Haryana.
- Kalindi Kunj - Mathura Road - Badarpur Border.
- Kalindi Kunj - Mathura Rd - Modi Mill - Maa Anand Mai Marg - M.B. Road.
- New Rohtak Road (from Kamal T-Point to Tikri Border).
- Najafgarh Road (from Zakhira to Najafgarh).
- Rohtak Road from Zakhira to Madipur to Peeragarhi Chowk to Nangloi Chowk to Mundka to Tikri Border.
- Najafgarh Road from Zakhira to Uttam Nagar to Najafgarh Firdi Road to Jharoda Border.
- Outer Ring Road from Madhuban Chowk to Peeragarhi Chowk to Keshopur Mandi to District Centre Janakpuri.
- Dev Prakash Shastri Marg from Rattanpuri Chowk To Loha Mandi.

Diversion plan during the days of heavy rush hours:

- HTVs will be diverted by UP Police from Mohan Nagar towards NH-24 and no such traffic will be allowed towards Wazirabad Road via Bhopura and/or towards GT Road via Apsara Border.
- HTVs except city buses will not be allowed on GT Road towards Shahdara and Wazirabad Road.
- Heavy Commercial transport vehicles except city buses coming from GT Karnal Road at Outer Ring Road will be diverted straight towards NH-24 and will not be allowed to move on Wazirabad Road and GT Road towards Shahdara.
- Heavy commercial transport except city buses coming from Loni Road (Shahdara side) will be diverted on Wazirabad Road to exit from Outer Ring Road.
- Heavy commercial transport except city buses coming from internal area as like Sonia Vihar, PTS Wazirabad Pusta, Pusta Road will be diverted towards Outer Ring Road via Wazirabad Road to take NH-24.

During these days, due to the movement of Kanwariyas and setting up of "Kanwaria Camps" on road side, traffic congestion/obstruction is experienced at several places. Generally heavy traffic congestion occurs on Najafgarh Firdi, Rohtak Road, Pankha Road, Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, Nangloi-Najafgarh Road, Outer Ring Road, Rani Jhansi Road from Baraf Khana Chowk to Fire Station, Boulevard Road and at Azad Market Chowk, Gokul Puri Fly Over, 66 Foota Road, Maujpur Chowk, Badarpur T Point, Mathura Road. Similarly, traffic congestion is experienced on NH-08 from Dhaura Kuan Metro Station up to Rajokri Border. Due to diversion of vehicular traffic, bound for Apsara Border and Maharajpur Border to Ghazipur, by UP Police, there will be congestion on NH-24 as well.

Motorists and road users are advised to plan their movement in advance to avoid inconvenience and delay. In addition to these important roads and intersections, Kanwariyas movement is observed in smaller numbers in several locations all over Delhi. Delhi Traffic Police has made elaborate arrangements to segregate the movement of Kanwariyas and other road users and to minimize inconvenience to the general public and devotees. The devotees and road users are advised to follow the traffic rules and obey the directions of Policemen on duty. During this period of Kanwariyas movement, traffic violation will be checked by on the spot prosecution and by photography/videography of violations which will be followed by prosecution.



General public and motorists are advised to keep patience, observe traffic rules and road discipline and follow directions of traffic personnel deployed at all intersections and remain updated through:

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DU To Raise Passing Criteria From 22 To 28 Credits For UG Students

One Will Need To Pass At Least 2 Core Subjects, Proposal Gets VC's Nod

Ridhima Gupta
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Delhi University is poised to modify the passing credit system for promoting students to the next year in all its undergraduate courses. Previously, students were required to earn 22 out of the total 44 credits to advance to the next year, a figure that has now been increased to 28 credits.

DU students will now need to pass at least two core subjects and secure a minimum number of credits, explained academic affairs dean Prof K Ratnabali.

Under NEP Undergraduate Curriculum Framework 2022, each semester comprises seven papers totalling 22 credits, resulting in 14 papers with 44 credits in one year. Additionally, students have the option to select one more core (DSC) paper worth four credits, allowing a student to earn a maximum of 26 credits in one semester and 52 credits in an academic year.



CORE TEST

However, not all papers carry the same number of credits. For example, out of seven papers in the I/II semester, three papers (AEC, SEC, VAC) are worth two credits each,

while four papers (three DSC and one GE) are worth four credits each. Similarly, in the III/IV semester, three papers (AEC, SEC, VAC) have two credits each, and four papers (three DSC and one GE/DSE) have four credits each.

Therefore, based on these provisions, a student could be promoted to the subsequent year by passing three papers (AEC, SEC, VAC) from both semesters and one GE paper, earning only 16 credits out of 44. This amounts to only 36% of the total credits but 50% of the total number of papers. Importantly, there is no obligation to take the core academic subjects to achieve the minimum credits required for passing the semester and further promotions.

Speaking to TOI, Prof Ratnabali said, "Earlier, students had to pass 50% of the papers from I and II semesters combined. What happened was a student who cleared five papers in one semester without study-

ing for the next could still be eligible to advance to the subsequent year. We noticed many students were exploiting the system by not attending classes or studying in the latter half of the semester and still becoming eligible to clear the exam. Hence, the university is now introducing the new credit system."

However, students representing Delhi University in sports, extracurricular activities, NCC and NSS, among others, may be exempt from this criteria, subject to approval from their college's competent authority.

A 12-member committee comprising principals from several DU colleges, including Miranda House, Kirori Mal College, and Lady Shri Ram, along with the dean, academics and controller of examination, convened a meeting on May 7 and made its recommendations, the official said. These recommendations were later approved by DU vice-chancellor Yogesh Singh on May 28, she added.

BJP counters Atishi's 'betrayal' remark on Budget

New Delhi: Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva on Wednesday countered Delhi minister Atishi's charge that the Union Budget has "betrayed" Delhi, and accused AAP of "misleading" the people of the city.

Addressing a press conference, Sachdeva said Kejriwal gov't has alleged that there was a deduction in Delhi's health budget, but in reality, the allocation has increased by 12.6%.

"To give relief to the people of Delhi from traffic issues, the central gov't has already spent Rs 30,000 crore on various projects, more projects worth Rs 35,000 crore are underway. AAP, however, is doing cheap politics and misleading the people of the city," he said.

He charged that AAP gov't never said a word on Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana that was stalled by it. Had it been implemented in Delhi, more than 5

lakh people from the economically weaker section could have got a permanent house till now, he added.

"AAP habit is to lie all the time, but the people of Delhi know the truth," he said.

Reacting to the Union Budget tabled in Lok Sabha on Tuesday, Atishi said it had "betrayed" the people of the national capital who paid more than Rs 2 lakh crore in taxes to BJP-led central government. PTI

Victim awarded ₹92L in Ggn hit & run case

Appropriate that Ridge matters be heard by same bench, says SC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Gurgaon: After a two-year legal battle, the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) awarded Rs 92 lakh in compensation to a security guard who was injured in a hit-and-run accident and has since been in a vegetative state.

Sandeep Singh, then 24, was working as a guard at Ireo Victory Valley in Sector 67 when an SUV driven by a society resident ran over him on March 25, 2022. He suffered spine and leg fractures, punctured lungs and brain injuries.

Belonging to MP's Morena district, Singh was weeks away from joining the police force, having cleared the constable exam in his home state.

Singh's mother Meena filed a petition before the tribunal, seeking compensation of Rs 2 crore on May 27 that year. She said her son was the sole breadwinner for the family.

The tribunal, headed by presiding officer Sunil Chauhan, after hearing both parties and going through evidence, on Ju-

ly 9 directed the car's driver - Manas Sachdeva - and insurance company Tata AIG to pay Rs 92,60,309 along with interest of 7.5% per annum in compensation to Singh.

The presiding officer said that the amount should be deposited into the MACT account at the district court. After the accident, Singh was rushed to W Pratiksha Hospital in the city, and was later shifted to Fortis Hospital, Park Hospital and ESI Hospital for months. After multiple procedures and surgeries, doctors saved his life but remained in a coma. In a vegetative state, he is now with his family in Banda village of Morena.

"No amount of money would bring back the promising life that Sandeep had ahead of him. He was pursuing BPharma, had a penchant for science and had already had a couple of opportunities of selection in para-military forces. He was just the kind of child that the family needed to pull itself out from poverty, said Krishna, his elder brother.

Continued from P1

Perhaps the case landed up before the two benches because of the overlap of their briefs - the bench headed by Justice Gvai deals in forest matters, while the one headed by Justice Oka adjudicates issues pertaining to environment, including the pollution crisis in NCR and protection of green cover around Taj Mahal and Taj Trapezium Zone. Going by the domain, permission for cutting of trees has to be sought from the Justice Oka-led bench.

The bench headed by Justice Gavai had passed an order restraining DDA from allotting land in the Ridge area to anyone without the court's permission and issued a contempt notice to the DDA vice-chairman in April when it was brought to its notice that certain parcels had been given for widening of a road in violation of its order.

In the meantime, another petition was filed in the SC

highlighting that hundreds of trees were cut in violation of the law for widening of roads, and was listed before a bench headed by Justice Oka, which too issued a contempt notice to the DDA vice-chairman on illegal cutting of trees. Hearing in the case has reached an advanced stage in the last one month and the court, after examining the records, found that there was violation of law on behalf of all authorities concerned.

As the case came up for hearing on Wednesday before Justices Gavai, Prashant Kumar Mishra and K V Viswanathan, they noted that another bench was also hearing the matter and said it was not proper that parallel proceedings be conducted in the case.

Advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for the petitioner who had brought to the court's notice the felling of trees, said it was not a case of impropriety by the Justice Oka bench as separate applications

were filed. Opposing the submission made by senior advocate Vikas Singh on behalf of DDA seeking the court's permission for widening of roads, he said DDA had assured the other bench that it would withdraw the notification and it could not be allowed to do a U-turn. He further said it did not make any difference to him which bench heard the case but he was concerned about the court's order.

Advocate K Parameshwar, who is assisting the court as amicus curiae, told the bench that the contempt proceedings initiated by the Justice Oka-led bench have "substantially travelled".

The court, after a brief hearing, passed an order referring the case to the CJL. "In order to avoid conflicting orders, it is appropriate that matters of Ridge area be heard by the same bench. We direct the registrar judicial to place it before the CJL to obtain necessary instructions and clarifications," it said.

Arnav Narayan Tiwari
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'Negligence Behind E Delhi Hosp Fire'

Chargesheet Cites Faulty Design, Licence Violations & More

Families struggle to cope with the loss of tiny lives

Abhay@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Faulty structural design, delayed dissemination of information, violation of licences and failure to install firefighting equipment were among the acts of negligence cited by police in the chargesheet filed in the case of a fire in a children's hospital in east Delhi's Vivek Vihar on May 25, which resulted in the tragic death of seven new-born babies.

The chargesheet, nearly 800 pages long, was submitted to the Karkardooma court on Wednesday. Police have charged Dr Naveen Khichi, owner of Baby Care New Born Child Hospital in Vivek Vihar, and Dr Akash, a BAMS graduate who was the on-duty doctor with overall charge of the hospital on the night of the incident. They were booked under Indian Penal Code's sections 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide) and 34 (common intention) alongside Section 75 (punishment for cruelty to child) of the Juvenile Justice Act.

"Our investigation revealed that Dr Khichi, a qualified doctor, had knowledge that the newly born babies are vulnerable and even a small incident could be fatal for them," police said. The case was initially registered under IPC Section 304A (negligence), but on the basis of the evidence on record, charges of culpable homicide, attempt to commit culpable homicide and common intention were subsequently added. Section 75 of the JJ Act was also invoked.

The two men have been accused of running the hospital with an unpermitted number of beds, without qualified resident medical officers and nurses, without fire safety gear on the premises and of not acting swiftly when the fire broke out. "Only BAMS (Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery degree holders) were deployed to take care of infants,"



LOCATION
Baby Care New Born Child Hospital, C-54, Vivek Vihar

DATE | May 25

ACCUSED

- Dr Naveen Khichi, owner of hospital
- Dr Akash, overall in charge of hospital for the night

Fire killed seven newborns

WHAT CHARGESHEET SAYS

- Hospital owner was operating NICU with 12 beds, had licence for just five
- None of the staff possessed required degree for working in a neonatal intensive care unit
- Cooking was conducted on terrace of NICU, which was completely illegal
- Structural design of nursing home was not safe for emergencies
- Oxygen gas cylinders were stored beyond permissible limits
- Staff kept inflammable material at hospital, which aggravated the fire
- There were no fire safety equipment or devices
- There was delay of 30 minutes in reporting the fire to police

CHARGED UNDER | Sections 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide) and 34 (common intention) of IPC, along with Section 75 of JJ Act

The chargesheet stated that no document in the application file demonstrated the hospital's installed or devised safety measures. "The building lacked the required space for a 12-bed NICU. Documents from the Directorate of Health Services confirm that the alleged nursing home was granted a licence for a five-bed NICU in 2021 for three years. The renewal application was pending with DGHS," the chargesheet notes.

Police investigation also uncovered a violation committed by the baby care centre in 2019. But DGHS had nevertheless issued a licence, the cops said. "At the time of

the fire, there were 31 gas cylinders in the hospital. They flouted the guidelines by storing more cylinders than prescribed and kept the cylinders in a hazardous manner," the chargesheet claims.

The nursing staff on duty told the cops that the owner of the building often allowed the male staff to cook on the rooftop, which is not permitted. They claimed to have brought the issue to the knowledge of Khichi, but nothing was done. Police also found that the structural design of the nursing home was not safe for emergencies. There was inflammable material, such as old papers and wooden debris, stored in the

hospital, a fire risk in hot weather. Such combustible materials had indeed aggravated the May 25 fire.

"Two eyewitnesses were examined, who saw the spread of fire and also made a PCR call. Dr Akash was seen calling on the phone but he did not make a PCR call. That caused a delay of about 30 minutes in reporting to police," the chargesheet says. The autopsy surgeon opined that the cause of death of the infants was due to burns. The viscera and femur for DNA analysis of the babies were submitted to Forensic Science Laboratory, Rohini, for analysis and expert opinion. The results are awaited.

Abhay@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The tragedy in east Delhi's Vivek Vihar neonatal care centre left families with a void that cannot ever be filled. The parents of the babies who died and those who suffered injuries continue to grapple with trauma and the financial aftereffect of the blaze.

Some families whom TOI spoke to have received partial financial compensation for the tragic loss of their infants. Others await the gesture. Many of the parents are also unaware of what the investigation has revealed.

Masi Alam lost his four-day-old son on May 25. The tot was on oxygen support. "It was around 7am when I received a phone call from my sister about the fire," said Alam, who was shocked to hear that his child had died. "That call still rings in my ear because it turned my life upside down."

It was someone's greed that resulted in the loss of their precious children for the parents, said Alam, who has so far received Rs 1 lakh as compensation from the sub-divisional magistrate's office.

Seema hasn't even had the cushioning offered by a govt compensation after losing her twin babies in the fire. "Nothing has been done for us so far," she told TOI. "The scar will remain forever. We don't want to talk much about what happened that day."

The daughter of Rakesh Kumar was luckier though she is still in hospital, where she is receiving treatment. "She will have to remain there for treatment for at least one month," said Kumar. "The girl inhaled a lot of toxic smoke." Kumar too hasn't received any compensation. "Nobody has offered us any help whatsoever," the father said. "My family and my work life were affected by the fire. As a father, I am still

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DIMTS asks bus operators to do surprise alcohol checks on drivers

New Delhi: Drivers operating the cluster buses will soon undergo random breathalyser tests to ensure they were not under the influence of alcohol. Additionally, they will be assigned a single duty to guarantee they receive sufficient rest and do not experience fatigue while driving.

The decisions were taken by Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System (DIMTS), which oversees cluster bus services in the city, following a training session on Tuesday for its 17 bus operators. After the training session, DIMTS issued a set of instructions regarding driver sensitisation and the conducting of checks on them.

The initiative comes days after an accident in which a woman was killed, and 34 people were injured when a bus crashed into a metro pillar near Shivaji Park metro station.

"There have been incidents of cluster bus accidents in the recent past. There was a need to sensitise the bus operators. Apart from making them aware of the measures that need to be taken to avoid cluster bus accidents, they were also issued directions related to conducting checks on drivers," said an official, adding that there were nearly 9,000 drivers under DIMTS who operate more than 3,100 AC and non-AC buses on various routes in the capital.

What's in the name? Sibling love, says 'ADIDAS' owner, & loses case

Abhinav.Garg@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A businessman's claim that he named his company ADIDAS due to affection for his sister has failed to pass muster before Delhi High Court, which permanently barred him from using a name similar to that of a German sports and apparel company.

Ruling in favour of the multinational firm, which pursued a trademark infringement complaint for 13 years, the court refused to accept the rationale offered by the local company.

Keshav Tulsiani, partner/director of Adidas Weaving Mills, Adidas Textile Industries and Adidas Merchandise Private Limited, claimed that from childhood, he held deep admiration for his elder sister, addressed as 'adi' in the Hindi community. Due to this, he was commonly descri-

The multinational firm pursued the trademark infringement complaint for 13 years

bed as her devotee — 'Das' in Hindi. Consequently, the term 'ADIDAS' — a devotee of elder sister — was conceived, he claimed.

Justice Sanjeev Narula, however, not only brushed aside the explanation but also directed 'ADIDAS' to pay Rs 14.22 lakh in damages, including expenses incurred by the foreign company for the case.

The court said its direction was "supported by the clear likelihood of confusion among the consuming public about the origin of the goods, which is precisely what trademark law seeks to avoid. The plaintiff's claim of infringement is thus well-founded, given the simi-

larity of goods and the identity of the marks used. The defendants have failed to substantiate their claims of prior use or honest adoption with credible evidence and have lost their registration status."

The legal protection of trademarks, it noted, is also meant to secure the owner's investment in the mark. "The term 'ADIDAS', being invented and highly distinctive, is unlikely to be chosen innocently. The unauthorised use of such a mark not only infringes on the trademark owner's rights but also risks diluting the mark's unique identity," it observed.

Justice Narula recognised that 'Adidas' is a coined term, lacking any inherent linguistic meaning, and is, therefore, considered a unique word. Due to the distinctiveness, it is "given a wide ambit of protection under trademark law."

HC seeks police's response to Umar Khalid's bail plea

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi High Court has sought police's stand on Wednesday on the bail plea of former JNU student Umar Khalid in a UAPA case.

The case relates to the alleged larger conspiracy behind the Feb 2020 riots in north-east Delhi.

A bench of Justices Suresh Kumar Kait and Girish Kathpalia issued the notice, asking the police to file its reply. They listed the bail plea for hearing on Aug 29, along with pending applications of other co-accused.

Khalid, who was arrested by Delhi police in Sep 2020, has assailed a recent trial court order refusing to grant him bail in the case. Along with Imam and the others, he has been booked under the anti-terror Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), and Indian Penal Code (IPC) for allegedly being among the "masterminds" of the riots that left 53 people

dead and over 700 injured. The violence erupted during protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and National Register of Citizens.

The trial court had in May rejected Khalid's plea seeking regular bail for the second time, stating that its previous order dismissing his first bail application had attained finality.

"When Delhi High Court has already dismissed the criminal appeal of the applicant (Khalid) vide order dated Oct 18, 2022, and thereafter, the applicant approached Supreme Court and withdrew his petition, the order of this court as passed on March 24, 2022 (on the first bail plea) has attained finality and now, in no stretch of imagination, this court can make an analysis of the facts... and consider the relief as prayed by him," it said.

In 2022, the high court upheld the dismissal of Khalid's first bail plea and said the police's allegations against him were prima facie true.

Upkeep of Karol Bagh parks to be handed over to specialised agency

Vibha.Sharma@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Following the example set by other agencies like Delhi Development Authority, Municipal Corporation of Delhi is working on a plan to outsource the maintenance of parks to specialised agencies on a zone-wise basis. As a pilot project, the plan is likely to be implemented in the Karol Bagh zone, where 180 acres of land will be allocated to an agency at a tentative cost of Rs 5 crore.

"Upon the successful implementation of the pilot project, a similar model will be adopted in other zones. We are going to finalise the proposal soon. DDA is already following a similar model and the maintenance of parks as well as green belts along Rajghat, etc., is being taken care of by specialised agencies," said an MCD official.

The civic body claims that the initiative aims to improve the upkeep and beautification of the city's green spaces at a time when it is struggling to maintain colony parks due to staff shortage. While MCD has designated posts for over 6,000 malis, nearly 2,200 of these are vacant.

"With this plan, we will be able to get quality maintenance work done through expert agencies which will be responsible for getting work done through its staff at a

defined cost. Compared to hiring multi-tasking workers, this will be a cheaper option. The existing staff in Karol Bagh will be shifted to nearby areas based on the requirement," said the official.

"The agency will be responsible for maintaining the parks and arranging the necessary equipment. MCD will be responsible for arranging the water supply and providing plants. As the services will be provided uninterruptedly, we are also expecting a decline in the number of complaints. Whatever complaints are received by our section officer through the app or by our supervisory staff through residents will be automatically shared with the concessionaire," the official stated further.

While corrective measures have to be taken in a time-bound manner, as an additional layer of monitoring, the maintenance work will be regularly supervised by the zonal in-charge.

MCD manages 15,226 municipal parks spread across a total area of 5,172 acres. According to MCD's records of organised green spaces, around 90% of the city's parks, including parks in residential areas, are smaller than 5,000 square metres in size. These green spaces act as breathing spaces for the residential areas.

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Atishi directs chief secy to probe electrocution death of 26-yr-old

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi govt has directed the chief secretary to initiate an inquiry into the electrocution of 26-year-old Nilesh Rai in central Delhi's Patel Nagar. It has also decided to provide ex gratia to the deceased's family and minister Atishi has asked the chief secretary to send a proposal by Thursday.

Atishi wrote, "A young precious life has been lost due to the negligence and apathy of govt officials. The cause of death needs to be ascertained, and responsibility needs to be fixed in order to give a clear message that such instances will not be tolerated in future."

The chief secretary was

Man electrocuted at west Delhi residence

New Delhi: A 65-year-old man, identified as Naresh, was electrocuted at his home in west Delhi's Mayapuri on Wednesday. Police responded to a call from a hospital about the admission of a patient and discovered that Naresh had been pronounced dead. His brother, Ravindra, informed cops that Naresh was electrocuted while retrieving something from a storage area. The officers are currently investigating the incident. **TNN**

directed to initiate an inquiry and suggest action that should be taken against those responsible for Monday's in-

cident. A report on the same is to be sent to the office of the minister by Friday. He was also asked to suggest policy measures to avoid such incidents in the future.

Meanwhile, an inspection was carried out at the spot to pinpoint the exact location where the live wire was exposed and had made contact with the iron gate. "We have written to multiple agencies requesting case details," a senior police officer said.

Abhishek, one of the victim's friends, said the forensic team had revisited the scene and collected a red wire for analysis.

Rai, who was originally from Deoria in Varanasi, had moved to Delhi several years ago to prepare for the

UPSC exams.

Police investigations revealed that he was returning to his PG accommodation from a nearby library when the electrocution occurred. "One of the exposed wires had come into contact with water, electrifying the gate," residents claimed.

Despite their desperate attempts to rescue Rai, he couldn't be saved. Rai was wearing a thread on one hand that also got entangled in the iron bars of the gate, hampering the efforts to pull him away.

A case has been registered under sections 106(1) (causing death by negligence) and 285 (danger or obstruction in public way or line of navigation) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

NGT notices over encroachment on forest land

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued a notice to the forest department, ministry of environment and forests, and the district magistrate (south Delhi) in a matter related to encroachment on forest land in Saket.

Taking suo moto cognizance of a news report, NGT observed that 500 jhuggis have been built on the forest land. "The news item relates to encroachment in the forest of about six hectares between Press Enclave and Saket Sports Complex in Saket. It raises a substantial issue relating to compliance with provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, and the Environment Protection Act, 1986," said the bench headed by Justice Prakash Shrivastava.

The tribunal observed that there are allegations of dumping and burning of garbage, including plastic and rubber, in the forest. This is causing severe inconvenience to the residents of the nearby area. Furthermore, the encroachers are now trying to build permanent houses here. If they are not removed soon, this entire forest will be destroyed. It is alleged that even after inspection of the area by the forest department, no action has been taken, noted NGT.

TOI had also reported about this matter on June 24. Residents in Saket have alleged that a parcel of land, which is a deemed forest, behind Press Enclave, has been encroached upon by around 500 jhuggis.

Press Association Co-operative Group Housing Society claimed that these illegal occupants have caused considerable harm to the local fauna and flora, "often cutting down trees and plants for firewood, and creating a forest fire to grab more land."



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DDA floats tenders for coaches at its sports complexes

Vibha.Sharma
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has invited applications from professional sports coaches or coaching agencies to provide training to interested Delhiites at its sports complexes in various disciplines across the city.

The coaching will be provided on a revenue-sharing basis with some terms and conditions.

DDA operates 17 sports complexes, which have a total membership of over 53,386, excluding dependents, and are utilised by approximately 213,235 people each month on average.

Approximately, 158 coaching schemes with over 6,175 trainees are being operated at these sports complexes, some of which are Chilla Sports Complex, CWG Village Sports Complex, Saket Sports Complex, Siri Fort Complex, Dwarka Sports Complex at Sector 17, and Roshanara Club. Coaching. The complexes provide sports training to both members and non-members.

"While DDA charges a fee for using the facilities at the complexes from members or non-members, provision for coaches is also provided after paying additional fees," an official said. "The days of the week and timings for coaching are to be decided by the DDA management as per requirement and availability of the facilities. A maximum of two sports complexes will be awarded to any coach or coaching agency in any discipline," the official said.

Usually, sports complexes do not run the coaching sessions during peak hours,

DDA operates 17 sports complexes, which have a total membership of over 53,386, and are utilised by 213,235 people each month on average

such as from 6am to 8am and from 6pm to 8pm. "During this time, the utilisation of facilities is meant for regular members. However, if there is any spare capacity, as assessed by the secretary of the complex, coaching can be permitted during these hours also, subject to conditions," the authority said.

DDA will provide the infrastructure and maintain the facilities, the coaches or agencies will be responsible for the sessions.

"The share of coaching charges for all outdoor coaching would be 60:40 between the coach and DDA, respectively. However, for facilities for which DDA provides most training aids, and indoor facilities, the ratio of sharing would be 50:50. As per norms, mandatory free coaching is to be provided to at least 10% of trainees from economically weaker sections," the authority said in its proposal inviting the tenders on June 23.

Officials clarified that the opportunity for the extension of coaching contracts would not be provided to coaches or agencies who have not imparted free coaching to the minimum number of trainees. "If there is a requirement to impart coaching to EWS sections by more than 10% of trainees, then DDA will pay the coaches their share of the fees over and above the mandatory 10%," an official said.

Fire engulfs Narela footwear factory, no fatalities: A massive fire erupted in a footwear manufacturing factory in Narela on Wednesday. Delhi Fire Services (DFS) said the establishment did not have a fire NOC. The inferno rapidly spread, consuming the basement, ground floor, and two additional floors above. No fatalities were reported. A DFS officer told TOI, "We received an alert at 6.34 am on Wednesday about a substantial fire that had engulfed a factory. We promptly dispatched 25 fire tenders and deployed over 150 firefighters to combat the blaze." The officer further elaborated, "It took 11 hours to bring the situation under control." A probe is currently underway to ascertain the cause of the fire. **TNN**

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Essential qualifications	As per NMC guidelines "Shall possess a recognized postgraduate medical degree from a recognized Institution"
Experience	As per NMC guidelines "Minimum of ten years teaching experience as Professor/ Associate Professor in the relevant departments of the Hospital, out of which at least five years should be as Professor"
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NOTE:-

- If a serving officer is joining on deputation basis, then the **deputation rules of Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT vide OM No.6/8/2009-Estt(Pay-II), dated 17.06.2010)** shall apply in that case.
- The remuneration of contract appointment of retired Government Employees shall be regulated as per Government of India Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure, New Delhi, OM No 3-25/2020-E. IIA dated 9th December 2020.

General Condition:-

- Eligible candidate can apply for the post in the prescribed Performa (available at the institute website <http://andsw1.and.nic.in/aniims> and website of A & N Administration <https://www.andaman.gov.in>) along with self-attested photocopies and the relevant documents available may be send through Email: aniimsrecruitment2022@gmail.com.
- Serving Officer in Central & State Govt. funded autonomous bodies are eligible to apply; they would be treated on deputation if they desire so.
- The Last date of receipt / upload of application along with the prescribed Performa and relevant document will be on 16.08.2024.**
- The date of interview will be intimated to the eligible candidates through email.
- The effective date for determining the eligibility as per the prescribed qualification, age, experience etc. for the post shall be the last date of receipt of application.
- The above mentioned schedule is tentative and subject to change at any stage depending upon the availability of the Selection Committee. Any changes made will be updated at ANIIMS website <http://andsw1.and.nic.in/aniims>.
- The Director, ANIIMS, Port Blair reserves the right to reschedule the above dates & time at any stage of the "Interview".
- Late and incomplete application/proforma will not be considered.
- Canvassing of any kind will be a disqualification.
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-sd-
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Notification
New Delhi, the 18 July 2024

S.O. 2797(E).—Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, 641 Dated: 12/02/2024, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening/four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH 509 in the stretch of land from Km. 0 to Km. 13 (Collectrate Aligarh) in the district of ALIGARH in the state of UTTAR PRADESH;

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in "Times of India (English Newspaper)" and "Navbharat Times (Hindi Newspaper)" both dated 19.02.2024; under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas the Competent Authority has received objections filed under Section 3-C, considered and settled the same appropriately; And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

Now, therefore, in compliance of sub-section (3) of Section 3G, the Competent Authority hereby invites all the landowners or persons interested in the land being acquired under these proceedings to submit their claims in respect of the land mentioned in the Schedule given here-in-below within a period of 15 days from the date of publication of this Public Notice in the office of the Competent Authority i.e. ADM(E) Aligarh Collectorate Aligarh

All the persons interested [owner of the lands and other interested person(s)] in the lands specified in the Schedule given below are hereby called upon to submit their claims in the said land (their share, area of land, any assets attached thereto e.g. structures/ trees etc. and state the nature of the respective interest in such lands along with relevant records. The said landowners or persons interested therein shall also furnish the particulars of their Bank Accounts to which they would like their compensation amount to be credited. The claims may be submitted in the following indicative format:

Name of village/ Town	Name of the Landowner/ interested person	Field Survey No.	Area of land in his share	Any structures/ trees/tube-well attached to the land	Name of the Bank & Branch in which he/ she holds the Account	Particulars of the Bank Account No. IFSC Code of the Bank Branch

SCHEDULE
Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the NH 509 in the stretch of land from Km. 0 to Km. 13 (Collectrate Aligarh) in the district of ALIGARH in the state of UTTAR PRADESH.



District: ALIGARH
<https://egazette.gov.in>
Publication Date: 24 July 2024
<https://egazette.gov.in>
<https://bhoomirashi.gov.in>

[F. No. 26031/4L AGRA-ALIGARH/3D]
ABHAY JAIN, Dy. Secy.

GIFTS WORLD EXPO Delhi 2024

CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE

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The highly anticipated 25th edition of Gifts World Expo is set to premiere in the capital, promising an unprecedented experience for both exhibitors and visitors. This milestone edition, organised by MEX Exhibitions Pvt. Ltd., will be held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, from July 25 to 27, 2024. The expo is renowned as India's largest and most comprehensive trade show dedicated to gifting and promotional solutions.

Continuing the legacy of 24 successful editions, Gifts World Expo Delhi 2024 strives to provide unmatched gift-sourcing opportunities and networking solutions. It is a platform which showcases varied gifting solutions and innovative ideas. The expo showcases products not just from renowned top brands but also top-quality products and exceptional solutions from startups and smaller brands, giving you a perfect blend to choose from. It also has knowledge sessions spread across 3 days on "Trends & Technology" shaping the gifting industry and much more.

gories, including 'Customized Gifts & Promotional Products'; 'Beauty, Health & Wellness Gifts'; 'Gourmet Hampers'; 'Custom Branding Machinery'; 'Electronic Gadgets & Home Appliances'; and more.

With over 600 exhibitors representing more than 3500 brands and showcasing over 30,000 products, the show caters to buyers with diverse budgets and preferences. Leading brands such as Adidas, Levi's, Jack & Jones, True Cook, Bugatti, UCB, Tommy Hilfiger, Swiss Military, Luxor, Philips, Pexpo, Woodland, and U&I and many more will be at the event.

For editorial queries, contact: Resp.Edit@timesgroup.com

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This is a B2B trade exhibition | No Retail Sales at the Show | Infants in arms & Children below 18 years are not permitted

Man arrested 28 years after Lajpat Nagar market blasts gets bail

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A court has granted bail to a person arrested in the 1996 Lajpat Nagar bomb blasts case.

Mehraajuddin Bhat, a resident of Srinagar, was declared a proclaimed offender (PO) in Feb 1997 and apprehended on July 9, 2024, nearly 28 years after the incident. The blasts at Central Market of Lajpat Nagar, for which Jammu Kashmir Islamic Front had claimed the responsibility, killed 13 people and left 38 injured.

The court of additional sessions judge Hardeep Kaur granted bail to Bhat on a personal bond of Rs 50,000 with two sureties of the same amount each from his family members on Tuesday. The other conditions include providing his cellphone number to the investigation officer, ensuring the number is always on, not travelling out of the country without prior permission of the court, not contacting or visiting any prosecution witness or person acquainted with the facts of the case, and not tampering with evidence.

The prosecution had alleged that Bhat was part of the conspiracy while Bhat submitted that he was innocent, not a flight risk and had deep roots in society. The court mentioned that Bhat had been a permanent employee as a plumber at Institute of Management and Public Administration, Natipora since 1989. Bhat's name surfaced in the case in the disclosure statements of now-acquitted Farida Dar and Latif Ahmad Waza.

The court also noted that of the 17 accused, four had been convicted, six were acquitted, six declared POs, and one accused had died.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender is invited by the undersigned on behalf of Governor of West Bengal vide Ref. No. WBPHE/10/ND of 2024-25 & Tender ID: 2024.WBPD.715215_1 for different works. Details will be available in the website wbtdenders.gov.in Last date for submission of tender is 02.08.2024. Sd/- For Executive Engineer, Nadia Division, PHE Dte. ICA-112243(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL Office of the Controller of Vagrancy, West Bengal

Purta Bhawan, Ground Floor, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700091
Ph. No. (033)2337-0762, Fax: 2334-4522
Email ID: cwvwbengal@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NIT No. CV/NIT-02/2024-25, dated 19/07/2024

E-Tenders are invited from the bonafide resourceful Suppliers/Agencies for Engagement of Personnels for Sweeping and Cleaning and providing services for Washing of garments, beddings, etc. at 2 (two) Homes in Kolkata under the control of Controller of Vagrancy, West Bengal for a period of one year only. The details of N.I.T. will be available at the website <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> and <https://wbtdenders.gov.in/cv/> on and from 26.07.2024, 17.00 hours onwards. Sd/- The Controller of Vagrancy, West Bengal & Sr. Special Secretary ICA-112233(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE

NIT No. 04/B.A.R.D. of 2024-25 is invited by the E.E., B.A.R.D., PHE Dte. Details information about the tender will be available in the website: [www.wbtdenders.gov.in](http://wbtdenders.gov.in) as well as in the office notice board. Sd/- E.E., B.A.R.D., PHE Dte. ICA-112247(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL WRIBDD, e-NIT

WRIBDD/EEAM/BS/NT/02/2024-25
Tender ID: 2024.WBPD.719720_1 have been invited by the Executive Engineer, Barasat (A-M) Division, Barasat at Hatpukur Road, Barasat. WRIBDD Admin Bldg, Kolkata-700124 from Bonafide agency under Core Sector Programme. Last date & time of documents download is 07.08.2024 upto 17:00 hrs. Other details may also be seen from the office notice board/website (wbtdenders.gov.in). Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Sd/- Executive Engineer (A-M) Barasat (A-M) Division ICA-112235(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender is invited by the undersigned on behalf of Governor of West Bengal vide Ref. NIT No. WBPHE/09/ND of 2024-25 & Tender ID: 2024.PHE.D.715179_1 for different work. Details will be available in the website wbtdenders.gov.in Last date for submission of tender is 02.08.2024. Sd/- For Executive Engineer, Nadia Division, PHE Dte. ICA-112243(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL WRIBDD, e-NIT CORRIGENDUM

Bid submission date is being extended vide e-NIT No. 01/2024-25 of the Executive Engineer (A-I) Bankura (A-I) & P Division Bankura & Tender ID No. 2024.WBPD.699786_2. So all concerned are requested to read the following extended date corrigendum. Bid submission closing date: 30.07.2024 upto 4.00 P.M. Bid opening date: 02.08.2024 at 11.00 a.m. Other terms & condition will remain unchanged. Intending bidders are requested to visit the [www.wbtdenders.gov.in](http://wbtdenders.gov.in). Sd/- Executive Engineer (A-I) Bankura(A-I) & P Division Bankura ICA-112228(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL TENDER NOTICE

Assistant Engineer PWD Diamond Harbour Sub-Division, invites PWDAE/HS/ENIT 3/2024-2025. Name of work - 1) Floor rising of Electrical panel room at old hospital campus under Diamond Harbour Government Medical College at Diamond Harbour in the district of South 24 Parganas during the year 2024-2025. Estimated Amount Rs. 2,26,239.00. 2) Emergent Repair to Faltar-Falta Road from 1000m up to 1200kmp in stretches under Diamond Harbour Division, PWD, during the year 2024-2025. Estimated Amount Rs. 48,297.00. 3) Repair and Maintenance of submersible Pump Motor set and installation of new submersible pump of Judge's Abasan, Civil Court Building, S.D.P.O's Office, P.W.D. Office & Quarter at Diamond Harbour in the Dist. Of South 24 Parganas during the year 2024-25. Estimated Amount Rs. 1,93,660.00. 4) Repair with others allied work of PWD staff Qtr. under Diamond Harbour Division, P.W.D. during the year 2024-25. Estimated Amount Rs. 3,11,267.00. 5) Hard Shouldering and Dressing - chichalling Work at Fatepur - Falta Road under Diamond Harbour Division, PWD in the Dist. of South 24 Parganas, Estimated Amount Rs. 2,52,900.00. 6) Repairing with others allied work of Faltar-Falta Road from 1000m up to 1200kmp in stretches under Diamond Harbour Division, PWD, during the year 2024-25. Estimated Amount Rs. 3,11,267.00. Sd/- Assistant Engineer, PWD, Diamond Harbour Sub-Div. ICA-112273(3)/2024

members on Tuesday. The other conditions include providing his cellphone number to the investigation officer, ensuring the number is always on, not travelling out of the country without prior permission of the court, not contacting or visiting any prosecution witness or person acquainted with the facts of the case, and not tampering with evidence.

The prosecution had alleged that Bhat was part of the conspiracy while Bhat submitted that he was innocent, not a flight risk and had deep roots in society. The court mentioned that Bhat had been a permanent employee as a plumber at Institute of Management and Public Administration, Natipora since 1989. Bhat's name surfaced in the case in the disclosure statements of now-acquitted Farida Dar and Latif Ahmad Waza.

The court also noted that of the 17 accused, four had been convicted, six were acquitted, six declared POs, and one accused had died.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL WRIBDD, e-NIT

Sealed Tenders (01/ 2024-25)/CORE Sector/WRIBDD/MCADDIV, Tender ID: 2024.WBPD.719494_1 & (02/ 2024-25)/ALARTIRHA (PH-X)/WRIBDD/MCADDIV, Tender ID: 2024.WBPD.719560_1, have been invited by the Executive Engineer (A-I) Mayurakshi (A-I) CAD Division, Barabagan, Suri, Birbhum-731103, from bonafide agency for Construction of Check Dam & Construction of WHT in Birbhum District under Mayurakshi (A-I) CAD Division. Last date & time of application for obtaining permission is 07.08.2024 upto 12.00 P.M. Other details may also be seen from office notice board/website. Sd/- Executive Engineer (A-I) Mayurakshi (A-I) CAD Division ICA-112227(1)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL WRIBDD, e-NIT

Executive Engineer (A-M) Howrah (A-M) Division, WRIBDD invited e-Tender for Tender Ref. No. WBWRDD/EEAM/HWH/ENIT-4/24-25, WBWRDD/EEAM/HWH/ENIT-5/24-25 and WBWRDD/EEAM/HWH/ENIT-6/24-25 vide e-NIT No. 04, 05 & 06 of 2024-25, Tender ID-2024.WBPD.719759_1, 2 and 3 and 2024.WBPD.719781_1 to 6, Estimated value Rs. 12.35, Rs.16.56, Rs. 29.66, Rs. 25.68, Rs. 25.68, Rs. 25.68, Rs. 25.68 & Rs. 25.68 Lacs. Last date of dropping 20.08.2024, intending bidders are requested to visit the web site: <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer (A-M), Howrah (A-M) Division ICA-112234(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL TENDER NOTICE

NIQ/NO-CMOH/CBR/2024-25/SAMATI/17
Tender is hereby invited for Printer and Laptop repairing under DH&FW Samiti, CoB for details please visit www.wbtdenders.gov.in, www.cocbbehargov.in & www.wbhealth.gov.in Sd/- CMOH & Secretary, DH & FW Samiti, CoB ICA-112230(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL Office of the Deputy Agriculture (Admin), Jalpaiguri

Krishna Bhawan (3rd Floor), Club Road : Jalpaiguri

Notice inviting e-Quotation by the undersigned for different works vide NIQ No. WB/AGRI/DA(ADMN)/Jal/01/24-25 (2nd Call), Dated: 18.07.2024, Sl. No. 1. Last date of online bid submission: 30.07.2024 upto 18:00 hours. Tender ID Nos are 2024.WBPD.717442_1. For further details please visit <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- Deputy Director of Agriculture (Admin), Jalpaiguri. ICA-112221(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE

Executive Engineer, Krishnagar Division, Social Sector, P.W. Dte. invites online e-tender for 01 (one) nos. work of 1) Soil testing of the proposed area of construction of Krishna Bhawan Nadia. Estimate amount: Rs. 75,000.00. Tender ID: 2024.WBPD.719085_1 eNIT No. WBPWD/SS/EE/KNG-03(e)/2024-25 Bid Submission Start Date (online): 26/07/2024 at 11.00A.M. Bid Submission Closing Date (online): 02/08/2024 upto 02.00 PM Corrigendum if any will be published in the website only. Details of NIT and tender documents may be downloaded from <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- E.E. Kng. Divn. SS PWDte. ICA-112283(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-Tender Notice (2nd Call)

No. 771/02-NIT/e-Tend/AG-PMBDDN/2024-25 Dated: 18.07.2024

Notice inviting e-Tender for supply of Micro-nutrient & Bio-Fertilizer from the bonafide, resourceful suppliers/manufacturers etc. by the office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Admn.), Paschim Bardhaman, Bhabani Bhawan, Upper Chelidanga, Asansol-713304 under the Department of Agriculture, Govt. of West Bengal during the FY. 2024-25. Tender Papers containing all the terms & conditions can be obtained from the website: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> w.e.f. 26.07.2024. Last date of submission of tender, Bid, up to 17.00 hrs. on 09.08.2024 and it will be opened on 12.08.2024 from 10:30 hrs. onwards. Sd/- S. Khan Deputy Director of Agriculture (Admn.) Paschim Bardhaman. ICA-112220(1)/2024

Delhi Family's Rav Of Sunshine

Devanshi Mehta @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Amarjeet Kaur, a 74-year-old woman, had been meticulously preparing for a wedding in the family. Relatives were utterly awestruck with the unbridled enthusiasm she exhibited while diligently learning the intricate steps of the choreographed dance to be performed on the occasion. However, on Monday, Kaur's life was abruptly cut short as she became the latest victim of a hit-and-run incident in the city. Kaur was brutally hit by a speeding car while attempting to cross the road in Rajouri Garden. The sheer impact of the collision was so immense that Kaur was violently propelled approximately 10 feet into the air before crashing down on the car's windshield, resulting in her horrific and untimely demise. While police have apprehended the woman who was behind the wheels, the bereaved family has demanded strict punishment for the accused driver.



The bereaved family of Amarjeet Kaur (right) wants strict punishment for the driver of the speeding car

Kaur survived by her son and daughter and their respective families. Kaur's grieving daughter told TOI, "My mother was exceptionally outgoing and she frequently embarked on solo excursions. She would visit gurdwaras at different places like Gwalior and Patna besides Vaishno Devi on her own. She was in a way the quintessential soul of our household after my father passed away earlier this year in Jan due to a protracted illness."

She recalled how Kaur had lost a son, the youngest of siblings, during the pandemic. The devastating loss pushed her into a profound state of depression. "Then there was a cancer scare too, but the tests came negative. All of us were immensely worried that the shock and trauma of losing him would really get to her, but she has since been valiantly

trying to bring her life back on track," the daughter added. Kaur's 60-year-old sister-in-law, Jaswinder, was with her at the time of the road accident. "We had gone to see a relative together around 1:30 pm and had such a delightful time there. We were on our way back home when a black car came at full speed and hit her. She was lying in a pool of blood. I felt so helpless that I could not do anything, and the woman driving the car fled the scene," she recalled. On Tuesday, the accused, Geetika Malik, was arrested.

Rape scars child forever, says court, gives man a 20-year jail sentence

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The psychological scars of sexual abuse during childhood are indelible and continue to haunt survivors forever, hindering their proper physical and psychological development, a court said while awarding 20 years of rigorous imprisonment to a man for kidnapping and committing aggravated penetrative sexual assault on a girl in 2022.

"Such persons like the convict misled child victims into thinking that they are entering a legal marital union. Thereafter, the convict projects the aggravated sexual assault as a marital physical union in order to force the victim. By such allurement, the victim child is enticed away from lawful guardianship as well as away from studies, accordingly affecting the life of minor victims," the court of additional sessions judge Susheel Bala Dagar said. The court also directed Rs 10.5 lakh as compensation to the survivor, who is now 18 years old.

The man was convicted under Section 6 (aggravated penetrative sexual assault) of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (PoCSO) Act, besides an effective deterrence.

des under Indian Penal Code provisions for rape, kidnapping and abducting, and forcing a woman to marry. The court said the man had kidnapped the girl in March 2022, seduced her into illicit intercourse on the lure of marriage, and committed penetrative sexual assault. Additional public prosecutor Yogita Kaushik Dahiya represented the state.

The court also pulled up Delhi Police for "shoddy investigation", saying the investigating officer (IO) had failed to collect the first marriage documents of the convict, which was an example of a "faulty investigation". He also did not check the register of the temple where the marriage was performed, the judge said.

"There are lapses on the part of the investigating agency, which show that the conduct of the IO is blameworthy and appropriate departmental action is recommended... However, despite all the lapses... the testimony of the victim child remained firm, leading to the conviction," he observed. The court emphasised the penalty must be commensurate with the gravity of the "loathsome act" to serve as an effective deterrence.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE

NIT No. 04/B.A.R.D. of 2024-25 is invited by the E.E., B.A.R.D., PHE Dte. Details information about the tender will be available in the website: [www.wbtdenders.gov.in](http://wbtdenders.gov.in) as well as in the office notice board. Sd/- E.E., B.A.R.D., PHE Dte. ICA-112247(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL WRIBDD, e-NIT

WRIBDD reference No. WBWRDD/EEAM/BS/NT/02/2024-25
Tender ID: 2024.WBPD.719720_1 have been invited by the Executive Engineer, Barasat (A-M) Division, Barasat at Hatpukur Road, Barasat. WRIBDD Admin Bldg, Kolkata-700124 from Bonafide agency under Core Sector Programme. Last date & time of documents download is 07.08.2024 upto 17:00 hrs. Other details may also be seen from the office notice board/website (wbtdenders.gov.in). Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Sd/- Executive Engineer (A-M) Barasat (A-M) Division ICA-112235(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender is invited by the undersigned on behalf of Governor of West Bengal vide Ref. NIT No. WBPHE/09/ND of 2024-25 & Tender ID: 2024.PHE.D.715179_1 for different work. Details will be available in the website wbtdenders.gov.in Last date for submission of tender is 02.08.2024. Sd/- For Executive Engineer, Nadia Division, PHE Dte. ICA-112243(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL WRIBDD, e-NIT CORRIGENDUM

Bid submission date is being extended vide e-NIT No. 01/2024-25 of the Executive Engineer (A-I) Bankura (A-I) & P Division Bankura & Tender ID No. 2024.WBPD.699786_2. So all concerned are requested to read the following extended date corrigendum. Bid submission closing date: 30.07.2024 upto 4.00 P.M. Bid opening date: 02.08.2024 at 11.00 a.m. Other terms & condition will remain unchanged. Intending bidders are requested to visit the [www.wbtdenders.gov.in](http://wbtdenders.gov.in). Sd/- Executive Engineer (A-I) Bankura(A-I) & P Division Bankura ICA-112228(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL TENDER NOTICE

Assistant Engineer PWD Diamond Harbour Sub-Division, invites PWDAE/HS/ENIT 3/2024-2025. Name of work - 1) Floor rising of Electrical panel room at old hospital campus under Diamond Harbour Government Medical College at Diamond Harbour in the district of South 24 Parganas during the year 2024-2025. Estimated Amount Rs. 2,26,239.00. 2) Emergent Repair to Faltar-Falta Road from 1000m up to 1200kmp in stretches under Diamond Harbour Division, PWD, during the year 2024-2025. Estimated Amount Rs. 48,297.00. 3) Repair and Maintenance of submersible Pump Motor set and installation of new submersible pump of Judge's Abasan, Civil Court Building, S.D.P.O's Office, P.W.D. Office & Quarter at Diamond Harbour in the Dist. Of South 24 Parganas during the year 2024-25. Estimated Amount Rs. 1,93,660.00. 4) Repair with others allied work of PWD staff Qtr. under Diamond Harbour Division, P.W.D. during the year 2024-25. Estimated Amount Rs. 3,11,267.00. Sd/- Assistant Engineer, PWD, Diamond Harbour Sub-Div. ICA-112273(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL WRIBDD, e-NIT

WRIBDD/EEAM/BS/NT/02/2024-25
Tender ID: 2024.WBPD.719720_1 have been invited by the Executive Engineer, Barasat (A-M) Division, Barasat at Hatpukur Road, Barasat. WRIBDD Admin Bldg, Kolkata-700124 from Bonafide agency under Core Sector Programme. Last date & time of documents download is 07.08.2024 upto 17:00 hrs. Other details may also be seen from the office notice board/website (wbtdenders.gov.in). Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Sd/- Executive Engineer (A-M) Barasat (A-M) Division ICA-112235(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL WRIBDD, e-NIT

Executive Engineer (A-M) Howrah (A-M) Division, WRIBDD invited e-Tender for Tender Ref. No. WBWRDD/EEAM/HWH/ENIT-4/24-25, WBWRDD/EEAM/HWH/ENIT-5/24-25 and WBWRDD/EEAM/HWH/ENIT-6/24-25 vide e-NIT No. 04, 05 & 06 of 2024-25, Tender ID-2024.WBPD.719759_1, 2 and 3 and 2024.WBPD.719781_1 to 6, Estimated value Rs. 12.35, Rs.16.56, Rs. 29.66, Rs. 25.68, Rs. 25.68, Rs. 25.68, Rs. 25.68 & Rs. 25.68 Lacs. Last date of dropping 20.08.2024, intending bidders are requested to visit the web site: <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer (A-M), Howrah (A-M) Division ICA-112234(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL TENDER NOTICE

NIQ/NO-CMOH/CBR/2024-25/SAMATI/17
Tender is hereby invited for Printer and Laptop repairing under DH&FW Samiti, CoB for details please visit www.wbtdenders.gov.in, www.cocbbehargov.in & www.wbhealth.gov.in Sd/- CMOH & Secretary, DH & FW Samiti, CoB ICA-112230(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL Office of the Deputy Agriculture (Admin), Jalpaiguri

Krishna Bhawan (3rd Floor), Club Road : Jalpaiguri

Notice inviting e-Quotation by the undersigned for different works vide NIQ No. WB/AGRI/DA(ADMN)/Jal/01/24-25 (2nd Call), Dated: 18.07.2024, Sl. No. 1. Last date of online bid submission: 30.07.2024 upto 18:00 hours. Tender ID Nos are 2024.WBPD.717442_1. For further details please visit <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- Deputy Director of Agriculture (Admin), Jalpaiguri. ICA-112221(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE

Executive Engineer, Krishnagar Division, Social Sector, P.W. Dte. invites online e-tender for 01 (one) nos. work of 1) Soil testing of the proposed area of construction of Krishna Bhawan Nadia. Estimate amount: Rs. 75,000.00. Tender ID: 2024.WBPD.719085_1 eNIT No. WBPWD/SS/EE/KNG-03(e)/2024-25 Bid Submission Start Date (online): 26/07/2024 at 11.00A.M. Bid Submission Closing Date (online): 02/08/2024 upto 02.00 PM Corrigendum if any will be published in the website only. Details of NIT and tender documents may be downloaded from <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- E.E. Kng. Divn. SS PWDte. ICA-112283(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-Tender Notice (2nd Call)

No. 771/02-NIT/e-Tend/AG-PMBDDN/2024-25 Dated: 18.07.2024

Notice inviting e-Tender for supply of Micro-nutrient & Bio-Fertilizer from the bonafide, resourceful suppliers/manufacturers etc. by the office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Admn.), Paschim Bardhaman, Bhabani Bhawan, Upper Chelidanga, Asansol-713304 under the Department of Agriculture, Govt. of West Bengal during the FY. 2024-25. Tender Papers containing all the terms & conditions can be obtained from the website: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> w.e.f. 26.07.2024. Last date of submission of tender, Bid, up to 17.00 hrs. on 09.08.2024 and it will be opened on 12.08.2024 from 10:30 hrs. onwards. Sd/- S. Khan Deputy Director of Agriculture (Admn.) Paschim Bardhaman. ICA-112220(1)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL KMDA TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No. KMDA/EM/EE/MD-III/NIT-09 of 2024-25 (2nd Call)

Online Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, MD-III, EM Sector, KMDA, 1, R.N Tagore Road, Kolkata-700076, for contracting firms, for the work, Name of the Work, Estimated Amount, Earnest Money, Time of Completion, Operation & Maintenance of electro-mechanical equipment at Clear Water Pumping Station of 30 MGD Water Treatment Plant under DumDum, North DumDum, South DumDum Trans Municipal water supply scheme. Last date of submission of bids, Rs.65.62,201/-, Rs.1,31,244/-, 03 years from the date as mentioned in work order. Last date & time of Online Bid submission: 16.08.2024 at 14.00 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-280) www.kmda.wb.gov.in www.wbtdenders.gov.in ICA-112250(1)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL ABRIDGED e-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Alipurdia Division, PHE Dte. from the reputed, bonafide, financially sound & experienced agency / firm for the work of "WORKS RELATED TO PWS" against following NIT No.: 09/AID/2024-25. Last Date of Submission for tender 07/08/2024 upto 02.00 p.m. Details may be viewed in the <http://www.wbphed.gov.in> website. ICA-112253(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Bid Ref. no.: WBMSCL/NIT-427/2024 Dated: 19/07/2024

"One time repairing and CAMC of the existing nos. unit type Project PWS AC machines installed at the office of WBMSCL-1st, 2nd & 3rd floor Swasthya Sathi Building." Last date of submission of bid (online): 30.07.2024 upto 3:00 P.M. The tender document can be downloaded from www.wbmsc.gov.in or after 31.07.2024 at 05:00 P.M. Clarification requests, if any may be sent to ee@wbmsc.gov.in Sd/- General Manager, WBMSCL, Joint Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal. ICA-112209(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE

Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, New Town Kolkata W/S Divn-I, PHE Dte. on behalf of Governor of West Bengal vide Ref. No. PHE/NTD-I/1-24 of 2024 - 2025 ID: 2024_PHE.D.719198_1 to 2024_PHE.D.719198_4 for Sl.No. 1 to 4 (i) Last date submission: 07.08.2024 upto 12.00 p.m. (ii) Date of Opening: 09.08.2024 After 12.00 p.m. (iii) Intending Bidders are requested to visit the website: <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, New Town Kolkata W/S Divn-I, PHE Dte. ICA-112248(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE

Tender Reference No. WBPHE/EE/MAAD/NIT-01 of 2024-25, Tender ID: 2024.PHE.D.71572_1 to 2024.PHE.D.71572_2. Last date for submission of Technical and Financial Bid (online): 10/08/2024 upto 05:00 P.M. Tender invited by the undersigned for six nos. works under Malda Arsenic Area W/S Division, PHE Dte. All details available in website www.wbphed.gov.in & www.wbphed.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Malda Arsenic Area W/S Division, PHE Dte. ICA-112254(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL KMDA TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No. KMDA/EM/EE/MD-III/NIT-08 of 2024-25 (2nd Call)

Online Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, MD-III, EM Sector, KMDA, 1, R.N Tagore Road, Kolkata-700076, for contracting firms, for the work, Name of the Work, Estimated Amount, Earnest Money, Time of Completion, Operation & Maintenance of electro-mechanical equipment at Clear Water Pumping Station of 30 MGD Water Treatment Plant under DumDum, North DumDum, South DumDum Trans Municipal water supply scheme at Mullickbari for three calendar years. Last date of submission of bids, Rs.65.68,665/-, Rs.1,31,373/-, 03 years from the date as mentioned in work order. Last date & time of Online Bid submission: 16.08.2024 at 14.00 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-279) www.kmda.wb.gov.in www.wbtdenders.gov.in ICA-112255(1)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, NWS-D, PHE Dte. on behalf of Governor of West Bengal vide Reference No. WBPHE/03/EE/NWS-D/0F.2024-2025 and 1(D)-2024.PHE.D.71771_1 for Restoration Work by providing sand filling and G.S.B., W.M.M. & B.M. in damage Bituminous Road portion at different location in connection with the laying of rising main within the command area of Malkapur (Zone-IIB) W/S scheme under jurisdiction of NWS-D, PHE Dte. Details will be available in the website wbtdenders.gov.in and www.wbphed.gov.in Both Technical and financial bid submission start date is 19/07/2024 from 06:30 P.M. & Both Technical and Financial bid submission closing date is 14/08/2024 upto 01.00 P.M. Sd/- For Executive Engineer, NWS-D, PHE Dte. ICA-112255(1)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL KMDA TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No. KMDA/EM/EE/MD-III/NIT-07 of 2024-25 (2nd Call)

Online Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division-III, E-M Sector, KMDA, 1, R.N. Tagore Road, Kolkata-700076, for the work, Name of the Work, Estimated Value of Work, Earnest Money Deposit, Time of Completion, Overhauling and servicing of Pump no.1 at RWPS (Phase-I) under 30 MGD WTP, DDM, NDDM & SDDM trans-municipal water supply scheme. Item rate to be quoted by the bidder. Last date of submission of bid, Rs. 10,50,516.00 Tender ID: 2024_WBPD_717813_3. Bid Submission end date: 31.07.2024 at 3.00p.m. Details will be available from the website <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> and notice board of this office on all working days within office hours. Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D Howrah Construction Division. ICA-112257(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender invited by the Executive Engineer, Tamkuli Division, PHE Dte. vide Ref. NIT No. WBPHE/11/ND of 2024-25 (Sl. No. 02 & 03) and Tender ID: 2024.WBPD.715215_2 & 2024.PHE.D.702243_3 of works shown in the NIT. Bid submission end date extend to: 02/08/2024 at 14.00 P.M. All details can be obtained from the website: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, Tamkuli Division, PHE Directorate. ICA-112250(1



CM SIDDA MEETS K'TAKA GUV 'OVER PENDING BILLS' AMID ROW OVER MUDA LAND SCAM



BENGAL ASSEMBLY PASSES RESOLUTION TO SCRAP NEET, REINSTATE JEE; SECOND STATE TO DO SO

TOI History Meets AI JULY 25
AI VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS

The world's first test tube baby, Louise Joy Brown, conceived via in vitro fertilization was born in England on this day in 1978

Amid talk of rift, Yogi moves ahead of party in bypoll prep

CM's Proactive Approach Surprises Many

Rajiv.Srivastava@timesofindia.com

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath has taken the lead in preparations for upcoming byelections to 10 assembly seats, expected to be held later this year. He has formed a team of ministers to look after the BJP organisation could start its own groundwork.

This proactive approach has surprised many but analysts believe the outcome of the bypolls, after the party's lacklustre showing in the Lok Sabha elections, will have a direct impact on Yogi's image, and hence he is leading from the front. At the first meeting of 16 ministers, he tasked them with winning all 10 seats.

Although the appointments have been made in con-



The bypolls will be a litmus test for Yogi's governance, analysts believe

sultation with the UP BJP leadership, including its chief Bupendra Chaudhary and general secretary (organisation) Dharampal Singh, insiders emphasise that Yogi's decision to form the team should be seen as a proactive approach to improve BJP's tally. A couple of days after Yogi put the ministers in charge, BJP held a meeting and appointed its own in-charges.

Analysts believe the bypolls will be a litmus test for Yogi's governance and UP BJP's organisational strength. It will also provide an opportunity to quell rumours of differences between the govt and organisation in UP before central leadership takes action in view of the LS poll debacle.

Yogi's proactiveness is evident as he has not only appointed the ministers in charge but has also taken charge of the situation in these seats after receiving feedback from ministers. BJP is not in a comfortable position in the 10 seats where bypolls are to be held if one goes by its performance in the 2022 assembly polls. Of the 10 seats, Samajwadi Party had 5, BJP had 3, and its alliance partners NISHAD Party and RLD had one each.

'Wrong picks, overconfidence led to LS loss'

Lucknow: UP unit of BJP has started a comprehensive feedback drive, gathering responses from at least 50,000 grassroots workers to understand factors behind the party's poor performance in the LS polls, where its MPs dropped from 62 in 2019 to 33 in 2024, reports Rajiv Srivastava.

BJP sources said the data did not pinpoint a single cause for the disappointing results. Instead, key issues highlighted included candidate selection, worker apathy, widespread overconfidence within the party ranks and dissatisfaction with the growing influence of outsiders in the party.

"When the brass was collectively taking credit for the good that was happening in the party, responsibility for the defeat should also be collective. Feedback points to this," said a senior functionary.

Fadnavis coerced me to frame MVA netas: Deshmukh

Vaibhav.Ganjanure@timesofindia.com

Nagpur: Former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh alleged Wednesday that deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis pressured him to file false affidavits against key Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) functionaries three years ago in an attempt to topple the coalition govt.

Deshmukh, a senior NCP (Sharad Pawar) member, said: "I was promised freedom from ED and CBI investigations in return. The offer came from Fadnavis's intermediary, and I personally spoke to him on phone. I will disclose every detail at an appropriate time." He added, "Fadnavis's aide visited me multiple times, facilitating phone conversations between us. Once, Fadnavis told me he was sending documents for review. I was told if accusing Ajit Pawar wasn't possible, I should speak out against the Thackerays and Anil Parab (Shiv Sena)."



Fadnavis refuted the allegations, saying Deshmukh's own party members had incriminating evidence against him

Deshmukh linked his allegations to the controversy involving former Mumbai police commissioner Param Bir Singh, who accused the former minister of a Rs100-crore extortion scheme. He alleged Fadnavis orchestrated Singh's accusations against him.

Fadnavis refuted the allegations, saying Deshmukh's own party members had incriminating audio-visual evidence against him. "If false accusations continue to be levelled against me, I will have no choice but to make this evidence public," he said.

Pak drone-dropped heroin worth ₹30cr seized near IB in Rajasthan

A joint team of BSF and Rajasthan Police seized 6kg heroin — worth around Rs 30 crore in the international market — in two operations near border outposts along the international border in Anupgarh district on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, reports **Vimal Bhatia**. A search operation was subsequently launched to trace the smugglers, who remain at large. The first haul followed a tip-off BSF received Tuesday about Pakistan allegedly air-dropping heroin in fields of 23KD village near BSF's Nemichand border outpost via drone. A joint search party combed the area and seized two packets of heroin, each weighing 1kg. The second seizure came with the joint team seizing 4kg heroin near 33APD village (in four 500g packs & two 1kg packs) near Vijeta BOP.

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

Not born in the USA

Where each US state's largest immigrant population was born
Top country of birth state (2022)



J&K LG sacks 4 more govt staffers, including 2 cops, for 'terror links'

Bharti.Jain@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: J&K LG Manoj Sinha Wednesday ordered the dismissal of four govt employees over links with terror outfits like Jaish-e-Mohammad and involvement in narco-terror trade originating from across the border with Pakistan. The termination orders invoke Article 311(2) (c) of the Constitution, under which 65 J&K govt staffers have been shown the door thus far for endangering the security of the State.

Two sacked J&K police constables were identified as

'Will send terrorists to jail or jahannum'

Terrorists in J&K will either land in jail or be swiftly dispatched to 'jahannum (hell)', junior home minister Nityanand Rai said in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, asserting that the Modi govt has zero tolerance for terrorism. Replying to a supplementary question from Congress MP Pramod Tiwari on the spike in terror activities, Rai said 28 terrorists have been killed in recent days in J&K, while the number of security personnel who have died is less. "Terrorists will not succeed in their designs...we will finish them," he said.

Mushtaq Ahmad Pir, who misused his posting in Kupwara to peddle narcotics, and Imtiyaz Ahmed Lone, who led a dual life as an overground worker of the Jaish. Bazil Ahmad Mir, a staffer in the school education department, as per sources, was a notorious drug peddler in Lolab, Kupwara and adjoining areas. Mohd Zaid Shah, a worker in rural development department, was "an arch element of narco-terror syndicate in the UT", sources said.

5 MP cops hurt in violence over assault case

Bhopal: Five police officers were injured when a mob turned violent in Vishnupura village of MP's Guna Tuesday, after the administration demolished shops of a man accused of assaulting a woman over a land dispute. The mob demanded that the man's house be razed too, but the administration refused citing safety concerns. At least 50 vehicles were vandalised. Police had to lob tear gas shells to control the mob that numbered over 300.

Police registered a case against 300 people for rioting and violence against govt.

Dhaka conveys to New Delhi its displeasure over Didi's remark

New Delhi: Bangladesh is learnt to have officially conveyed to India its displeasure over West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee's remark that she would allow refugees in if the situation in the neighbouring country, which was rocked by student protests against reservation in govt jobs, deteriorated further.

While there was no confirmation from the Indian govt, Bangladesh foreign minister Hasan Mahmud was quoted as saying in Dhaka Tuesday that Mamata's comments created confusion and Dhaka had conveyed its position on the issue to New Delhi in a diplomatic note.

"With due respect to chief minister Mamata Banerjee, I would like to say, we have excellent relations with her. We have deep relations. But her remarks created confusion to some extent and there is scope to be misled," said Mahmud. Indian govt sources had earlier said such issues are handled by the Centre and as such her comments were misplaced. "A state govt has no locus standi on the issue," said a source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

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I Ujjawal Thakral, S/o Ravi Kumar Thakral, R/o Gaur City 2, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad, U.P. 201009, have changed my name to Ujjwal Thakral

I Avinash Kaur, mother of Avyleen Kaur, resident of BE-32 A, 3rd Floor, Harinagar, New Delhi-110064 (full address in India), and presently residing at 84 Loelista Street Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R2K3H6, (full address in Canada) do hereby change the name of my daughter from Surname- Avyleen Kaur To First Name- Avyleen Kaur, Last Name- Kalsi, with immediate effect.

I Brahm Swarup Gupta S/O Ram Sarup Gupta R/O 217,Bhera Enclave, Paschim Vihar, PO Sunder Vihar Delhi-110087 have changed my name from Brahm Swroop gupta to Brahm swarup Gupta for all future purposes.

I Herald Singh S/O Hari Singh R/O Noida, Gautam Buddh Nagar have changed my name from Herald to Herald Singh for all the future purpose vide affidavit Dc24/07/2024.

I Mr. Ashish Nagpal, residing at 1302-B, Beverly Park-2, MG Road, DLF Phase-2, Gurgaon-122002, have changed the name of my minor son Aryan Nagpal and he shall hereafter be known as Aaryan Nagpal for all future purposes.

I, Pradeep Kumar Khanna S/o Late Shri Madan Lal Khanna R/o Plot no. 25, FF-1, Shakti khand-2 Indira Puram Ghaziabad, U.P. 201014 have Changed my name Pradeep Kumar to Pradeep Kumar Khanna for all future purpose

I Alan Paul S/o Bharanikulangara Poulose Vared R/O East of Kallash, Delhi have changed my name from Alan Paul to Bharanikulangara to Alan Paul for future purposes.

I, Binod Pegu S/O Sarbeswar Pegu, R/o Latiborchuk No.2 Kekuri Pampa Lakhimpur Assam-787055, I have changed the name of my minor daughter Anora Pegu aged about 3 Years and She shall hereafter be known as Ana Ansing Pegu.

I (Anil Kumar Arora) S/O LL. Raj Kumar Arora, R/O A6/236 Paschim Vihar, New Delhi 110063, have changed my name to (Anil Arora) per affidavit dated 23 July 2024 at Delhi.

I MADHU D/O TARA CHAND R/O D125 NEW SEELAMPUR AFTER MARRIAGE HAVE NAME CHANGED ISHA AGGARWAL FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

MISSING
Lapata please contact 7880905270

MISSING CHILD: Adil, 11 yrs, ht 4'10". Wearing yellow t-shirt white shorts. Intellectually disabled and can't communicate. Contact father Matru, 143 Gujjar Dairy, Gautam Nagar, Delhi. 7880905270.

GENERAL
THIS is to certify that my name is Mrs B.M Dahar, W/O Late Shri S.K Dahar, R/O of H-1 Anand Niketan New Delhi-110021. My date of birth is 14/06/1943

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tender & notices
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JAGJIT BAJWA (Advocate)
Enr. No. D223/78, Mob: 9818298651
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Oppn slams Budget, says just 2 states got 'pakoda, jalebi'

FM Trashes 'Outrageous Allegations'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Opposition parties attacked gov't in the two Houses of Parliament on Wednesday over their claim that Andhra Pradesh and Bihar had cornered the lion's share of budgetary allocations, which finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman rejected as "outrageous".

Claiming that all states except two had been "ignored", INDIA bloc parties led by Congress walked out of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in the morning session.

In the upper House, after Chairman Jagdeep Thakur rejected calling for suspension of the listed agenda, leader of opposition Mallikarjun Kharge said the Budget was a "kursi bachao (save the chair)" document.

"Sabki thali khali, aur sirf do ke thali me pakoda aur jalebi," Kharge said, adding the INDIA bloc "condemned this discrimination" in Budget. As Thakur gave Sitharaman



INDIA BLOC BACKS JAGAN: SP chief Akhilesh Yadav with YSRC's Jagan Mohan Reddy at Jantar Mantar on Wednesday. INDIA bloc parties reached out to the Andhra Pradesh ex-CM, who is on a dharna over political violence against his party members allegedly by TDP. Congress conspicuously stayed away from the platform, but SP, TMC, Shiv Sena UBT, AAP, ADMK and VCK were suitably represented

the floor to respond, Kharge led opposition members out of the House in protest.

The FM said not naming a state in the Budget did not mean that govt schemes and other financial assistance were not working for it. The cabinet, for instance, approved the over Rs 76,000 crore Vadnavan port project in Maharashtra last month. "Did Maharashtra get ignored because I did not mention its name?" she asked.

"This is a deliberate attempt of the opposition parties, led by Congress, to give an impression to people that

'oh, nothing has been given to our states, it has only been given to two states,'" she said.

"I would challenge the Congress for all the Budget speeches they have delivered, have they named every state of the country in each of the Budget speeches?" she asked, adding that it was "an outrageous allegation" that was simply "not acceptable".

In Lok Sabha, Congress MP Kumari Selja initiated the discussion on the Budget and said it had discriminated against non-BJP states and was a collection of "jumbos (failed promises)". She

cautioned NDA members Nitish Kumar (JDU) and N Chandrababu Naidu (TDP) that they may be celebrating now for having got a large share but it wouldn't "take long for the tide to turn". She also questioned how target groups were going to be identified without a caste census.

Her party colleague Shashi Tharoor said the Budget was emblematic of govt's "economic mismanagement and financial recklessness". He said the brakes of the economy had fallen off but govt's "horn kept getting louder". "The Budget lacks originality, ambition, strategy, we get no answers to the employment puzzle, we get no solutions on education and health and we don't engage in any of the crises of investment," he added.

TMCMP Abhishek Banerjee said the Budget was "anti-people" and aimed at "appeasing and compensating" the NDA's coalition partners. "The budget has no vision and agenda. There is no relief to common people and it has neglected 140 crore people of the country," he said, adding that the "creaky, shaky and vulnerable" coalition govt would explode soon.

2 hurt in hoarding crash near Kol auditorium

Two persons were injured on Wednesday after a hoarding fell on them in front of an auditorium in the metropolis, moments before West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee arrived there for an award ceremony, police said. The injured have been taken to SSKM Hospital. "Their condition is stated to be critical," police said.

U.P. RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.

E-Tender Notice

E-TENDER No.: T-04/SE-Training/ UNL/ Photocopy work /2024-2025 Online e-Bids are invited for "Annual Photocopy work of documents for Shakti Bhawan, Lucknow". E-tender has been uploaded on 25.07.2024 on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated cost of materials: Rs. 6,30,621.00 only. **Tender Cost: Rs. 590.00, E.M.D. cost: Rs. 13,000.00.** Last date and time for submission of e-bid (Technical and Financial): **09.08.2024 at 16:00 Hrs.** Opening date of Part-I: **12.08.2024 at 16:00 Hrs.** Total work of materials, tender specification and other terms & conditions is as per tender document available on the e-tender portal. Undersigned reserves the right to cancel the e-Bids without assigning any reason. Corrigendum, Addendum, Extension if any shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information for time to time.

Superintending Engineer, Training Unit Lucknow

पत्रांक : 417 / प्रशिक्षण / उपनिर्देश / फोटो कौपी वर्क / 2024-2025 दिनांक : 24.07.2024

"राष्ट्रहित में विजली बचाये"

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-E-2024-148 **Approx. Cost:** 46224927.08

Description of work: Khairar Jn.-Bhimsen-CTR(S) 7.398 Tkm & Virangana Lakshmbai Jhansi-Manikpur Jn. (CTR/S)-8.879 Tkm

Earnest Money: 381100.00, **Date of closing Tender:** 20.08.2024 at 15:00 hrs., **Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter:** 12 months.

Tender online can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs on 20.08.2024. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in

1285/24 (D)
North central railways @ www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @northcentralrailway @CPNCR

Eye on state polls, oppn seeks to pin regional bias charge on BJP over Budget

Subodh.Ghildiyal @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Slamming the Union Budget as "discriminatory", the joint opposition Wednesday raised a loud protest against the Modi govt in Parliament, a political manoeuvre that seeks to turn the governing BJP's moment of after-Budget glory into a contentious regional issue with a keen eye on coming assembly elections.

INDIA bloc functionaries Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Akhilesh Yadav, Sanjay Raut, Kalyan Banerjee, Sanjay Singh, Mahua Majhi, N K Premachandran, Dayanidhi Maran, and MPs of Left parties among others gathered at the "Makar Dwar" of Parliament ahead of the proceedings. With placards in hands, they accused PM Narendra Modi of presenting a

Budget that "violates the spirit of federalism" by ignoring the states governed by BJP's rivals.

The opposition offensive against the Budget seeks to paint the governing party as beholden to its demanding allies TDP and JDU from Andhra and Bihar at the cost of others. The tactic clearly seeks to put BJP on the defensive on major turfs where it will be fighting elections soon — Haryana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, or in states where BJP is seeking expansion of its political footprint, like TN, Kerala, Telangana.

Rahul Gandhi Wednesday briefed 20 party MPs chosen to participate in the LS discussion. Sources said Rahul specifically told the members to focus on what their respective states have not got in the Budget, rather than speaking about what others have got.

The party decided to accommodate maximum states through MPs in its allocated four hours discussion time. The choice of Haryana veteran Kumari Selja as the lead speaker and then Praniti Shinde of Maharashtra was to showcase the election states. Also, the focus of opposition's criticism is on unemployment, farmers, price rise — issues which are politically sensitive, as also how govt has "picked" various announcements from Congress election manifesto.

The aggression against "discrimination" is going to be incessant during the ongoing Parliament session. Congress CMs as also Tamil Nadu's M K Stalin are set to boycott a top meeting of Niti Aayog on July 27.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Re-Invitation of Tenders through E- Tendering (E-Procurement System)

S. No.	Tender No. & Date	Name of work with its location	Approx. Cost of work	Amount of Earnest Money	Completion Period of the work	Date & time for submission of tender & opening tender
1.	32-W-BR-1259-1252 MB Date 23.07.2024	Provision of side path way over Br. No. - 1252 UP (10X22.40m) - 1252 DN (10 X 23.20 m) , 1259 UP (8X45.75), 1259 DN (16X21.65m) on M-B-S RE Section under AXEN/BL/MB over MB-Division.	Rs. 33911072.05/-	Rs.319600/-	(08) Eight Months	Upto 15:00 hrs on 16.08.2024 Opening of tender after 15:00 hrs on same day

Note: Above tender is available on website, IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in, where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2241/24

55th INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OF INDIA, Goa

CALL FOR ENTRIES

for

Best Web Series (OTT) Award, 2024

Eligibility

An original piece of work commissioned, produced, co-produced, licensed or acquired with the purpose of releasing ONLY on this OTT Platform.

Originally created/shot and available in any Indian language(s) and MUST contain English subtitles.

The season (all episodes) of the web-series released on OTT Platform during January 1, 2023 to July 31, 2024.

Online form must be submitted by August 8, 2024 till 6 PM

For Regulations and Entry Form please visit www.mib.gov.in www.iffigoa.org

Tel: 022 2353 3275/2083 0471
Email : webseriesaward@gmail.com

cbic-222011/110002/24-25

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT

Expression of interest-cum-Request for proposal (R.F.P.)

Expression of interest-cum-Request for proposal (R.F.P.) is invited for PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT OF 60 AWAS AND OFFICERS HOSTEL CAMPUS AT NEHRU PATH PATNA (BIHAR) from firms/ consultants of repute, in the field of Architecture and engineering services.

The details of R.F.P. together with eligibility criteria can be had from office of Chief Architect (E-MAIL ID- chiefarchitect.bcd@gmail.com) during office hours or can be downloaded from the notice board of <https://state.bihar.gov.in/bcd>. A pre-bid meeting will be held on 01-08-2024 at 16.00 Hrs in the office of Secretary, Building construction Department, Patna. Duly completed proposal in sealed envelope marked "PROPOSAL FOR REDEVELOPMENT OF 60 AWAS AND OFFICERS HOSTEL CAMPUS AT NEHRU PATH PATNA (BIHAR)" should be submitted to Chief architect, Building construction Department, Vishveswaraiah Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna-800015 latest by **16.00 Hrs on 02-09-2024**. Technical bid will be opened on the same date in presence of the representatives of firms at **16.30 Hrs**.

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar
PR-004606 (BCD) 2024-25 (Chief Architect)

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

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FISHERIES DISTRICT KATHUA

Ph. No. :- 01922294171; E-mail :- adf.kathua@gmail.com

Pre-Bid Meeting Notice

Sub: Pre-bid Meeting Notice for auction of fishing rights of Ranjit Sagar reservoir (J & K portion)

Due to poor response even after publication of re-auction notice with regard to auction of fishing rights of Ranjit Sagar reservoir (J & K portion), it was decided in the meeting held on 18.05.2024 that a pre-bid meeting shall be held with the interested / intended bidders particularly with the bidders of last five years to ascertain the reason for poor response.

Accordingly a pre-bid meeting is scheduled to be held on 27.07.2024 at 11 am under the chairmanship of the Joint Director Fisheries Central Jammu at Basohli, through physical/virtual mode.

As such the public at large at national level and also the bidders of last five years through this Notice are invited to participate in the said meeting on the scheduled date, time and venue.

However, interested/prospective bidders from outside the UT willing to attend the on line pre-bid meeting are requested to submit the name of participants with their mail ID and whatsapp contact nos to ADF Kathua through e-mail :- adf.kathua@gmail.com and cell no. 9419217439 for meeting link latest by 26.07.2024 upto 04 PM.

No. :- ADF/K/2024-25/ 302-310
Dated :- 22.07.2024
DIP No:DIPIJ-3252/24

Assistant Director Fisheries, Kathua.

BIHAR URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD

NOTICE INVITING Re-TENDER

FOR

Lakhisarai I&D and STP Project
NATIONAL MISSION FOR CLEAN GANGA (NAMAMI GANGE PROGRAMME)
Invitation for Bids (IFB)
National Competitive Bidding

No:BUIDCo/Yo-2356/22 (Part-I) - 16

- The BUIDCo for and on behalf of the Owner in the State of...Bihar, India invites sealed bids (to be submitted in hard copy only) from eligible Bidders for the works comprising TO (I) DESIGN AND BUILD TWO SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT OF INSTALLED CAPACITY 11 MLD AND 11 MLD ALONGWITH ALL APPURTENANT STRUCTURES AND ALLIED WORKS , UV DISINFECTION CONTROLLED WITH SCADA INCLUDING (II) SURVEY, REVIEW THE DESIGNS, REDESIGN WHERE NECESSARY, AND BUILD 2116 MTR INTERCEPTION DRAIN TAPPING OF 3 NOS DRAIN, INCLUDING SCREENS AND MECHANICALLY OPERATED GATES FACILITATING INCLUDING EFFLUENT CHANNEL DISPOSAL OF TREATED EFFLUENT THROUGH PIPELINE OF 224MTR (III) OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF THE COMPLETE WORKS OF SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT, INTERCEPTION & DIVERSION WORKS, AND EFFLUENT CHANNEL FOR A PERIOD OF 15 YEARS IN LAKHISARAI TOWN, STATE OF BIHAR, INDIA.
- Detailed Invitation for Bid which includes instructions for submission of bids and all other relevant information is available on www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in website and in BUIDCO's Website www.buidco.in. Bidding Documents will be available with effect from **26.07.2024**.
- The last date & time of bid submission in procurement portal i.e. on www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in is **19.08.2024 up to 05:00 PM**. The last date and time for submission of hard copy of required documents (EMD, All Affidavits, Undertaking) is on **20.08.2024 up to 03:30 PM**. The hard copy of required documents will be opened on the same day at **4:00 PM**. And Technical bid on eportal will be open on the same day at **5:00 PM**.
- The interested eligible bidders may participate in the bidding process as per instructions given in the bidding documents.
- Earnest Money (in hard copy) should be paid Separately in the form of Bank Guarantee and relevant document should be submitted to Managing Director, Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd, # BUIDCO Office 2nd floor, Near Rajapur Pul, West Boring Canal Road, Patna-800001 on or before 03:30 PM on 25.04.2023 failing which the tender will be rejected. Earnest Money can also be paid by online mode.

Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation, Near Rajapur Pul, West Boring Canal Road, Patna-800001
(Tel: 0612-2558412; Email: mibuidco@gmail.com)

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar Chief General Manager BUIDCo

PR-004586 (BUIDCO) 2024-25

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

DIRECTORATE OF TEACHER EDUCATION AND SCERT : ODISHA : BHUBANESWAR

TENDER CALL NOTICE FOR NMMS EXAMINATION 2024-2025

Notice

No. 3309 **Date. 23.07.24**

Tenders are invited from reputed agencies for conduct of OMR-based NMMS Examination for the year, 2024-2025. The prospective bidders must meet the qualifying criteria mentioned in the technical qualification of the tender. They should have capacity to prepare question paper, conduct of examination, publication of result and other related works as prescribed in the tender document relating to NMMS Examination, 2024-2025 for the Directorate of TE and SCERT, Odisha.

- Date of release of tenders** : 25.07.2024
- Last Date for submission of tender** : 14.08.2024 (4.00 p.m.)
- Pre-Bid Meeting** : 06.08.2024 (11.30 a.m.)

After Pre-bid meeting, the corrected RFP shall be published in the SCERT web-site on **07.08.2024**. Objections, if any, may be sent to this Directorate through official e-mail.

Detailed terms, conditions, schedules and Tender Document can be seen / downloaded from the SCERT website i.e., www.scertodisha.nic.in. E-mail ID : tescertodisha@gmail.com

Sd/-
Director
TE and SCERT
Odisha, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-27006/11/0003/24-25

Cabinet Secretariat Department

(Directorate of Aviation)

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

Letter No: CBN (Maint.)-11/2017 (Part-I)- 610

Short Tender Notice

Sealed tender is invited from manufacturers or DGCA's approved firms /Companies/ Public enterprises for Purchase of Spares and Consumables (as per annex-1) for King Air C-90 A/B, VT-EBG Aircraft as per the following:-

- The tender must reach to Director, Directorate of Aviation, Patna Airport, Patna on or before **01.08.2024 at 05:00 PM**, by registered post/speed post/courier or by hand only.
- Bidders Shall Submit their offer in two separate sealed envelopes one as Technical Bid and other as Financial Bid. The type of Bid must be written on each envelope (Technical/Financial Bid). These two bids shall be kept in another big envelope which should be sealed and subscribed, "Tender for supply of Spares and Consumables for King Air C-90 A/B, VT-EBG Aircraft."
- Technical Bid should contain self attested copies of GST and PAN. An undertaking in the form of affidavit on 100 Rupees stamp paper that the Company has not been black listed by Public Sector undertaking/ Government Organization/ DGCA. Income Tax return certificate for Preceding three Assessment years of the bidder.
- An EMD of Rs 50,000.00 (Rs. fifty thousand only) in the form of a Bank Draft issued by a Scheduled/Nationalized Bank in India, drawn in favour of Bihar Flying Inst. C.A. Department, Cabinet Secretariat Department, Patna
- Financial Bid should contain the rate of outright new spares/new spares with core exchange, validity of the rate and Guarantee/Warranty period. In case of non-availability of the new Spares then bidder shall quote the rate of overhauled spares/ overhauled spares with core exchange. The quoted rate should be that of door delivery i.e. Directorate of Aviation (State Hangar, Bihar) Campus at Patna Inclusive of all taxes, no other extra charge applicable or payable. Rate should be quoted in Indian Rupees (₹) only. Rate should be firm and fixed inclusive of all taxes. Financial bid will be opened only of those tenderers whose technical bid will be found correct.
- Each part in the bidding process will be considered as a separate unit. Therefore bunching of parts is not allowed.
- Security money of Unsuccessful bidders will be refunded immediately after final selection.
- The Technical bid and Financial bid of the tender will be opened on **02.08.2024 at 3:30 PM** before the committee headed by Additional Chief Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat Department, Bihar, Patna or by an officer so authorized by him before bidders/authorized representatives.
- In case of any dispute, the place of settlement will be within the Judicature of High Court at Patna.
- The Additional Chief Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat Department, Bihar reserves the right to reject /cancel any / all tenders without assigning any reason therefor.
- The tender notice and details of spares part can be seen on departmental website <http://state.bihar.gov.in/csd>
- Spares Parts supplied by company must have up to date serviceable tag /FAA tag. The items received with old serviceable tag /FAA tag will not be accepted and returned back to the company at their own cost. The items not meeting above mentioned requirement will be returned back to the supplier at their own cost.

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar Director Directorate of Aviation

PR-004641 (Cabinet) 2024-25

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

Body of junior sailor missing after warship fire recovered

New Delhi: The body of the junior sailor who went missing during the mishap on board the guided-missile frigate INS Brahmaputra, which after a fire eventually keeled over at the naval dockyard in Mumbai on Monday, was finally found on Wednesday.

"The body of Leading Seaman Sitendra Singh (25), who hailed from Rajasthan and is survived by his parents and an elder brother, was recovered after intensive diving operations," an officer said.

A Rear Admiral (equivalent to a Major General in Army) will head the board of inquiry into the sequence of events and reasons that led to the accident of 3,850-tonne INS Brahmaputra as well as fix responsibility in a time-bound manner.

Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi had reviewed the extent of damage to the frontline warship, which was commissioned in April 2000, during a visit to Mumbai on Tuesday. "The chief was briefed on the mitigating actions taken to limit the extent of the damage, the plan to recover and undertake repairs to restore the ship's functionality at the earliest," the officer said.

BJP: Oppn looks negatively towards backward states

Reaction Follows Oppn's Accusations Of Discriminatory Budget

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: BJP on Wednesday slammed Congress and other opposition parties for criticising the Union Budget, saying that it revealed their political frustration and negative attitude towards "some backward states" that need special focus and assistance for development.

BJP spokesperson and former Rajya Sabha MP G V L Narasimha Rao said Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led gov't Budget has been welcomed by "one and all" but the opposition parties are coming out with "immature and negative reactions" against it.

Party's reaction comes against the backdrop of Congress and other constituents of the opposition INDIA bloc accusing gov't of presenting a "discriminatory" Budget towards opposition-ruled states after finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman made a host of budgetary announcements for Andhra Pradesh and Bihar on Tuesday.

JD(U) and TDP, which rule Bihar and Andhra Pradesh respectively, are key constituents of BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) gov't at the Centre.

"The entire country looks at this as a progressive, pro-people, pro-poor, pro-farmer and pro-employment budget. It is a Budget which has actually laid out a vision for 'Viksit Bharat'," Rao said at a press conference.

With more than Rs 48 lakh crore overall budgetary expenditure, the Union Budget 2024-25 has kept its focus on every section of the society and every state in the



BJP said Andhra Pradesh needed special financial assistance because of the ravages of the division the state suffered due to Congress

country, he said, adding special focus has been given to backward states, particularly eastern regions, for their development.

"But, allocations have been made to some states keeping in view their developmental needs and long neglect," Rao said in an apparent reference to budgetary announcements made by the finance minister for Bihar and Andhra Pradesh.

He said Andhra Pradesh certainly needed special financial assistance because of the ravages of the division

T'gana House seeks Budget 'justice'

Telangana assembly Wednesday passed a resolution demanding that the Centre amend the Union Budget 2024-25 and do justice by implementing promises made to it in AP Reorganisation Act, reports Roushan Ali.

Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy alleged Modi gov't's discrimination against south Indian states was tantamount to violation of federal spirit.

and bifurcation of the state suffered due to Congress.

Rao said Congress, which is criticising the budget, had in its manifesto mentioned that it would give special category state status to Andhra Pradesh if voted to power.

"They make such kind of hollow promises because they do realise that they betrayed the people of Andhra Pradesh and they cannot get out of it. They have been reduced to 1% vote share party in Andhra Pradesh (in BJP elections)," the BJP functionary said.

Goa Bill to override court orders on land conversion

Panaji: Goa gov't will introduce a bill in the ongoing monsoon session of the assembly to protect itself against judicial scrutiny of land conversions under ODPs (outline development plans), reports Murari Shetye.

The bill aims to nullify any court verdict that is against the approvals granted for zoning and conversions based on ODPs for Calangute-Candolim Planning Area and Arpora-Nagao-Parra Planning Area.

As per the bill—Goa Town and Country Plan-

ning (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2024—neither any court nor any authority can overturn the approvals, certificates and reports that have been granted by the TCP department.

If the bill is passed, it would allow for large-scale constructions, conversions and zone changes that would change the contours of the five villages that "fall within the highly eco-sensitive areas under the environment protection legislation", sources said. The bill will give absolute powers to the TCP department.

Clarification

In the news report headlined 'Retd armyman kills six of his family members' published in TOI's editions of July 23, Haryana's Ambala was inadvertently called a district of Punjab. TOI regrets the error.

Centre for Aromatic Plants (CAP)
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Uttarakhand) Industrial Estate, Selajuk-248011, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
Tel: 0135-2698305
E-mail: cap.dun@gmail.com
Date 24 July, 2024

Extension of last date
Due to unavoidable circumstances the last date for submission of applications for recruitment of Scientist B (Technology Transfer and Rural Development) vide advertisement No. 01/CAP/2024-25 dt. 26.08.2024 now has been extended till 08th August, 2024 upto 5:00 PM. The applicants who have already applied for the above post need not to apply afresh. For detailed information institute's website: <https://www.capuk.in> may kindly be visited.

CENTRE FOR RAILWAY INFORMATION SYSTEMS
Chankyapuri, New Delhi-110021

Tender No. 01245004A Subject: Procurement of Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of Enterprise Service Bus Infrastructure for 1 year i.e. 02-Aug-2024 onwards at CRIS(HQ), Chankyapuri, New Delhi. **Date of Closing: 14.08.2024 (Wednesday) at 15:30 hrs.** Tender Documents can be downloaded from Website www.ireps.gov.in. For future modification / extensions pl. see www.ireps.gov.in.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
Sr. Divisional Engineer-Northern Railway, New Delhi for and on behalf of President of India invites e-tender on the prescribed form for the under noted work.

Name of work with location	1. Crossing of 1x400 mm dia water pipeline through 1x600 mm dia casing pipe under railway track at km. 11/12-13 between Pandu Pindara station on JP section under ADE/NP/P.	2. Crossing of 1x355 mm dia water pipeline through 1x500 mm dia casing pipe under railway track at km. 54/6-7 between Asan & Madlauda near crossing No. C-42/T-2 on JP section under ADE/NP/P.
Approx. Cost	1. ₹38,66,562.29	2. ₹29,16,802.04
Earnest Money	1. ₹77,300/-	2. ₹58,300/-

Completion period 1 to 2 | 04 Months and 3 to 4 | 12 Months

Date and time of submission of tender and opening of tender Upto 15:00 hrs. on 16.08.2024 opening of e-tender at 15:00 hrs. on 16.08.2024.

Website particulars, published-tender notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and website where the tender form can be downloaded Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

Similar Nature of work For S.No. 3 & 4 Any Civil work other than Track work

Note: All attachments must be self attested by the tenderers and the affidavit should be submitted in the new format attached with tender conditions as per Annexure-XVII is compulsory.
No. 128-W/2807/Tender Notice/24-25/W-I (NIT-28-31)
Dated: 24.07.2024

SECURITY INITIATIVE



NSA Ajit Doval with visiting UK foreign secretary David Lammy in New Delhi on Wednesday. Both sides welcomed the launch of the UK-India Technology Security Initiative, spearheaded by NSAs of both countries. The initiative aims to expand collaboration in critical and emerging technologies in priority sectors

3 elderly men held for sexually assaulting 13-yr-old girl

Three elderly men have been arrested and remanded in judicial custody for allegedly sexually assaulting a 13-year-old girl with mild mental disability on multiple occasions in a village in Tamil Nadu's Ariyalur. TNN

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PROCUREMENT, JAMMU POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED, JAMMU, RAIL HEAD, NARWAL, JAMMU, J&K PIN -180012 PHONE NO. 0191-2473402 TELEFAX- 0191-2472350 e-mail: epc1jmu@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
Dated: 23-07-2024

e-NIT No. SE/PRJ/02/2024-25
For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, Superintending Engineer, Procurement, JPDC, Jammu invites online e-bids from original Govt. registered manufacturers for supply of material as under for the requirement of JPDC:

NIT No.	SE/PRJ/02/2024-25 dated 23-07-2024
Description of Material & Quantity (In Nos.)	PURCHASE OF DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS OF EEL-II (New) OF RATING: 400 KVA (Cu Wound) - 35 Nos.

Detailed NIT maybe downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> upto 16th of August 2024 till 14:00 Hrs. The tender shall be accepted through online mode only. In case, the tender process does not get completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in the newspapers. The details regarding corrigendum may be seen on the above mentioned website.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer,
Procurement, JPDC,
Jammu.

Uttar Pradesh State Legal Services Authority

3rd Floor, Jawahar Bhawan Annexe, Lucknow
Website: www.upslsa.up.nic.in E-mail: upslsa@nic.in
Date of Advertisement: 27-07-2024
Last Date of submission of application: 31-08-2024 up to 05:00 PM

Advertisement

1- U.P. State Legal Services Authority invites application from eligible Indian Nationals for selection/appointment on the post of Chairpersons, Permanent Lok Adalats (PLA) established under section 22 B, Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 in the following districts:-

1. Kanpur Nagar	2. Shravasti	3. Shahjahanpur	4. Basti
5. Kanpur Dehat	6. Saharanpur	7. Sultanpur	8. Unnao
9. Allahabad	10. Gorakhpur	11. Baghpat	12. Pratapgarh
13. Aligarh	14. Hamirpur	15. GB Nagar	16. Hardoi
17. Bijnor	18. Maharajganj	19. Bulandshahr	

Note: The other details are available on the aforementioned official website of UP State Legal Services Authority, Lucknow

UPID 217734 dt 24.07.2024,
www.upgov.nic.in

(Sanjay Singh-1)
Member Secretary

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No. 07/2024-25/KMDA of 2024-25

Online Bids are invited by the Superintending Engineer, Circle-I, R&B Sector, KMDA, Main Block, 5th floor, Umamayan Bhawan, Bidhan Nagar, Kolkata-700091, from bonafide, reliable, experienced & resourceful firms / individuals, contractors, joint ventures / consortium, for the work, Name of Work, Earnest Money, Completion Period, Construction of 4 (four) lane Elevated corridor from E.M. Bypass near Metropolitan Housing Estate to Mahisabhan (Near New Town) with Connectivity to Salt Lake Sector-V through Engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) Mode Trunkway contract Basis, Rs.13.59 Cr, 18 Months, Last date & time of Online Bid submission: 02.09.2024 upto 14.00 hrs. for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-315)
www.kmda.wb.gov.in
www.bidsenders.net.in (CA-T12302(3)/2024

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE FOR VARIOUS SUPPLIES

For and on behalf of the president of India the Senior Divisional Materials Manager, South East Central Railway invites E-Tenders for supply of the following items.

1. E-Tender Notice No.: NIT/17/JULY/9523790A/02 Dated: 21.03.2024
Short Description of Item: CI BRACKETS etc.
Quantity: 14009 Nos.
Esti. Tender Cost: ₹ 92,40,617/-
EMD: ₹ 1,84,810/-
Due Date: 30.07.2024
Due Time: 10:30 am

2. E-Tender Notice No.: NIT/17/JULY/95245623/03 Dated: 26.06.2024
Short Description of Item: Metal Liner etc.
Quantity: 1457466 Nos.
Esti. Tender Cost: ₹ 5,05,31,739/-
EMD: ₹ 8,66,980/-
Due Date: 19.08.2024
Due Time: 10:30 am

Note:- Above mentioned tender is E-Tender and all tenderers are requested to submit their bids on-line through website <https://www.ireps.gov.in> for more details regarding the above mentioned tenders and other supply tenders please visit IREPS website.

Sr. Divisil Materials Manager
PC/12-68 S.E.C Railway, Nagpur

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER
e-Tender Notice No. 4517-GRC-CE-C-12 dated 23.07.2024. e-Tender is invited by Chief Engineer(Con)/HQ/ Garden Reach, S.E. Railway for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work. Following tender has been uploaded on website www.ireps.gov.in The tender will be closed at 12.00 hrs. on due date. **Brief Description of Works:** Comprehensive Geological Survey Using Modern Technologies for Geological Characterization and Genesis of Strata in Tunnel & Bridge Alignment Locations for New Railway Line Projects, including obtaining Environmental, Forest clearances & design of approach roads to the major work sites along the alignment for the projects under the jurisdiction of South Eastern Railway Construction Organization: 1. New Railway Line for connecting unconnected major iron ore mines in Sundargarh & Keonjhar districts of Odisha state. 2. New Railway Line between Burumara and Chakulia. 3. New Railway Line between Gourmahisani and Bangripot. 4. New Railway Line between Badampahar and Keonjhar. 5. Any other location under the jurisdiction of Chief Administrative Officer/C/S. E. Railway as per the requirement. **Approx. Cost:** ₹ 16.23 Cr. **Bid Security:** ₹ 9.61,400/-
Completion period: 09 months. **Closing Date:** 14.08.2024. Interested tenderers may visit website www.ireps.gov.in for full details/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. N.B.: Prospective Bidders may regularly visit www.ireps.gov.in to participate in all other tenders. (PR-414)

Centre For Railway Information Systems
Chankyapuri, New Delhi-110021

Tender No.01245007A
Subject: Procurement of COMPREHENSIVE MONITORING & SECURITY SOLUTIONS FOR GRC AND APPLICATION SECURITY. **Date of Closing:** 20.08.2024 (Tuesday) at 15:30 Hrs. **Pre Bid Meeting -** 01.08.2024 (11.00hrs) at CRIS/ITPI Building Conference Hall 3rd Floor Near ITO New Delhi-110002 Tender Documents Can Be Downloaded From Website www.ireps.gov.in. For Future Modification/ extensions Pl. See www.ireps.gov.in.

WESTERN RAILWAY - RATLAM DIVISION
E-Tender Notice
E-Tender Notice No. M247GLRSGR 2420 Date: 23.07.2024 **Name of Work:** Dismantling, Repair, Rehabilitation, Reconditioning, Testing and supply of Tap Changer type N-32 for Electric Locomotives and re-fitting. **Location:** Office of CWM/ Dahod W.Railway Estimated Cost of the Work: ₹ 9,19,52,880/- **Bid Security:** ₹ 6,09,800/- **Date & Time of Submission & Opening of E-Tender:** Submission of E-tender Upto 14:30 Hrs. on 14.08.2024 and Opening of E-tender at 15:00 Hrs. on same day. Tender Notice and documents available at www.ireps.gov.in E-Tenders / Works / IR Electrical SPA/17/1159 W. Rly., DHD

Pune Municipal Corporation
CHIEF ENGINEER ROAD DEPARTMENT
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (N.I.T) YEAR 2024-25.
Tender Sale Date : 25/07/2024 to Date 19/08/2024 upto 2:30 PM
Bid Submission Start & End Date : 25/07/2024 to Date 19/08/2024 upto 2:30 PM
Technical Envelope Opening Date : 20/08/2024, 3:00 PM

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Cr.) put to the Tender Excluding GST	NIT Mode	EMD Amount	Work Period	One Envelope/ Two Envelope	New Work/ Re-tender Work	Concern Contact Person
1	PMC/ROAD 2024/306	DEVELOPMENT OF VEHICLE UNDERPASS ON 24 M DP ROAD AT MUNDHWA SN 136 AND 68 NEAR JAHANGIR CHOWK KAD VASTI ON PPP BASIS DEVELOPMENT CREDIT NOTE BASIS UNDER PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN PUNE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION	Approx 46.47 cr.	B-2	500/-	36 Month	Two Envelope (B-2)	New Work	Mr. Mayur Jadhav 7798212290
2	PMC/ROAD 2024/307	APPOINTMENT OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT FOR POST TENDER ACTIVITY AND SUPERVISION OF ROAD DEVELOPMENT OF BG SHIRKE AND BHIMNAGAR AT GHORPADI	Approx 12.5 cr.	B-2	500/-	24 Month	Two Envelope (B-2)	New Work	Mrs. Megha Lawand 8149206443
3	PMC/ROAD 2024/308	APPOINTMENT OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT FOR POST TENDER ACTIVITY AND SUPERVISION OF ROAD WIDENING OF 30M DP ROAD FROM ABC FARM CHAWK TO HOTEL CARNIVAL CHAWK AT NORTH MAIN ROAD	Approx 14.5 cr.	B-2	500/-	24 Month	Two Envelope (B-2)	New Work	Mrs. Megha Lawand 8149206443

A) All details of Terms & conditions of above works are incorporated in tender documents which is available on website www.mahatenders.gov.in Sale & acceptance is available by online system only. B) If sales or submission not been available on last day also & it is not been submitted will be sole responsibility of tenderer. C) Online tender process information will be available at Road Department, Pune Municipal Corporation. D) As per office order No. 32, dated 22/04/2016 EMD deposit amount will be acceptable through Online Banking only. Tender rate for above Pre & post tender activity works & appointment of consultant for (PMC) Project Management Consultancy to be filled on Company letter head as per financial bid in (Envelope 2) to be uploaded will be considered only.

sd/-
(Amar Shinde), Superintendent Engineer (Road)
Pune Municipal Corporation

Bihar, WB cops raid Shahabuddin house

Patna: A joint police team of Bihar and West Bengal raided former MP Md Shahabuddin's house in Siwan on Wednesday in connection with a dacoity in Bengal's Raniganj on June 10 allegedly by his son's driver, reports Kshitzit.

"Some arrested suspects took the name of Hasan Imam, the driver of Shahabuddin's son Osama Shahab. Raniganj police submitted a written request to search the former MP's Purani Qila house, suspecting that Imam was hiding there for the last four days. But Imam couldn't be found at the house," Siwan SP Amitesh Kumar said.

A large force was stationed outside the residence as well as at a nearby women police station as locals gathered near the house during the raid, police said.

यमुना एक्सप्रेस-वे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
प्रथम तल, कॉमर्शियल कॉम्प्लेक्स, पी-2, सेक्टर ओमेगा-1 ग्रेटर नोएडा, जनपद-गौतमबुद्ध नगर,
Toll Free No. 18001808296 वेबसाइट: www.yamunaexpresswayauthority.com

पत्रांक संख्या: वाई.ई.ए./मूलेख/तह.-बी.पी.एम./2543/2024 दिनांक: 23.07.2024

सार्वजनिक सूचना

निम्नलिखित भूमि यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण द्वारा आपसी सहमति के आधार पर काश्तकारों से क्रय किया जाना प्रस्तावित है। क्रय हेतु काश्तकार, गाटा संख्या, क्षेत्रफल व काश्तकार का हिस्सा निम्नलिखित तालिका में अंकित है-

क्रम सं.	खाता संख्या	खसरा संख्या	गाटे का कुल क्षेत्रफल (हे. मे.)	तहसील की आख्यानुसार काश्तकार का भाग	तहसील की आख्यानुसार काश्तकार का हिस्सा	काश्तकार का नाम
1.	631	1091	1.0700	में से	0.1458	शमीम, नईम, फईम पुत्रगण सलीम व सलमा पत्नी सलीम नि. रबपुरा
2.	631	1091	1.0700	में से	0.1881	शको उर्फ शाहजाद पुत्र सुलेमान नि. रबपुरा

उपरोक्त भूमि क्रय किये जाने में यदि किसी व्यक्ति को कोई आपत्ति है तो वह लिखित रूप में 15 दिवस के अंदर यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे प्राधिकरण के कार्यालय/ सी.आर.सेल में अपनी आपत्ति प्रस्तुत कर सकता है।

विशेष कार्याधिकारी
यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण

यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण के अधिसूचित क्षेत्र में प्राधिकरण द्वारा स्वीकृत मास्टर प्लान के अतिरिक्त प्लानिंग / हाउसिंग / कॉलोनी या किसी भी प्रकार का अन्य निर्माण पूरी तरह से अथवा है। सामान्यजन इस प्रकार की खरीदफरोख्त से पूर्णतः सचेत रहें तथा कॉलोनाइजर के भ्रामक विज्ञापनों से बचें। अधिक जानकारी के लिए प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट www.yamunaexpresswayauthority.com देखें।

30 प्रो लोक सेवा आयोग
संक्षिप्त विज्ञापित

विज्ञापन संख्या-ए-3/ई-1/2023, दिनांक-21.08.2023 के क्रम में स्टाफ नर्स एलोपैथ (पुरू/महिला) मुख्य परीक्षा-2023 दिनांक 28 जुलाई, 2024 (रविवार) को एक सत्र में (पूर्वाह्न 09:30 बजे से अपराह्न 12:30 बजे तक) प्रदेश के 02 जनपदों यथा-लखनऊ एवं प्रयागराज के विभिन्न परीक्षा केंद्रों पर आयोजित की जाएगी। प्रत्यागत परीक्षा से संबंधित अर्थाधिकारों के प्रवेश-पत्र आयोग की वेबसाइट <https://uppsc.up.nic.in> पर दिनांक 24.07.2024 से उपलब्ध है।

संख्या- 12/03/ई-5/स्टा नर्स टेलो मु/2023-24 (वीरेंद्र मणि त्रिपाठी)
दिनांक- प्रयागराज 24 जुलाई, 2024 उप सचिव

BRIDCUL (ब्रिडकुल)
ब्रिज, रोपवे, टनल एण्ड इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर डेवलपमेंट कॉन्सल्टिंग एंड इंजीनियरिंग लिमिटेड (उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम) पूर्व में उत्तराखण्ड राज्य अवस्थापना विकास निगम लिमिटेड प्रधान कार्यालय: अवस्थापना भवन, 583-5, राजकीय आई0टी0आई0 निरंजनपुर के सामने, माजरा, सहारनपुर रोड, देहरादून- 248001
CIN No - U45203UR2008SGC032591 टेलीफोन- 0135-2522941, ई-मेल - bridcul@gmail.com
Ref :- 1193/BRIDCUL- 936/24 Dated: 24/07/2024

Notice Inviting Proposal

BRIDCUL invites proposals from Architectural/Design Consultancy Firms empanelled with Govt./Semi Govt. organization who have prepared DPR for the following similar types of projects in the last ten years. The RFP can be downloaded from website www.bridcul.com under the title "Tenders" and submitted along with the payment of non-refundable document fee of Rs. 20000 + 18% GST for each project in the form of DD issued from any Scheduled/Nationalized favouring "Managing Director BRIDCUL", payable at Dehradun.

S. No	Name of Project	Estimated Cost of Projects	Date of uploading of RFP documents on website	Date and time of Pre-Bid Meeting	Last date and time of receipt of proposals	Date and time opening of Technical Proposals
1	Construction of Proposed All India Ayurved Institute, Rishikul, Haridwar, under Uttarakhand Ayurved University, Harrawala, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.	100 Cr.	27.07.2024 at 1500 Hrs	02.08.2024 at 1130 Hrs	09.08.2024 at 1500 Hrs	09.08.2024 at 1530 Hrs

General Manager (Civil)-II

Pune Municipal Corporation
CHIEF ENGINEER ROAD DEPARTMENT
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (N.I.T) YEAR 2024-25.
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sd/-
(Amar Shinde), Superintendent Engineer (Road)
Pune Municipal Corporation

'We need a graded approach to include petro products under GST'

CBIC chairman Sanjay Kumar Agarwal says protection of industry by raising duties is not permanent. He also discusses GST rate rationalisation. Excerpts from an interview with Sidhartha & Surojit Gupta

FM has spoken about fewer customs slabs, if you could use that word. Can you help us understand how it will be structured?

■ We routinely undertake an exercise of the conditional notification. And within two years, we have to take that exercise, and in case we find that exemption need not be continued, we allow that exemption to lapse. In certain cases, this condition is waived, depending on the type of exemption that has been given. The idea is that we want to reduce the number of customs duty rates. In this Budget also, we are seeking to give impetus to domestic manufacturing and, in certain cases, we want to strengthen the supply chains, and help its diversification. We wanted to give certain duty concessions to industries which are in exports. And in some cases where there is an onslaught of cheap imports, such cases have been considered... and likewise where there is duty inversion, those cases also have been addressed. So, if I give a specific example, that in the case of critical minerals 25 in numbers, there is no mining of such minerals in India and the entire demand is met from imports. So, there were varying rates of duty 2.5% or 7.5%, where the exemption has been provided so that these minerals are imported and processed in the country. And for further use in various sectors, maybe it can be electronics, tele-



communication or in renewable energy devices or in defence of the space sector.

There has been criticism about India raising import duties in the last few years but what you said suggests that several of these increases are probably temporary to get manufacturing to India and, once the ecosystem is there, a review of the duty is possible. Is that a fair assessment?

■ Precisely that is the objective. If we retain the high level of protection, industry becomes uncompetitive, and in future industry has to remain competitive in international markets, because although we have a huge domestic demand, but we will have to be an export-led economy

6 If we retain the high level of protection, industry becomes uncompetitive, and in future industry has to remain competitive in the international markets

and that will be possible only if industry is very competitive. First, we will have to ensure that industry takes strong roots in the country and then slowly we have to reduce duty so they remain competitive, they don't become complacent, and then only they can compete with others in the world market.

So protection is not permanent?

■ Consumer interest is paramount, protection is not permanent. But initially some kind of protection is required so that industry can be established in the country.

How much did the menace of gold smuggling impact in reducing duty or was it due to the fact that the domestic gems and jewellery industry was getting affected due to high tariffs?

■ It is both because the gems and jewellery sector was persistently asking for reduction in duty on gold because that

is the basic raw material. And yes, if the rate of duty is high on gold, the margin between the price differential, price arbitrage is again huge, huge between the international market and domestic market.

The Budget talks about rationalisation of GST rates and inclusion of more products, which we think is a reference to petroleum products. What is your view on this issue of rationalisation? Is it time to include petroleum?

■ Now seven years have passed, it has now stabilised and that is reflected in the growth of revenue from GST. Now, the time has come that we look into simplification of the rate structure. There may be a need for rationalisation of rates and bringing down the number of rates, number of slabs. You talked about petroleum items, there are five petroleum items which are outside GST. These are crude oil, natural gas, petrol, diesel and ATF. Petrol and diesel are fuels for automotive purposes but crude oil is a feedstock for further manufacturing. Natural gas is also used by industry, along with its use in CNG and as a cooking fuel. We can see that there can be two categories of these items: Crude is not used by end consumers and it goes into industrial use. It has to be gradual but not in one gap. There can be a graded approach which is possible.

'Internship beneficiaries will be picked in a fair and transparent way'

Finance secy TV Somanathan says there will be objective criteria to decide candidates selected for the internship scheme. He argues that some of the incentives for employment will pull down entry barriers for first-timers

Surojit Gupta & Sidhartha | TNN

How is the employment scheme going to be implemented?

■ There are three direct incentives for employment, two for skilling. In the first three, there are three parts. One is an incentive which will be paid to every first timer who enters the formal job market. If we receive the CV of somebody with no experience, versus the CV of somebody with experience, the person with experience is preferred. There is a cost to the employer in absorbing a first timer into the organization because that person has to go through the learning curve. By providing a subsidy to the employee, we are encouraging the employer to recruit.

The second scheme is also for first timers, but if an employer adds either 50 employees or 25% of the previous year first timers, we are offering a very substantial subsidy over a period of four years, which will be 72% of one month's salary. The idea is to again incentivise employment of those who are not able to get employment on their own in the present setup. The third one doesn't distinguish between first-timers and others, there is an incentive for any employer who creates incremental employment above the baseline and sustains it.

Selection for the internship scheme will be done from a list and not in a way that no one gets employment through the backdoor. It's not that this is a way for a company to take in people it would have placed anyway or recruited anyway and claim subsidy. The list will come from govt from which they will choose. The entire process will be done in an objective manner through a portal and based on open access.

Those with lower employability will be chosen and we have a negative list of IITs, IIMs, CAs; any person whose family member with assessed income will be excluded. Govt will soon decide the criteria for selection.

How will education loan subsidy work?

■ This scheme will be administered by the ministry concerned. Students will apply to the bank, like they do, for getting student loans. In that we open an additional window for those who are in this scheme, but they must be ineligible for benefits under any other govt scheme.

We are four months into the fiscal year,



and you have stuck to the capex target for the year. Do you see more demand coming?

■ I wish to emphasize that the Budget is a continuation of the interim budget that was presented for this year. In Feb, we thought that this level of capex will be appropriate, and we are maintaining that level. I don't know if we will be able to spend the whole thing or there will be acceleration. It is an aspirational target to reach Rs 11,11,111 crore.

You have had talks with employees on the shape of NPS they would like. What is the feedback and when are you going to give your recommendations?

■ I can't comment on the timing. From the staff side the core issue is that they do not want their pension to be at the mercy of fluctuating market forces or valuations. The second issue is there should be an element of DA because there will be inflation. The third issue is that for those who may not have full service, there must be some kind of base minimum level of pension

As with most budgets, there's the complaint that there is nothing for the middle class. How would you respond to that?

■ Our statistics show that nearly 70% of taxpayers are on the new tax regime and there are substantial concessions for them due to the standard deduction and change in slabs. The incentives given on the employment side, salaries up to Rs 1 lakh is covered and not only for lower pay levels. It will also push employment of middle-class youth. There is subsidy on education loans and several other initiatives including more credit flow to MSME entrepreneurs. They are all in the middle class.

'Indexation will benefit most. Govt may forego revenue from real estate capital gains changes'

Revenue secretary Sanjay Malhotra says that the govt has not estimated any revenue gain from changes in capital gains tax on real estate. In an interview to TOI, Malhotra says people are not looking at the reduction in tax rate from 20% to 12.5%

Surojit Gupta & Sidhartha | TNN

There are apprehensions about the changes to capital gains tax, particularly from the real estate point of view as indexation has been scrapped. Could you explain the impact on taxpayers?

■ This exercise should be seen as a rationalisation exercise. It's a simplification exercise. Govt has always endeavoured towards a simple tax regime, one that is easy to comprehend and easy to implement.

In line with this vision, govt introduced GST. It was a monumental reform. Similarly, even on the income tax side, you have seen a number of measures for simplification that have been announced while some are in the pipeline, including the comprehensive review of income tax. Now, this is only one small measure relative to capital gains.

Most people will gain from the removal of indexation. Firstly, unlisted companies stand to hugely gain from this 20% with indexation because their returns

every year is generally more than 13%-14%-5%. They have widely welcomed this move for removal of indexation. My strong belief is that even in real estate, a vast majority will actually benefit. What people are really looking at is that indexation has been removed, not at the reduction in the tax rate from 20% to 12.5%.

What would have been the average?

■ My understanding is that the average would be much more than 12.5%.

There is apprehension that it is some kind of a backdoor entry of wealth tax...

■ Not at all. This is a canard being spread by some people. There is no inheritance tax. If you reinvest this money in buying another house, your wealth remains and there is no tax on it. But if you sell it generate cash, then that becomes taxable, as is the case with shares. If you reinvest the proceeds from the shares, or the capital gains part, again into shares, there is no such benefit; or even for equity mutual funds. So, to say this is a tax



on wealth or inheritance is totally false and baseless.

Is there any estimate of the revenue that you will get from this measure?

■ From real estate we have estimated nil. Our estimate is that it is nil, revenue it may even be negative.

FM has promised a comprehensive review of the income tax law. There was a report earlier too so how will you proceed?

■ That exercise was completed and many of its provisions have been incorporated. The purpose is to really make it more simple, lucid, as the FM announced. People should be able to read and understand it easily. It will be a complete review and wherever we need rewriting we will do it. We will take into account whatever

work has been done. An internal committee of officers undertake the review and also consult stakeholders.

There are complaints that the income tax portal is slow. What are your views?

■ These are implementation issues. The Microsoft servers were down. So these are technology issues. We are monitoring it for the last few days. It's been very, very smooth. We've got about 22 lakh returns on Tuesday. The peak filing is 50 lakh. We are monitoring the performance of the portal and we will do whatever is necessary.

So any possibility of extending the last date for filing returns?

■ No, not at all. That is not on the cards. We are very confident that we will be able to smoothly accept all returns by July 31.

Why did the govt decide against extending the benefit of lower tax for new manufacturing units?

■ Our tax rates are very reasonable, it works out of around 25%. We are confident that these rates will help attract good investment. We have taken a number of measures in the budget to further spur investment - angel tax has been removed, tax on foreign companies have been lowered. There have been changes on the indirect taxes side to help manufacturing.

Ajay Seth, economic affairs secy, talks about a range of issues from fiscal consolidation to managing food inflation and billionaire tax. In an interview to TOI, Seth is upbeat about sticking to the fiscal consolidation plan against the backdrop of global uncertainties

'Achieving 4.9% fiscal deficit in 2024-25 is a manageable aspiration'

Surojit Gupta & Sidhartha | TNN

How do you see the fiscal consolidation plan pan out given the uncertainties?

■ The economy did better last year, and is estimated to continue to do equally well this year. That means we don't see any downside in revenues. However,

there can be some upside. The new expenditure is of the order of Rs 50-60 thousand crore, including for the new schemes, and the RBI dividend has been more than what we had estimated. Keeping all that in mind, it was felt that we can go down to 4.9%. This should put less pressure on the market, more mon-

ey for the private sector. We can say with reasonable confidence that 4.9% is an achievable aspiration.

High food inflation has been an issue. There have been suggestions to keep food inflation separate from the point of view of monetary policy. What is your view?

■ Budget is an important document of fiscal policy. Fiscal policy and monetary policy has to be in synergy with each other but the question that you are asking is purely monetary policy remit so I would not like to jump into that question. Except saying there have been decisions, various monetary economists have been talking about what is the right anchor for inflation for monetary policy. Organisations like the IMF have been talking about it. What the Budget takes



into account that over the course of the next 12 months what is the outlook on inflation?

Does the Budget create conditions for interest rates to ease?

■ Monetary policy takes several things into consideration. What is the fiscal target of govt is also one of the factors. So I will park that issue there. This Budget makes it very clear what kind of

6 We have tried in the past taxing wealth and not succeeded at it. Purely from an economic perspective, it doesn't make sense to tax that. This discourse that tax wealth is a bad concept

consolidation we have to do and having the ability and retaining the ability to meet all priority expenditure.

High food prices and high vegetable prices are recurring issues due to weather related events. What is the strategy to tackle this?

■ I would like to draw your attention to para 13 and para 14 of the Budget speech which point to where govt wants more action. Is overall food inflation at a particular level, headline a little more. The Budget says the pulses mission and the oilseeds mission need to be stepped up.

These are not new programmes but we have to do better than what we have been doing. It has already identified a very clear action because the only solution to that can be by becoming self-sufficient which means more production in those areas. We can't be importing, then we are dependent on others. On vegetables, seasonal variation sets in. How the climate will behave next year we don't know. But what is in our control, can vegetables be grown closer to large consumption centres rather than saying they will be grown in one part of the country and transported over hundreds of kilometres. These are perishable commodities, and logistics costs are involved. These are the supply side measures of addressing the issue.

Brazil has put a proposal for a tax on billionaires at the G20. What is your view?

■ We have tried in the past taxing wealth and not succeeded. Purely from an economic perspective, it doesn't make sense to tax that. This discourse that tax wealth is a bad concept.

'New regime brings significant savings for taxpayers'

Continued from P1

The IT department on Wednesday sought to address concerns over indexation-related provisions. Releasing the calculations made by CBDT for different scenarios, it said: "Nominal real estate returns are generally in region of 12-16% per annum, much higher than inflation. Indexation for inflation is in region of 4-5%, depending on period of holding. Therefore, substantial tax savings are expected for the vast majority of taxpayers."

The dept said the new regime is beneficial for five-year old properties under new regime which have appreciated 1.7 times or more. Similarly, for 10 years, if the value rises 2.4 times the new mechanism is seen to be beneficial. The same holds for property purchased in 2009-10 with appreciation

LOWER TAX BURDEN, MOST NOT WORSE OFF

(Figs in Rs)	Sale consideration	Capital gains with indexation of COA (Old)	Capital gains without indexation of COA (New)	Taxation (Old) @20%	Taxation (New) @12.5%	Tax savings (Old-New)	Savings % (Tax savings as % of old tax)
Case 1	800 (8x cost of asset)	649	700	129.8	87.5	42.3	Highest tax saving 32.6
Case 2	600 (6x cost of asset)	449	500	89.8	62.5	27.3	30.4
Case 3	400 (4x cost of asset)	249	300	49.8	37.5	12.3	24.7
Case 4	300 (3x cost of asset)	149	200	29.8	25	4.8	16.1
Case 5	200 (2x cost of asset)	49	100	9.8	12.5	-2.7	-27.6 Increased tax burden

Conditions Test period: 10 yrs

Cost of acquisition (COA) | ₹100 (say); Purchased in FY 2014-15
Cost Inflation Index (CII) for FY 2024-25 = 363; CII for FY 2014-15 = 240
Therefore, Indexation Factor = 363/240 = 1.51
Indexed COA = 100 x 1.51 = 151

Source: I-T dept

of 4.9 times or more, it said. "It is only in cases where returns are low (less than about 9-11% per annum) that the earlier tax rate is beneficial, but such low returns in real estate are unrealistic

and rare (less than 10% of cases)," the department said. Revenue secretary Sanjay Malhotra told TOI that the benefits of reinvesting the capital gains in a new property and parking the funds in

tax-exempt 54EC bonds issued by REC are intact.

Asked about the revenue impact, he said that the Centre may end up losing revenue as most taxpayers are likely to gain from the decision.

"Simplification of any tax structure has benefits of ease of compliance, including computation filing, maintenance of records. This also removes the differential rates for various asset classes," CBDT said.

54% Budget increase for fisheries; boost to shrimp farming & exports

Vishwa.Mohan
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New Delhi: With allied sectors of Indian agriculture steadily emerging as robust growth components for improving farm incomes, the department of fisheries saw a jump of 54% in its budgetary allocation, and got special assistance for expanding shrimp farming and their export.

As against a Budget of Rs 1,701 crore in 2023-24, the department of fisheries, which took multiple initiatives for growing the sector, got over Rs 2,616 crore for 2024-25.

A large part (Rs 2,352 crore) is meant for PM Matsya Sampada Yojana — a scheme to bring 'Blue Revolution' through sustainable

and holistic development of the fisheries sector in India.

In addition to higher allocation, FM Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech Tuesday announced financial support for setting up a network of Nucleus Breeding Centre (NBC) for shrimp brood stocks. The move will ensure availability of quality brood fish for quality seed.

Financing for shrimp farming, processing & export will be facilitated through NABARD. It is expected that the state-of-art facilities in NBCs will improve the genetic quality of aquaculture species for higher productivity and quality, and reduce the country's dependence on import of shrimp broodstock.

India's seafood exports last fiscal touched an all-

time high of over Rs 60,000 crore in which frozen shrimp accounted for about two-thirds of the amount. Shrimp exports have increased significantly to Rs 40,013 crore in 2023-24 from Rs 8,175 crore in 2011.

In order to further enhance its competitiveness, the FM also proposed reduction in Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on certain broodstock, polychaete worms, shrimp and fish feed to 5%, and exemption in customs duty on various inputs for manufacture of shrimp and fish feed.

The fisheries sector makes up about 6.7% of the agricultural gross value added (GVA) and has grown at a compound annual rate of 8.9% between 2014-15 and 2022-23 (at constant prices).

'Internship Scheme Not Compulsory, We Are Nudging Industry To Do It'

A day after presenting her seventh straight budget, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman sat down with TOI's Surojit Gupta and Sidhartha to discuss the messages — from politics to reforms and the broader economy. Excerpts:

Your budget is being described as a political budget and is being analysed in light of the election results. Did the original intent of the govt, reflected in the interim budget, change after the results?

FM: This budget has every continuity from the interim budget, nothing has been dropped, everything has continued, though newer things have been added. When you say it is political, you refer to projects we have taken up for Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. But we did that for a reason. The AP Reorganisation Act must be honoured. We have been doing it since 2014. That is why backward districts fund had to be given for backward district development in both Telangana and Andhra; many institutions, AIIMS, IIT, IIT, have been



Photo: Piyal Bhattacharjee

(On presenting seven budgets) It's been a great experience because you learn so much you feel that you're doing something absolutely concrete. It's a good thing that, as a team, all of us work together; the immense support and time that PM gives is unbelievable. It will not be fair for any minister to expect that kind of support, and he has ungrudgingly given time to talk about the budget issues

set up there. In some cases, there has been some delay like Polavaram. Now the first cabinet approval has been honoured; because it is a national project, we will have to give money for it. Similarly, Andhra Pradesh is the only state without a capital, we will give money. These are additions but it is not as if they never existed. They need to be honoured now because 10 years have passed.

In Bihar's case, can anyone deny the devastation that happens because of Kosi flooding? Efforts were made at India's cost to build dams in Nepal to regulate the flow of the river and stop flooding. The progress on that is still awaited and so we decided to do something to stop people from suffering. Proposal from the Bihar govt is for Kosi-Mechi dam and irrigation and there are 20 other minor projects, which we have accepted. At our cost, we are willing to send a team to assess if barrages can be built to divert water to sort out the problem of floods.

What about the focus on jobs?

■ That's not political. Job creation has always been our priority and we have come up with a packages of five schemes.

In hindsight, could the interim budget have included steps that would have helped politically in the elections?

■ I am not in a position to assess it because I look at the budget as a statement of what we're doing. As a vote on account, I was expected to ensure that I took care of expenditure till the time a new govt came in. That's how we went about it, except the solar rooftop scheme, which is required for renewable energy in the country.

Are other demands from Andhra which were part of the reorganisation bill still on the table?

■ Every demand which has been mentioned in the reorganisation Act will be taken up.

The demand for special status keeps coming, not just from Bihar and AP, but also from others such as Odisha. Is that something that you would want the Finance Commission to take a relook at?

■ The 14th Finance Commission and a committee under Raghuram Rajan looked at it and for 10-12 years it has been suggested as an unsustainable categorisation. There's nothing more that I can add to it.

Your govt has stayed away from freebies but the opposition has been promising them, such as Rs 8,500 monthly transfer to women. Given that everyone wants more, how challenging is it to address their demand and convince them that it's not good in the long run?

■ It is very challenging. Although many parties realise that it is unsustainable, beyond a point, I don't think there's political honesty in accepting it. You may probably justify giving a freebie today. In a public position, who is answerable for taxpayers, you have to be clear that collecting tax from someone and paying it to somebody else, however deserving that person may be, should be sustainable. You should be able to generate adequate revenue to meet primary requirements of a society: drinking water, electricity, primary health and education. You have to be honest in ensuring that you don't borrow left, right and centre and leave a burden on future generations. Look at what is happening in Karnataka. They must honour the electoral promises without saying they don't have money for development. You need honest debate on these things.

How do you deal with the political

consequences of not offering these types of schemes?

■ You need an honest debate on how far one can go. It is not easy to say that your freebie is unacceptable, while defending my own as a welfare measure. And why should people not take the benefit of something being given for free? Buses in Karnataka are full of women who you don't want to pay, and I won't blame them (the women). But when you charge men double for it, eventually it's the family paying for it.

Opposition is criticising your budget for lack of allocation of funds for some states. Is it based on facts or is there some misinterpretation?

■ This is 100% blatant misinformation. Unsubstantiated claims are being made as political narrative setting tools. Till such a time it is refuted and refuted many number of times, they will go on saying it, making people wonder what is going on. People will like to see the facts but there is a lag before truth reaches them. The opposition, particu-

Our taxes cannot be subject to arbitration or court proceedings elsewhere. Putting it into a bilateral investment treaty, and opening up Indian taxes to be adjudicated elsewhere is not right; in fact, impossible. So those are the kinds of things on which we'll have to negotiate and negotiate for India's sovereign position to be absolutely intact

larly Congress, is brazenly pushing this methodology of building a narrative which is not backed by facts, or backed by partial facts. They hide what has happened during their govts. For instance, if I don't mention the name of a state in my budget speech, they say the state has got nothing at all. To counter it, I will have to take a budget document, open every page and say, for this state, I've done this for that state, I've done this. As a responsible opposition, you think you have no other way in which you can put the govt on the mat, except for disinformation? This brazen method of building a false narrative, repeating it and restating it with the hope that it will stick has been tried in the Lok Sabha elections. They are trying it even now.

How will govt respond to it?

■ I will be countering it. Every time I stand up to do that, I'm sounding defensive. If they were in power, they would be equally defensive. In the election, people voted for the opposition to be responsible, that's why after a good struggle, they reached 99, they could not cross 100. But even after that, they don't seem to get the message. By conducting a misinformation campaign and sounding aggressive, they want to posture that they have been very solid as the opposition. But people will see through it sooner or later. You're filibustering and will, after a point, be exposed.

There is a lot of attention on capital gains tax and the decision to do away with indexation benefit, while reducing tax. What prompted this change and is the assessment that people will be worse off correct?

■ This perception that you will be at a disadvantage is not real. It's absolutely not correct. The idea is to simplify the way in which different asset classes are being treated for capital gains tax and

Every budget is a challenge. Each year I feel that year's is the toughest. You think you had it all by that year, the next year something else

treat them similarly. That's why it has resulted in 10% becoming 12.5% for stocks but getting reduced for others. We have gone through several cases or instances, picking up different numbers for assets, including property, bought in 2001, 2002 or 2003 and seen the taxable amount. After working it out, we have arrived at 12.5%. We have released the calculations, and you can see it. In almost every case, people have a lower tax burden under this system. Small or medium, people who are going into the market or property investments are going to benefit from it. Nobody's going to be worse off, unless you're a top, big investor. We are accused of



Unsubstantiated claims are being made as political narrative setting tools. As a responsible opposition, you think you have no other way in which you can put the government on the mat, except disinformation?

working only for Ambani and Adani and they (the opposition) want to bring wealth tax and inheritance tax. Today, you are shouting at me for asking those few people, who have higher earning, to pay more.

You have announced this grand scheme for employment and skilling. But you have invited criticism that govt is interfering with the labour market and will direct the private sector. How do you address these concerns?

■ It's not compulsory for anybody, we are nudging people to do it. Who is intruding into the private sector? By the way, you always accused us of support-

ing only two (groups) and not the others. Hypocrisy, thy name is Congress party.

How will the matching be done?

■ There is no difficulty on the EPFO side. It is only when we want interns to go for training, we will have to ensure that industries come on board. We will have the labour ministry or ministry of corporate affairs to look into this. It is optional. We're not forcing anybody, we've had a lot of discussion with CII and Ficci and they thought it is possible to do it. It will actually help them because they will have industry-ready people, who can be employed.

Jobs are the big thrust of the budget. The Survey also says 78.5 lakh jobs are required every year. Will the measures ensure that the requirement is met?

■ First, Economic Survey does it purely from the point of the economy, it is for businesses, entrepreneurs to create jobs. We have come up with eight specific measures, they will create jobs. Once it gathers momentum, many oth-

This budget has every continuity from the interim budget, there's nothing dropped, everything continues, and newer things have been added. In that, when you say it is political, we have taken up projects from Bihar and Andhra Pradesh and it is not without reason

from some place, it is fitted as per plan, often with some computerised perfection. Jobs are still there, but no longer that manual. It is still going to take a lot of manpower, but the skill sets have to be different. You still see hundreds of people when a new Parliament building is being built or the Central Vista is being built.

But fewer people...

■ That's right. But look at the quantum of construction — flyovers, highways, roads, ports, inland waterways. You didn't have these many projects happening earlier when labour was just manual. You are doing 22-25 km of highways every day and everything has been scaled up.

Economy is doing well but there are price pressures, especially with monsoon being patchy and there is the challenge of climate change. How do you deal with supply side issues?

■ We will have to wait for the meteorological department to tell us whether it (monsoon) has been in the adequate range. There are several things which are being done for perishables — storage, irradiation. There is a scheme for MSME irradiation as well, which will help perishables last longer and reach the market even when it is not production season. We have announced measures to have vegetable production clusters around major cities. There are several ways in which we are managing food products, particularly perishables. We want to ensure better supply chain linkages.

India has liberal FDI ceilings. Is there a case for better marketing of India as an investment destination and dealing with some of the other issues like bilateral investment treaties, which some countries want to be simplified? The Survey also mentioned that there are some tax and non-tax concerns.

■ On investing in India, people realise that if there is one economy in the world whose macroeconomic fundamentals are strong, it is India. Investment protection agreements are being taken up. We're talking with a lot of countries to have these agreements done wherever the trade agreements happen. I want to be clear that taxation cannot be part of investment agreements. There are some investment-related treaties, which require taxation-related matters also to become a part of the investment treaties. We are clearly hesitant.

It is Parliament which decides how tax matters have to be dealt with. Our taxes cannot be subject to arbitration or court proceedings elsewhere. Putting it into a bilateral investment treaty, and opening up Indian taxes to be adjudicated elsewhere is not right; in fact, impossible. So those are the kinds of things on which we'll have to negotiate and negotiate for India's sovereign position to be absolutely intact.

In the past, govt has tried land reforms and farm sector reforms but faced resistance. Will you still pursue it since economists see them as a structural constraint? Some political parties also seem to agree. Or will you leave it to states?

■ I don't know if political parties agree, because they seem to take a politically convenient line rather than support any of these issues. In any case, on that, I won't be able to say anything further.

You have raised the securities transaction tax on F&O and there are concerns about that segment. Are more regulatory steps required? How do you deal with this apprehension of speculation in the market at a time when there are more retail investors coming in?

■ As a regulator, Sebi is very alert. It is working to protect the interest of investors and as the regulator, it will have to keep alerting people about the risks involved. Not everything is speculation, people also want to invest and earn legitimately. Indian regulators have done very well. Our regulators are periodically reinforcing their mechanisms, but they are taking a soft touch approach and are in a consultative mode, before they bring in any regulation, thereby giving good confidence to our investors.

Are you still going ahead with the public sector policy and what is the privatisation plan?

■ It is intact and it is approved by Parliament, so we will honour it.

On small savings rate, the RBI Bulletin has periodically suggested that rates are kept lower than market-linked rates. Is the govt looking at the post-tax return while announcing rates?

■ Progressively a lot of steps have been taken to align our rates with the recommendations of the Shyamala Gopinath committee. So, it is not as if we're deviating from the committee's suggestions.

In recent weeks, there have been demands to ease visa and investment restrictions from China. Is it feasible, given the continuing tension on the border?

■ I'm not sure there's anything in front of me. There may be some discussions going on in other parts of the govt.

MSMEs are another big focus area and you have addressed financing and technological upgrade-related aspects. What about compliance and inspections?

■ The finance or MSME ministries cannot deal with everything that affects them. The states in which they are located also have a role to play. However, from our side, we've announced major measures and I hope problems of credit, financing, problems of addressing the marketing requirements, problems of purchase of equipment have, to a very large extent, been addressed.

There are concerns over the provisions in the Income Tax Act on booking expenditure for payments that are overdue beyond 45 days, which is a provided for in the SME Development Act. Does that law need to be dealt with first?

■ Yes, whether they want 45 days, which has existed in the law for several years, or 90 days or whatever else, is something which relates to the MSME. All that the MSMEs requested finance ministry to do was let them get the tax benefit. By not paying within the stipulated time you (the buyers) are violating the MSME Act while also claiming the benefit for it (payment that was not made). MSMEs said they (buyers) are not paying them but they're getting tax benefit out of it. So the change has to be in the MSME law, that's what I've been explaining.

One of the manifesto promises was to

In almost every case, people have a lower tax burden under this system. The small or the medium people who are going into the market or property investments are going to benefit from it. Nobody's going to be worse off, unless you're a top, big investor. We are accused of working only for Ambanis and Adanis and they want to bring wealth tax and inheritance tax. Today, you are shouting at me for asking those few people who have higher earnings, to pay

extend Aayushman Bharat to senior citizens and the expectation was that it will be done in the budget.

■ We will wait for the health ministry to come up with details.

You have sought to rationalise the provisions related to TCS and TDS. There are close to 50 entries and now you are getting a lot of data. Will the review of the income tax law also deal with these issues?

■ Let's see what the committee is going to decide.

What will be the broad mandate?

■ Simplification.

You have now presented seven budgets, which has been the most difficult one?

■ Every budget is a challenge. Each year I feel that this one is the toughest. You think you had it all by that year, but next year there is something else.

Have you enjoyed it?

■ It's been a great experience because you learn so much you feel that you're doing something absolutely concrete. It's a good thing that, as a team, all of us work together; the immense support and time that the PM gives is unbelievable. It will not be fair for any minister to expect that kind of support, and he has ungrudgingly given time to talk about budget issues.

One issue that you mentioned yesterday, was the PM's insistence on fiscal consolidation.

■ That's been his hallmark from his Gujarat days, he has never been profligate.

Not many of your predecessors have been in this job for five years. Do you get satisfaction that you have been able to see the results?

■ Budget-making today is so different from what it was earlier. The budget document itself is a lot more transparent and accountable, and that's not to say that they were not accountable earlier. But the document speaks for itself because everything is on board.

Do you get a little disturbed because of the attacks on social media?

■ I think I've got used to it although I do take some messages seriously because they can be from people who have genuinely been affected and they are voicing it through social media. May be that's one way they are trying to reach out to govt, to the finance minister, to the Prime Minister. I do take some of the messages like an SOS. But some of the messages are very vicious: in the language that they use and the tone with which they say. But it's not possible for me to allow that to upset me. If there is toxic language, I leave it there.

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Telephone No. 01970233116 E-mail ID : ee-deh-hp@nic.in

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer Dehra Division HPPWD Dehra H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the item rate bids, in the electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No. :- 1 Name of work :- Construction of Aadsh Gram Sukh Aashray Parisar / Complex at Jawalamukhi (Luthan) Tehsil Jawalamukhi Distt. Kangra HP (SH- C/o Building portion, Sanitary installation rain Harvesting tank & septic tank etc. Estimated Cost (Rs.) :- 1,05,42,74,530.00

Starting date for downloading Bid :- 05.08.2024 Earnest Money :- Rs 2,10,86,000/- Deadline for submission of Bid :- 13.08.2024 Tender Form Cost :- Rs 5000/-

The bidders are advised to note other details of tender form the department website www.hptenders.gov.in. **Date of opening of tender 14.08.2024**

Executive Engineer,
Dehra Division H.P.PWD., Dehra
Pin No. 177101,
Tel. No. 01970-233116,
e-mail :- ee-deh-hp@nic.in
on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

Advt. No.-100524/07/2024 HIM LOK SAMPARK

Mahatma Phule Renewable Energy and Infrastructure Technology Limited
Subsidiary of MPBCDC (Govt. of MH Undertaking)

RFP- MAHAPREIT invites Request for Proposal (RFP) for Consortium of Technology provider, Executor, Management and Funds for Thane Municipal Corporation Urban Renewal Plans CONTEMF. Interested Agencies/ Developers may submit their documents on or before 23/08/2024 up to 04:00 PM. Details of the RFP can be viewed at <https://mahapreit.in> Executive Director

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a Girl namely **Divya D/o Navin Kumar R/o H. No. 331/B12 Gali No. 3 Rajgarh Colony Gandhi Nagar, New Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped from her Home Since 15.07.2024 at 04:00 AM. In this regard, a **DD No. 32A, Dt. 16.07.2024** has been registered at **P.S.: Gandhi Nagar, Delhi**.

The description of the missing Girl is as under:
Age: 22 years, Height: 4'11" Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Black Colour Top And Lower & Black & Blue Shoes. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. Any person is having information or clue about this missing Girl may kindly inform to the following.

Ph. No. 011-24368638, 24368641
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in S.H.O
Fax No. 011-24368639 PS: Gandhi Nagar, Delhi
DP/9246/SHD/2024 Ph No. 8595895116, 9813096486

ग्रेटर नौएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
ग्रेटर नौएडा-1, नौएडा मार्ग-IV, ग्रेटर नौएडा सिटी, नौएडा नगर-201300, छ.प्र.
वेबसाइट: www.greaternoidaauthority.in, ई-मेल: authority@gnida.in

पत्रांक: नियोज/2024/वीए-38/237 दिनांक 24.07.2024

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्व साधारण को एतद्द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि ग्राम-रिहोरी में 6/10 प्रतिशत आबादी भूखण्डों के पुनर्नियोजन के प्रस्ताव पर मुख्य कार्यालय अधिकारी महोदय द्वारा दिनांक 11.07.2024 को सैद्धांतिक स्वीकृति प्रदान की गई है।

ग्राम-रिहोरी के 6/10 प्रतिशत आबादी भूखण्डों के पुनर्नियोजन प्रस्ताव पर यदि कोई आपत्ति/सुझाव हो तो समाचार पत्र में सूचना प्रकाशन की तिथि से 10 दिनों के अन्दर किसी भी कार्यदिन में प्रातः 9.30 बजे से सायंकाल 6.00 बजे तक प्राधिकरण के कन्स्ट्रक्शन डिप्टी कमिश्नर (नियोज/वास्तु) ग्रेटर नौएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण ग्रेटर नौएडा को सम्बोधित करते हुए लिखित एवं आधिकारिक आईडी-gmpanning@gnida.in के माध्यम से प्रेषित किये जा सकते हैं।

उपरोक्त अनुमोदित संशोधनों पर आपत्ति/सुझाव देने वाले व्यक्ति/संस्था को अपना नाम, पता व दूरभाष नं० सहित पूर्ण विवरण देना आवश्यक है।

महाप्रबन्धक नियोजन/वास्तुकला
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Tel. :- (022) 27572015 - 18 Fax No. (022) 27579756

"EXPRESSION OF INTEREST"

Executive Director Business and Operations invites Expression of Interest for the association as Project Partners with Konkarn Railway Corporation Ltd. For various new projects from eligible companies. For further details please visit www.konkanrailway.com (The path for EOI document : www.konkanrailway.com -> Departments -> Electrical -> Empanelled Business Associate -> EOI document for Empanelment for Erection, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Over Head Equipment and Power Supply Installations for 1x25KV/2x25 AC traction system).
Processing Charges: ₹ 15,000/- Rupees Fifteen Thousand plus GST 18% only. (non refundable). **Last date and time of submission of EOI: 01.08.2024 upto 15:00 Hrs.**

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one male namely **Rohit Shah S/o Sh Dalip Shah R/o A-27/28 UGF-1, Loten Apartment Khanpur Ext. New Delhi**, has been missing/kidnapped from his house Delhi, since: 09.07.2024. In this regard, a case **DD No.0090A dated 09.07.2024** has been registered at **P.S. Tigri Delhi**. The description of the missing male is as under:

Age: 23 years, Height: 5'8", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: fatty, Wearing: Gray color T-shirt and blue color jeans pant and chappal in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing male then please inform **P.S. Tigri, Delhi** at following Tel No./ e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, providing clue about the person.

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 Sd/-S.H.O
Fax No. 011-24368639 Tigri, Delhi
DP/9516/SD/2024 Tel No. 8750870834

UJVN Limited
HO "UJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808 Fax- 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

पत्र सं० 627 दिनांक : 23 / 07 / 2024

TENDER NOTICE

Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M-SHP), UJVN Ltd., Guptkashi, invites sealed tenders from interested bidders. Brief summary of tender is given below:

Tender No: 03/EE(E&M-SHP)/Kalganga-II/2024-25: Design, drawing with detail engineering of MIV pit dewatering system and modification of existing open loop cooling water system to close loop cooling water system for Kalganga-II SHP (2x2.25 MW+1.5 MW COL) located in Tehsil Ukimath, District- Rudrapur, Uttarakhand
Estimated cost: ₹1918000/- GST included.
Date of availability of bid document: 24.07.2024, 17:00 hrs.
Last date for submission of tender: 19.08.2024 up to 11:00 hrs
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com"

Executive Engineer (E&M-SHP)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
Navratna Company
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
CIN-L45203DL1976GOI098171, Website: www.ircon.org

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

EOI No: IRCON/ELECT/BD/2X25 KV/EOI/2024 Dt.24.07.2024
Expression of Interest (EOI) From willing vendors for Pre-Bid tie up with IRCON for the upcoming work of 220/132 KV Traction Substation, Sectioning post (SPs), and Sub sectioning post (SSPs) in 2x25KV System for Indian Railways
TENDER ID: 2024_IRCON_202367_1
Last Date & Time of EOI Submission: 29/07/2024 up to 15:00 hrs
For further details, visit website tenders.gov.in/eprocure/aap. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.

Chief General Manager/Electrical,
C-4 District Centre, Saket, New Delhi-110017

कार्यालय हरिद्वार-रूढ़ी विकास प्राधिकरण हरिद्वार।

जिला

हरिद्वार-रूढ़ी विकास प्राधिकरण क्षेत्रांतर्गत स्थित इन्दलीक आवासीय योजना-1 (पुष्पक/पुष्प हाउसिंग), इन्दलीक आवासीय योजना भाग-2 (पुष्पक), इन्दलीक नगर योजना, हरिद्वार आवासीय योजना (जिला क्षेत्र के पत्र) एवं आवासीय योजना प्राधिकरण की आवासीय एवं व्यवसायिक स्थापित के आदेश/प्रमाण पत्र हेतु मार्केटिंग कन्वन्शन्स/घर/पुष्पक/पुष्पक का पत्रन किया जाता है। इस सम्बन्ध में मार्केटिंग कन्वन्शन्स/घर/पुष्पक/पुष्पक से संबंधित अतिरिक्त जानकारी प्राप्त करने के लिए निम्न विवरणों का उपयोग किया जा सकता है। उक्त के सम्बन्ध में अधिक जानकारी हेतु कार्यालय वेबसाइट www.onlinetenders.com पर जायें।

अधिसारी अभियन्ता

KRIBHCO
Cooperative and beyond.

KRISHAK BHARATI COOPERATIVE LIMITED

PRE-QUALIFICATION OF VENDOR FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF PRADHANMANTRI KISAN SAMRIDHI KENDRA (PMKSK)

Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO) a multi-state Cooperative Society with a gigantic fertilizer complex at Hazira (Surat) intends to draw a comprehensive list of pre-qualified vendors for establishment of **PMKSK** at District, Block & village level spread all over India. The vendors having experience of supply and installation of Facade/frontage, flexi charts, furniture, internet connection, TV/Display etc. may apply for pre-qualification with complete details on their letter head as per the details available on our website www.krishco.net. Application(s) with complete details alongwith the required documents will be received upto 14.08.2024.

Application may be sent to :
S.L. Pandya, General Manager (Project)
Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited
KRIBHCO Bhawan, A-10, Sector-1, NOIDA-201 301, (U.P.)

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender Notice

Sr. DEE/TRD/Agra for & on behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through online only (e-Tendering) for the following work:

Name of work: Provision of Overhead equipment for the development of terminal attention facilities for train sets at Agra Cantt. Station.

Tender No.	Approximate cost	Earnest Money	Period of completion
AGCTRD/T202410	10389269.40	202000/-	6 months

1. For full details & submission of the bid please see the Indian Railway website www.ireps.gov.in. 2. Tender can only be submitted through web portal "www.ireps.gov.in" up to 15.30 Hrs. on date 13.08.2024 127824 FA

North central railways @CPNCR @northcentralrailway www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001.
Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact No. 96461-22185)

Tender Enquiry No. 317/SS(D)-368/RDSS/Spares Dated : 23.07.2024

Dy. CE/Substation (Design) TS Organization, C-1, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites Short Term E-tender for Design, Manufacture, Testing, Supply and Delivery (F.O.R. Destination at any place in Punjab) of 105 Nos. 60 KV, 10KA Station type Heavy Duty, Class-III, Zinc Oxide (Gapless Type) Lightning Arresters suitable for 3 Phase, 50 Cycles, 66 KV Solidly Grounded Neutral System. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://gem.gov.in> from 25.07.2024 (11:00 AM onwards.)

Note : Corrigendum and amendments, if any will be published online at <https://gem.gov.in>

C 47724, DPR/Ps. 76155/12/3160/2023/35985

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग
हरिद्वार
डिवाइज-249004

संख्या: 222/01/डीआर(डी) सेवा-2/2021-22 दिनांक: 23 जुलाई, 2024

विज्ञापित

एतद्द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि उत्तराखण्ड शासन के उच्च शिक्षा विभाग के लिए अतिरिक्त प्रोफेसर (राजकीय महाविद्यालय) चयन-2021 के विज्ञापन दिनांक 04 दिसम्बर, 2021, विज्ञापित दिनांक 19 जनवरी, 2022 एवं दिव्यांगजन हेतु सुविधा दिनांक 23 दिसम्बर, 2022 द्वारा प्राप्त ऑनलाईन आवेदन पत्रों में अतिरिक्त एपीआर स्कोर के आधार पर घोषित शार्टलिस्टिंग परिणाम दिनांक 13 अप्रैल, 2022 में सफल अभ्यर्थियों से ऑनलाईन आवेदन पत्र में किये गए दावे के आधार पर प्राप्त अभिलेखों की समीक्षा के क्रम में अतिरिक्त प्रोफेसर अर्थशास्त्र (Economics) विषय के अर्ह अभ्यर्थियों का साक्षात्कार दिनांक 13 व 14 जून, 2024 को आयोजित किया गया। उक्त साक्षात्कार में सम्मिलित अभ्यर्थियों का चयन परिणाम, कट-ऑफ मार्क्स एवं साक्षात्कार में सम्मिलित अभ्यर्थियों के प्राप्तों का विवरण आयोग की वेबसाइट psc.uk.gov.in पर प्रकाशित किया गया है। अभ्यर्थी आयोग की वेबसाइट का अवलोकन अवश्य करें।

यह भी सूचित किया जाता है कि अभ्यर्थियों को इस संबंध में पृथक से सूचना प्रदान नहीं की जायेगी। (गिरधारी सिंह रावत) सचिव।

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Dinesh Kumar Attri S/o Suresh Attri R/o C-14, Pink Apartment, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 305/2016, U/s 498A/406/377/34 IPC**, registered at P.S.: Maurya Enclave, Delhi and the warrant has been returned writing upon it that the said accused **Dinesh Kumar Attri** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Dinesh Kumar Attri** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Dinesh Kumar Attri** accused of **FIR No. 305/2016, U/s 498A/406/377/34 IPC**, registered at P.S.: Maurya Enclave, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **02.09.2024**.

By Order
Ms. Preeti Rajoria
Judicial Magistrate First Class (NW)
Mahila Court-02, Room No. 18,
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/9696/NW/2024
(Court Matter)

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 19/07/2024. The following e-Tenders can be accessed under the link www.ireps.gov.in. Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link www.ireps.gov.in -> login -> E-Tender Stores/Supply. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any, Dy.CMM/HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 0341-2525594 or SMM/CON/HQ, 0341-2535631. Office Address: Office of the PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan, SL No.; Tender No.; Brief Description of Item; Quantity; Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees); Tender Closing Date & Time (IST) are as following: [1]; **75243830A**; SAFETY FLOORING for WAG-9HC Loco to Specn. No. RDSO/2006/CG-12 Rev.-1 and Drg. No. 1209-18.406-211, Alt.-4. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; **5706.00** Metre; ₹ 1,53,580.00; 12/08/2024 at 11:00 AM. [2]; **75243869**; FRP under Panel of CAB for WAG-9HC Loco with Top Operated Handles at E-Type CBC as per Drg. No. 1209-08.130-592, 1209-08.230-013, Alt.-2 as per Specn. No. CLW/MS/3/158. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; **828.00** Set; ₹ 1,84,590.00; **20/08/2024 at 11:00 AM. [3]; 75243720**; Fixing Cables (Safety Sling for Push-Pull Rod), as per CLW Drg. No. 1209-01.318-018 & 1209-01.318-019. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; **1021.00** Set; ₹ 0.00; **16/08/2024 at 11:00 AM. [4]; 75243829A**; Flexible Hose assly. for WAG-9 as per CLW's Specn. No. CLW/MS/3/033, Alt.-5 (One set consists of 03 items as per set details attached). [Warranty Period: 24 Months after the date of delivery]; **870.00** Set; ₹ 0.00; **16/08/2024 at 11:00 AM. [5]; 83240868**; Balance Weight Kit (Scheme -I) 4TWD. 096.044, Alt.-4, Specn. No.: 4TWD. 096.044, Alt.-4. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; **2340.00** Set; ₹ 0.00; **14/08/2024 at 11:00 AM. PCMM/CLW/ [PR4/540] Chittaranjan** Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwraiways

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a Girl namely **Payal Kaur D/o: Jaspal Singh, R/o, H. No. D6/15, Sultanpuri, Delhi** has been missing from her house since **11.07.2024**. P.S. Pashchim Vihar West, Delhi. In this regard **FIR No. 661/2024 dated 11.07.2024** has been lodged at Police Station Pashchim Vihar West, Delhi. The description of missing/Kidnapped Girl is as under:

Name: Payal Kaur, Age: 17 Years - 2 Month, Height: 5' Built: Normal, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Yellow Colour Suit & Salwar and Black Colour Chapple in Feet.

If anyone has any information about this missing/kidnapped girl. Please inform P.S. Pashchim Vihar West, Delhi

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641 Fax: 011-24368639 Police Station
Pashchim Vihar West Delhi
DP/9603/OD/2024 Ph. : 011-25268394, 7065036130

Director of Secondary Education, Rajasthan, Bikaner
Ref.No.: Shivira/Sec/Lehka/D-2/28011/2024-25 Date:- As E sign

Notice Inviting Bid

Bid of Short Term Procurement of Supply of Complete Orange Colour Ladies Bicycle procurement is invited from interested bidder's upto date 01.08.2024 time 05:00 P.M. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<https://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in>) of the state and www.education.rajjasthan.gov.in departmental website.

S.N.	Item	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	UBN
1.	Supply Of Complete Orange Colour Ladies Bicycle 20" as per Annexure-2 of RFP	52,10,00,000.00	EDU2425GLOB00024

(Ashish Modi), I.A.S.
Director
Secondary Education, Rajasthan, Bikaner

DIPR/C/6422/2024

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

E-TENDER NOTICE

Power Transmission Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited invites E-Tender for "Appointment of consulting firm for Advisory support of Consultant for preparation and filing of Tariff Petition for the control period FY 2024-25 to FY 2028-29 for Deemed ISTS elements of PTCLU" against Tender Specification No. PTCLU/E-Tender/C&P- II/ARR-05/2024-25. The last date of submission of e-bid is **08.08.2024 upto 15:30 Hrs.** For more details please visit e-tender website www.uktenders.gov.in (tender id no. 2024_PTCU_73893_1) and for e-tender notice our website www.ptclu.org.

For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8998990000. Superintendent Engineer (C&P-II)

Ro No. 1274/HQPU/PTCLU/DATED 23.07.24
"Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation"

कार्यालय अधिसारी अभियन्ता
लघु सिंचाई खण्ड, देहरादून
उपचार चक्र, सवपुर, देहरादून ई-मेल: exnmiddn@gmail.com

पत्रांक: 742/लसि/कोटेशन नोटिस/2024-25 दिनांक: 23 जुलाई, 2024

कोटेशन नोटिस

लघु सिंचाई विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड द्वारा सोलर पम्प/ड्रिप/सिंचकलर/रेगनन/एचओडीपीआई पाईप एवं जियो लाईन टैंक की स्थापना के क्रियान्वयन हेतु दर निर्धारण एवं सुविधित किये जाने हेतु कोटेशन <http://uktenders.gov.in> पर आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। कोटेशन से सम्बन्धित समस्त शर्तें: वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध है।

(विनय कुमार सिंह)
अधिसारी अभियन्ता,
लघु सिंचाई खण्ड, देहरादून।

RAJASTHAN STATE SPORTS COUNCIL
SAWAI MANSINGH STADIUM, JANPATH, JAIPUR
OFFICE No. 0141-2744283, FAX No. 0141-2740568,
EMAIL ID: rsccjaipur@gmail.com

TENDER/BID NOTICE No.66/2024-25

RSSC invites tender/bid online from the eligible agencies for providing the services of 500 Professional service points (Part Time Sports Coach) in Rajasthan part time coaches on job base service point as mentioned below on outsourcing basis for one year. The last date for submission of bid is 12-08-2024 at 1:00 PM Technical bid will be opened on dated 12-08-2024 at 4:00 PM Relevant tender/bid document containing detailed terms and conditions can be downloaded from the website :- www.sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in / www.rssc.in/eproc/rajjasthan.gov.in

Category	Total Service Point cost (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)	Tender/Bid document cost (in Rs.)	Tender /Bid Processing Fees
500 Professional service points (Part Time Sports Coach) in Rajasthan	Up to 10,000,000.00	20,000,000/-	5,000	1,000

Raj.Sarwad/C/24/2732 Secretary

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CASH & ACCOUNTS-II

NOTICE to nationalized banks for investment of an amount of **Rs. 12,50,29,922/- (Rs. Twelve Crore Fifty Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Two plus interest accrued thereon) IN FIXED DEPOSIT.**

All the Nationalized Banks are informed that the above mentioned amount is to be invested in Fixed Deposit for a period of **91 days**. Interested Nationalized Banks are requested to quote in sealed cover, the highest CALLABLE rate of interest valid till **31.07.2024**, for this deposit in accordance with the prescribed format and hand over personally to the undersigned upto **5.00 p.m. on 29.07.2024**. No offer will be accepted after **5.00 p.m.**

For more details, prescribed format and instructions, log on to www.supremecourtindia.nic.in

(TAPAN KISHORE SHARMA)
Drawing & Disbursing Officer,
Supreme Court of India

Place : New Delhi
Date : 23.07.2024

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused person **Sonu Arora S/o Muridhar R/o H. No. 10, 1st Floor, Harsh Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **FIR No. 192/24, U/s 21/29 NDPS ACT, P.S. Vijay Vihar, Rohini, Delhi** and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused person **Sonu Arora** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Sonu Arora**, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made **Sonu Arora** in **FIR No. 192/24, U/s 21/29 NDPS ACT, P.S. Vijay Vihar, Rohini, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **30.08.2024**.

By order
Shri. Vikram
Additional Sessions Judge (NDPS)
Room No.-409
Rohini Court, New Delhi

DP/9620/RD/2024

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, Infra Division-RI,
N. R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002.

No. EE/RI/TENDER/09/2024-25 Date: 23.07.2024

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Turnkey Lump Sum Fixed Price No. Variation Contract)
(Two Cover System) Through GOK KPP Portal only
<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

The Executive Engineer, Infra Division-RI, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers on Turnkey, Lump sum, fixed price, no variation and no escalation basis for the Construction work detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work
1.	Providing Junction Improvement works under SURAKSHA-75 in arterial and sub arterial Roads at Kundahalli Junction, ORR Embassy Tech Village, Subramanya Swamy Temple, Sarjapura Signal next to Iblur Lake, Bagmane Tech Park Junction in Mahadevapura Zone. Cost of work Proposed (Rs. in Lakhs including GST): 931.77, EMD (in Lakhs): 14.00.
2.	Providing Junction Improvement works under SURAKSHA-75 in arterial and sub arterial Roads at 8th Main Circle, Nagasandra MS Junction, Jalahalli Cross Road, Dasarahalli MS Junction in Dasarahalli Zone. Cost of work Proposed (Rs. in Lakhs including GST): 584.95, EMD (in Lakhs): 8.80.

Calendar of Events: (1) Availability of tender documents in E-Procurement Portal : **25.07.2024 onwards.** (2) Last Date of Receipt of queries : **03.08.2024 upto 4:00 p.m.** (3) Date and Pre bid meeting : **08.08.2024 at 4:00 p.m.** at the Office of the Engineer in Chief, BBMP, 1st Floor, Annex Building-2, N. R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002. (4) Last Date of submission of tenders : **14.08.2024 upto 4:00 p.m.** (5) Date of Opening Technical bid: **16.08.2024 at 11:00 a.m.** (6) Date of opening of financial bid: **Will be intimated to qualified tenderers.** (7) This Tender Notice can also be seen on the BBMP website: www.bbmp.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Infra Division-RI, BBMP.

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking), Corporate Identity No. UA40109UP2001SGC025867/2358
Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun-248001,
Telephone. (0135)-2763672-76, Fax- (0135)-2760289, Website : www.uktenders.gov.in

E-TENDER NOTICE (NIT)

Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd. Dehradun invites e-tender for supply of following item :-

Sl. No.	Tender Specification No.	Name of Item	Quantity	Estimated Cost (₹)	Average Yearly Turn Over of Preceding Three Financial Year (₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	Cost of tender document including GST (₹)	Last Date & time of online request for Tender and Submission of tender in online & offline mode	Date of opening of Part-I of tender in online & offline mode
1	CCP-II/8/2024-2025	250kVA, 11/0.433KV, BIS EEL-2(New), Cu. wound, Distribution Transformer	800 Nos.	63.52 CRORE	95.28 CRORE	1.27 CRORE	29500	16.08.24 upto 17:00 Hrs.	17.08.24 at 15:45 Hrs
2	CCP-II/9/2024-2025	400kVA, 11/0.433KV, BIS EEL-2(New), Cu. wound, Distribution Transformer	400 Nos.	50.24 CRORE	75.36 CRORE	1.01 CRORE	29500	16.08.24 upto 17:00 Hrs.	17.08.24 at 15:45 Hrs

For further details, please visit our website www.uktenders.gov.in
No.: 347/EE(CM)/UPCLUA-2 Dt. 23.07.2024

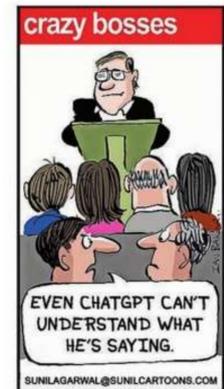
"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION. Use LED Bulb, Save Electricity (Toll Free No. 1912) "Pay Electricity Bill Online 24x7 (<http://www.upcl.org>). (For information on Electricity theft, informer may report to Toll Free No 1800 180 4185/ Fax No. 0135-276391)"

Superintending Engineer
Corporate (Contract & Procurement-II)



Sensex down as D-St takes stock of Budget impact

Mumbai: A day after the Budget that negatively surprised many investors with proposals for hike in capital gains tax rates, the sensex closed 280 points lower at 80,149 points, its fourth consecutive session of losses. Banking stocks led the slide in the index while buying in Reliance Industries and NTPC cushioned the fall to some extent. Real estate stocks, which were hit badly on Tuesday after the Budget proposed to do away with indexation benefits for sellers, recovered some ground on Wednesday. TNN



HDFC Bank hikes deposit rates, others may follow

Mumbai: HDFC Bank has increased its deposit rates by up to 20 basis points. It is now offering 6.6% to 7.4% interest on one-year and 55-month deposits, respectively. Previously, the best rate offered by the bank was 7.25% for a tenure of 18 to less than 21 months. The bank was offering 6.6% interest on one-year deposits and 7% on deposits over three years before the hike. Senior citizens will receive an extra 50bps (100 basis points equals 1 percentage point) for all time periods. With the largest private bank and SBI, the largest bank, hiking deposit rates other banks will be forced to follow suit. TNN

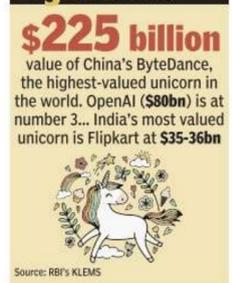
CG Power buys 55% in Kavach maker

Chennai: CG Power & Industrial Solutions will acquire a 55% stake in railway safety system provider GG Tronics India for Rs 319 crore. The Train Collision Avoidance System or Kavach is one of its notable offerings of GGT. TNN

Axis Bank net profit rises 4% to ₹6,035cr

Mumbai: Axis Bank has reported a net profit of Rs 6,035 crore for the June quarter, an increase of 4% over Rs 5,797 crore in the year-ago period. Profit growth was contained because of an increase in slippages. Loan loss provisions rose 22% to Rs 2,551 crore. TNN

figure it out



FM plugs under-reporting of income by overseas taxpayers

Taxes Withheld Abroad Form A Part Of Your Total Income

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Mumbai: The finance ministry was quick to notice that some taxpayers were not including taxes withheld outside India for the purpose of calculating their total income. This, in turn, led to under-reporting of income. These individuals offered the overseas income net of tax and at the same time claimed a foreign tax credit (FTC) for taxes withheld overseas against their India tax liability. In short — they got a double advantage. The Budget proposes to amend section 198 of the I-T Act to include income taxes paid outside India for the purpose of computing the income of the taxpayer who is liable to tax in India. This proposal will be effective financial year 2024-25. Parizad Sirwalla, partner and head (global mobility

TAXMAN IS WATCHING

For instance An Indian employee of an Indian subsidiary of a German company is granted shares under a global Esop plan
He is eligible to receive dividend of 100 euros on such shares
According to German law, 10 euros is withheld and the balance is transferred to the employee's Indian bank account
Here, the correct tax position in India is to offer the entire 100 euros as income and claim 10 euros as a double tax relief



services tax) at KPMG India, said, "The amendment is more clarificatory in nature. This was always the correct position. As explained in the explanatory memorandum. It appears that some taxpayers (including companies) were not doing so and hence this amendment was introduced making it abundantly clear." She gives an illustration. An Indian employee of an Indian subsidiary of a German company was granted shares under the global Esop plan. He was eligible to receive dividend of 100 euros on such shares. According to German law, 10 euros was withheld and the balance was transferred to the employee's Indian bank account. "The correct tax position was always to offer the entire 100 euros as income and claim 10 euros as a double tax relief (credit against Indian tax liability on such 100 euros)," KPMG India's Sirwalla added. Ameya Kunte, founder, Globeview Advisors, points out a few decisions where overseas tax was not held part of the total income assessable to tax in India — these now stand overturned. "The MP high court in the case of Yawar Rashid had held that the tax deducted at source outside India from foreign dividends and interest income was not part of the total income and thus not assessable in the hands of the taxpayer. This HC decision was also relied upon by the Bangalore bench of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal in the case of Sunil Shinde. The proposed amendment makes it clear tax deducted at source outside India, will be part of income. The taxpayer can claim a foreign tax credit against the Indian taxes due on the overseas income."

Vivad se Vishwas 2.0: Settlement made easy

Scheme Rides On Success Of Earlier Avatar That Saw Nearly ₹1L Cr Tax Disputes Resolved

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Mumbai: Given the pendency of lakhs of appeal cases at the level of the Commissioner (Appeals) and riding on the success of a similar scheme introduced in 2020, the Budget proposed introduction of Vivad se Vishwas Scheme-2024. The date of its coming into effect shall be notified later. Under the previous scheme, declarations were filed by taxpayers (including PSUs) for resolution of tax disputes aggregating to Rs 98,328 crore till March 1, 2021. Gautam Nayak, tax partner at CNK & Associates, said, "VVS-2024 is on lines similar to the 2020 scheme where the taxpayer had to pay the disputed tax where he was in appeal, and 50% of the disputed tax where the tax department was in appeal, to settle the matter. The amount payable would be 10% higher if the appeal was filed before Jan 31, 2020, or if the settlement amount is paid after Dec 31, 2024 (see table). This scheme is likely to commence in the last quarter of 2024, from such date as may be notified." "Unfortunately, this scheme would benefit only those taxpayers who feel that their appeal is on weak grounds, and may prefer to settle it without payment of any penalty or interest. Taxpayers who have a strong case and whose appeals are long

pending before Commissioner (Appeals) may not derive much benefit under this scheme," added Nayak. Sandeep Bhalia, partner, Dhruva Advisors, said, "The idea is for the I-T department to realise the outstanding tax demands quickly and free

Economic Laws Practice (ELP), said, "The 2020 scheme explicitly covered the cases where an order has been passed by an appellate authority or court and the time for filing any appeal has not expired as on the date of making declaration. The VVS — 2024

LOWERING LITIGATION LOAD

Nature of tax arrears	Appeal filing period	If scheme availed on or before:	
		Dec 31, 2024	Jan 1, 2025
Tax, interest and penalty	After Jan 31, 2020 but on or before July 22, 2024	Disputed tax	Disputed tax + 10% of disputed tax
	On or before Jan 31, 2020	Disputed tax + 10% of disputed tax	Disputed tax + 20% of disputed tax
Interest or penalty	After Jan 31, 2020 but on or before July 22, 2024	25% of disputed interest or penalty	30% of disputed interest or penalty
	On or before Jan 31, 2020	30% of disputed interest or penalty	35% of disputed interest or penalty

Settlement amounts payable to be reduced to 50% in following cases:
Where appeal/ writ/ Special Leave Petition is filed by tax authorities
Where the issue is covered by a favourable ITAT/ High Court decision in taxpayer's own case

both the taxpayer and the department from protracted litigation. It is a matter of record that the maximum pendency of appeals is at the CIT (Appeal) — Faceless level. In my view while it is a welcome move the government may not be as successful as in previous scheme as most appeals today are pending at CIT (Appeals) level and several faceless assessments are high pitched where the taxpayers have a considerable chance of success." Gopal Mundhra, partner,

scheme is silent on this." He adds that the 2020 Scheme also required a declaration who has initiated arbitration proceedings under any agreement entered into by India with any other country or territory outside India whether for protection of investment or otherwise, to withdraw the claims made in the arbitration proceedings, this is not specified in the VVS-2024 scheme. Certain categories of cases will not be eligible for settlement under VVS-2024.

Exemption available to gifts won't apply to cos

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Mumbai: Corporate restructuring and reorganisations often involve transactions where a company, firm or trust holding assets including shares of another company, gives away these assets for no consideration. These transactions are typically regarded as 'gifts' and are not subject to any tax in the hands of the donor entity. In other words, a capital gains tax exemption is available under section 47(iii) of the I-T Act, as the transaction is a gift and not a 'transfer'. However, the recipient of the gift was and will continue to be taxed separately on the value of the gift received under section 56(2)(x) of the I-T Act. Such gift arrangements will no longer be seen as feasible, as the Budget proposes that exemption available in respect of gifts, shall from April 1, 2024, apply only to gifts given by individuals or Hindu undivided families. Deepak Joshi, advocate, Supreme Court, said, "The revenue authorities had typically held a view that a gift is made out of personal love and affection, hence legal en-



NO TOYING AROUND

in situations in which the Act prescribes a "deemed consideration", for instance, in the case of gift of unlisted shares (section 50CA) or immovable properties (section 50C) or business transfers (section 50B). In such cases, the company may now be taxable on capital gains computed on the basis of such deemed consideration," added Sayta. Girish Vanvari, founder, Transaction Square, said, "This amendment is more clarificatory in nature. With Section 56(2)(x) already in place which does not exempt corporate gifts, many companies were already dissuaded from gifting assets. With this change, such arrangements will completely stop." As regards family settlements, according to Abhishek Goenka, founding partner at Aeka Advisors, these should not be impacted by the amendment. In a family settlement, it is not the gift exemption that is relied on, but rather the fact that members of the family are only rearranging what already belongs to them. It may also be noted that the amendment does not specify that the recipient of the gift also has to be an individual or a HUF.

Equalisation: Compliance burden on Indian buyer

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Mumbai: The proposed withdrawal of the 2% equalisation levy (EL) provides relief to non-resident digital companies, as the consideration received or receivable for e-commerce supply or services or after Aug 1, 2024 will not be subject to this tax.

Black Money Act: Need 'clearance' if flying out of India

Mumbai: The Budget has tightened the provisions relating to clearance certificates that are required when departing from India. From Oct 1, a clearance certificate giving a clean chit under the Black Money Act will be required for persons domiciled in India, who are leaving the country. TNN

For example, a foreign entity selling music or a book to a customer online will now not have to pay this tax. However, this now casts a compliance burden on the Indian customer. Mitesh Jain, partner, Economic Laws Practice, said, "The Indian customer purchasing goods or services (on which EL was charged) from non-resident e-commerce operator will now have to evaluate the nature of income and its taxability under the provisions of the I-T Act as well as under the tax treaty on a case-to-case basis." "Generally, tax analysis is a complex exercise and may be undertaken by e-commerce operator itself. They may provide various documents or declarations to support non-deduction of tax by the Indian customers. However, in certain cases, the non-resident vendor may not be willing to provide such details and may require the Indian customers to bear the taxes in India. This may create additional compliance and tax burden on Indian customers."

Cancer drugs duty waiver to benefit only AstraZeneca

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New Delhi: The Budget proposal to waive customs duty on three specific cancer therapies has sparked claims of being "an eye-wash" and "selective", as it covers only AstraZeneca. The exemption does not extend to the entire category or class of cancer drugs, and provides a "marginal" benefit averaging Rs 18,000 each per vial/strip, industry experts told TOI.

10%. Trastuzumab Deruxtecan is a breast cancer drug, Osimertinib lung cancer and Durvalumab is used as lung and biliary tract cancer therapy. Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, chairperson, Biocon and Biocon Biologics said: "The removal of customs duty on three cancer drugs will provide relief to cancer patients. However, gov't needs to consider GST exemption for all cancer drugs to make cancer care more affordable for patients." At present, patients face a double whammy with the customs duty levy of 10%, and a GST of 12%, significantly hiking treatment costs of imported drugs. "We will renew the request for a waiver of customs duty on all cancer and rare disease drugs and a reduction of GST on drugs," a Fici representative said.

Budget move has sparked claims of being an eye-wash



Reacting to the move, AstraZeneca scrip jumped over 13% over the last two days (from the July 22 close) to Rs 7,076 on the BSE. The proposal has renewed demands from industry and patient groups, and domestic pharma biggies like Biocon, for removal of GST on cancer and rare disease drugs, arguing that broader tax relief would more effectively support patients and the healthcare system. Further, the customs duty waiver should be extended to all imported cancer and rare disease drugs, and not be restricted to only one category, an executive with a MNC firm said. The Budget exempted three cancer drugs — Trastuzumab Deruxtecan, Osimertinib and Durvalumab — from a customs levy of

Charitable trusts under 1 regime for exemption

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Mumbai: Various amendments relating to charitable trusts have been proposed in the Budget — notable among them is the move towards a single exemption scheme. The two main exemption provisions for charitable trusts/entities are contained in section 10(23C) and section 11, while both provide similar tax exemption benefits, they contain specific procedures relating to registration, conditions for approval, etc. Certain eligible modes of investment specified section 10(23C) will be safeguarded under the second scheme. Gautam Nayak, tax partner at CNK & Associates, said, "Govt has finally begun the process of merging the two exemption schemes by providing that after Oct 1, all approvals and renewals cannot be sought under section 10(23C). This is a long overdue and welcome beginning of simplification." He adds, "Another welcome move is the provision to delegate the power of condonation of delay in filing applications for approval and renewal under section 12A to the respective Commissioners. This will significantly reduce the litigation caused by rejection of applications by Commissioners solely on account of delay, and the need to approach the CBDT for condonation of delay in such cases."

KYC must for walk-in money transfers to check frauds: RBI

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: In a bid to prevent fraudsters from using the money transfer route for laundering, RBI has tightened rules for money transfers and has asked banks to obtain in KYC details of remitters and beneficiaries. Earlier, RBI's money transfer rules allowed walk-in customers without bank accounts to transfer funds subject to a transaction limit of Rs 5,000 and monthly cap of Rs 25,000 per remitter. The new rules specify that remitting banks and business correspondents must register the remitter based on verified cell phone number and a self-certified (OVD) according to updated KYC directions. The new rules also introduce an additional factor authentication for every transactions. RBI has asked banks and business correspondents to conform to the provisions of the I-T Act and include remitter details as part of the IMPS/NEFT transaction message, identifying the transaction as a cash based remittance. "There has been significant

EYES ON MONEY MULES

increase in the availability of banking outlets, developments in payment systems for funds transfers, and ease in fulfilling KYC requirements etc., since then; and now users have multiple digital options for funds transfer," RBI said. RBI has said that changes will come into effect from Nov 1, 2024. RBI's measures are part of an initiative to combat the use of banking channels for transferring fraudulent proliferation of online fraud across the country. Fraudsters deceive customers into transferring funds to third-party accounts, which are subsequently withdrawn using money mules.

'7 in 10 equity traders made losses in FY23'

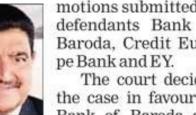
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: There is growing evidence that Indian retail investors are fast turning into speculators with a majority losing money in the stock market. A new study by Sebi's research division in the cash section of the stock market for FY23 showed that one in three investors in the segment indulged in intra-day trading. And of those who traded, seven out of 10 lost money in the market. It also showed that the percentage of young traders (those below 30 years) increased from 18% in FY19 to 48% in FY23. "The study finds that the number of individuals trading intra-day in the equity cash segment has increased from around 15 lakh in FY19 to 69 lakh in FY23 (4.6 times). This surge in participation has been associated with a rise in traders with low turnover, traders who trade less frequently, young traders and traders from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities. The study also found that the share of "very small" traders, those with an annual intra-day turnover less than Rs 50,000, increased to 56% in FY23 from 27% in FY19. Earlier another Sebi study had pointed out that in the equity derivatives segment of the market, nine out of 10 traders lost money.

Setback for NMC's Shetty in US case, may move UAE court

Shilpa Phadnis & Stanly Pinto | TNN

Bengaluru /Mangaluru: Dr B R Shetty, the Dubai-based billionaire founder of NMC Healthcare, whose fortunes have significantly diminished in recent times, has encountered a fresh setback. Udupi-born Shetty, whose net worth was over \$3 billion in 2019, racked up \$4 billion in debt alleging artificially inflated financials of NMC through fraudulent loans, credit facilities, and fraudulent related-party round tripping transactions. In a recent ruling, the New York Supreme Court has dismissed Shetty's claim seeking damages amounting to \$8 billion in favour of an alternative forum following motions submitted by defendants Bank of Baroda, Credit Europe Bank and EY. The court decided the case in favour of Bank of Baroda and other defendants, dismissing the case based on the ground of forum non conveniens. The principle of forum non conveniens allows a court in the US to refuse to exercise its judicial authority when it determines that the court would be an inappropriate venue for the case, and when a suitable alternative court is available. When TOI reached out to Shetty, he said, "We are disappointed and strongly disagree with the New York Commercial Division Court's non-merits decision to dismiss the lawsuit in favour of an alternative forum, especially in light of the evidence my team submitted showing billions of dollars of fraudulent transactions being structured through Bank of Baroda's New York branch," he said in a statement to TOI. Separately, Shetty told TOI that the case will be moved to the Abu Dhabi court.





CONTRAPUNTO

You just say the word 'census', and people fall asleep

-AARON SORKIN

Sense Of Us...When?

Budget indicates that the most important data-gathering exercise will be further delayed

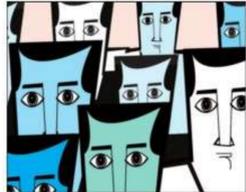
That the budget has further cut outlay for India's much-delayed Census 2021 is message enough that GOI is in no hurry to carry out the single most important data-gathering exercise. The cabinet had sanctioned ₹12k cr in 2019 for the 16th Census. It was to be in multi-mode - pen-paper and via app/mobile devices. Per Registrar General of India, info would also be collected online. GOI expected half the population to fill in own household data. Covid resulted in the exercise being "postponed indefinitely". But while everything else is back to normal, Census is still on hold.

Yes, there are logistical problems. One, the potential exclusion of communities without digital access. Two, officials are vague on the question of preserving anonymity when individuals fill in their own data online - digital footprints cancel out Census's guarantee of anonymity. Three, the possibility of data theft - recall CoWIN breach and Aadhaar data hacks - is real. But all this is only half the story. Census is India's biggest database, crucial for policymaking. So, when free grain is distributed to 60% of the population, it's based on estimates, projected from the 2011 Census. Is coverage complete? We can't figure out.

So, maybe it's down to politics. First, the new law on women's reservation. Six months after its historic passage, it's a law in letter alone. The delay was inbuilt - women's quota will kick in only after delimitation post-Census. Delimitation in turn is bound to be fraught - a political hot potato that can burn. But delimitation is slated for only after the first Census post 2026. That means if a Census is carried out before 2026, delimitation could get pushed to after the next Census. That's the wrangle - BJP stands to gain from early delimitation. The argument goes that if Census 2021 is held after 2026, delimitation can immediately follow, possibly giving BJP an edge in the north, while south India stands to lose constituencies.

Second, opposition bloc INDIA's demand/promise for caste to be enumerated. The demand found electoral articulation with Nitish's caste survey in Bihar in Oct 2023. Nitish won brownie points. BJP softened its stance. With key assembly elections around the corner, caste enumeration as part of Census is a big political question.

What does this tell us? That electoral considerations possibly trumped post-Covid scheduling? If that's the case, there's reason to worry. Census is about getting a sense of us. Politics shouldn't come into it.



Now's The Turn Of Interns

GOI's internship programme blunts some of the risks companies face when hiring freshers. It may work quite well

Manish Sabharwal



India's challenge since 1947 has not been unemployment (a low 4-9%) but employed poverty - the poor cannot afford to be unemployed. Putting employed poverty in the museum it belongs to needs three solutions: productive industries that don't gift-wrap self-exploitation as self-employment, employers with productivity to pay high wages and employees with skills to work productively. The recent budget has many interventions for mass prosperity that will combine our 3rd GDP (PPP) rank with a top 50 per capita GDP rank among countries. But it also makes us good ancestors by innovating at the intersection of jobs and skills - think of freshers whose job interviews ask for experience, but experience needs a job.

Looking back, it wasn't God's will that it should take 72 years for 1.4bn Indians to cross the GDP of 66mn British. Our high-wage, non-farm employment was sabotaged by romantics, elitists, welfarists, bureaucrats, macroeconomists, and trade unionists. Romantics unfairly view private employers as perpetual entities like govt, whose infinite resources come from having guns and jails. Elitists think private sector salaries are paid by shareholders rather than customers. Welfarists believe private employment can be substituted by govt spending financed by debt. Bureaucrats think statutory employer benefits are financed outside salaries rather than from them. Macroeconomists oversell fiscal and monetary policy. And trade unionists believe job preservation is a form of job creation.

All six worldviews suffer from inattention to detail; a bird's rather than a worm's eye view of the daily life of employers, employees, and job seekers.

The size, shape and effectiveness of policy interventions in creating high-wage jobs are debatable. But there are four uncontroversial biggies: macroeconomic stability, physical infra, rule of law and basic human capital. The budget's fiscal deficit glide path to 4.5% will blunt inflation expectations and reduce the cost of capital. The qualitative shift to capex - it has tripled in the last five years - for infra is raising the productivity of all firms but particularly small ones. Corruption - a

sense of humour about the rule of law - will come down with Jan Vishwas 2.0 and by adopting digital public infra for compliance, by creating a National Open Compliance Grid.

I hope the 50-year interest-free, performance-linked loans to states are contingent on rolling out labour codes, digitising compliance, decriminalisation (20,000+ employer jail provisions are embedded in state laws) and improving basic human capital (primary education and healthcare).

The two challenges of hiring and skilling freshers merit deep dives. Employers hesitate to hire freshers because of poor skills that entail high repair costs,

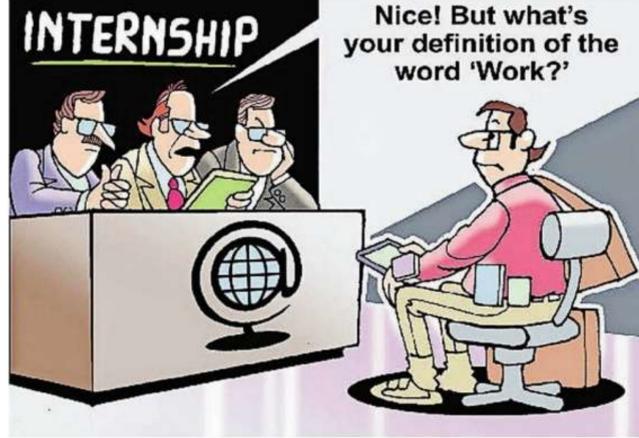
The boldness of the budget lies in risk-taking to blunt two challenges. The first challenge of hiring freshers is addressed by reducing their costs to employers. The risk of ghost employees is covered by making these subsidies a reimbursement, linking provident fund accounts, and requiring a year of employment.

The second challenge in skilling freshers is addressed by an internship programme that tackles the market failure in financing skill development - employers cannot manufacture their own employees. We have learnt five design principles for making skilling programmes effective, scalable and sustainable. Learning while earning (partially offset costs of living, eating and commuting), learning by doing (soft skills are not taught but caught), learning with qualification modularity (NEP enables connectivity between certificates, diplomas and degrees), learning with flexible delivery (NEP enables equivalence between on-job, on-site, online and on-campus classrooms), and learning with signalling value (HDFC is a good place to be an intern at but a great place to be an intern from). India recognised the value of learning by doing a long time ago. Apprenticeships were the 20th point in the 20-point programme of 1975. But that poetry of campaigning wasn't translated into the prose of employers.

The internship programme is voluntary but the regulatory legitimacy, stipend subsidy and freedom for employers to use CSR funds will attract volunteers who are tired of sitting on the fence on integrating internships into their people supply chains. Employers who try interns will soon realise that these programmes pay for themselves with faster hiring times, lower attrition and higher productivity. So this policy has good odds of creating a virtuous cycle in financing and qualification linkages that create scale.

Polio vaccine inventor Jonas Salks believed our biggest responsibility is to be good ancestors. If fiscal deficits could make countries rich, no country would bother being poor. And monetary policy is a placebo, painkiller or steroid. This budget recognises that the only renewable energy for mass prosperity is jobs and skills for our young.

The writer is with TeamLease Skills University



How Onions Weigh On Kisans & Netas

Budget hasn't provided any relief on MEP or export duty. Will distressed farmers and traders speak as angrily in Maharashtra assembly elections, as they did in LS polls?

Jaideep Hardikar



Among those disappointed by the budget, are onion growers and traders. What they had hoped for was that the crop's minimum export price and export duty would be removed or reduced. With their discontent having already cost BJP parliamentary seats in Maharashtra, it is likely to take a toll in the assembly elections as well.

Export ban | In Dec 2023, Centre suddenly banned onion exports, concerned over a slump in production and a spike in retail prices. Going into elections, it did not want upset consumers. This decision left Nashik, epicentre of Maharashtra's onion market, with staggering losses. In Lasalgaon, for example, wholesale prices crashed instantly, from ₹25-30/kg to ₹10-11/kg.

From Dec 2023 to April 2024, exports remained shut, even as local markets were flush with fresh arrivals. Growers took to the streets, an overwhelming majority being small and marginal farmers. When Lok Sabha election results came in, it was clear the export curb had influenced outcomes in at least 10 Maharashtra constituencies and several more across other onion-producing regions of India.

After extending the ban at March-end, govt's last-minute rethink to lift it in May first week, ahead of fourth and fifth phases of voting, didn't cut ice with farmers or traders. Because, first, losses had already been incurred. Second, the fresh order only allowed exports subject to a minimum export price of \$550 per tonne (₹46/kg). Taking into account an export duty of 40%, shipments below ₹770 per tonne (₹64/kg) weren't allowed. Both MEP and export duty remain unchanged. Meaning an export price at which importing countries have many other choices in the global market.

Price volatility | India produces 24-25 MMT of onions annually, making it the second-largest producer globally. Of this, Maharashtra contributes 14 MMT. Bulk is

consumed locally. Surplus is channelled into exports and processed as powder or paste. Yet, onion is among the most volatile of farm commodities. A sharp increase in price impacts consumer budgets, a fall reduces farmers' income. There's a perpetual cycle of high and low prices because onions are consumed but not harvested round the year. Rabi crop (March-May harvest) accounts for 65-70% of output. Kharif and late kharif crops (Oct-March harvest) contribute the rest.

Political toll | In Maharashtra, NDA ended up with just 17 of the state's 48 LS seats, BJP's tally crashed from 23 in 2019 to 9 in 2024. In Dindori, Nashik, Dhule, Ahmednagar, Beed, even Baramati, and several other rural areas, farmers voted with their feet against BJP and its allies. Dindori, in which Lasalgaon market falls, is ST-reserved. Here, BJP's Bharati Pawar, junior minister for tribal affairs in the previous Modi govt, lost by a margin of over 1.1L votes.

The party also faced public anger in soybean and cotton-producing regions of Vidarbha and Marathwada. Tonnes of unsold soybean lie stacked with farmers from three years ago because of a price slump. Cotton prices too have barely risen, but production costs have multiplied.

Problems confronting the cooperative sugar sector further worsened BJP's prospects in western Maharashtra. The farm crisis, stark in dry-land regions and moderate in areas with protective irrigation, in tandem with caste equations and Maratha unrest, cost BJP big in the state. Ditto in Karnataka, where unlike last time's

sweep, BJP lost some seats. Gujarat and MP ducked this trend because one, onion farming is scattered in these states, and two, BJP's socio-religious agenda got the better of farmers' economic pangs.

Policy volatility | In Maharashtra, anger among onion farmers and traders isn't only about the overnight financial loss from the export ban - ₹1L to ₹1.5L per acre. It runs deeper, as frequent changes in export policy threaten to raze the market networks meticulously built up by local aggregators and traders.

Such as how Centre mandated that exports be channelled through a new agency called NCEL, instead of NAFED. Farmers and traders do not see the logic of this change. Or how the previous Modi govt, besides a ban on onion exports for 14 months, cumulatively, raised the export duty to restrict outflows at least twice. One on top of another, such frequent policy changes are making the supply chains across Nashik traders, co-op societies and farmer-producer companies feel unstable and insecure.

Loss upon loss | As a young exporter in Lasalgaon put it, he bore a three-fold loss. He had to transport shipments already booked for Europe back to his yards, forfeit the fee he had paid to process his exports, and take an overall hit from the price collapse in local markets. His firm suffered a loss of ₹80cr and also lost credibility with the buyers in one stroke. He didn't vote for BJP. Nor did many smaller traders and farmers who suffered worse.

The writer is with People's Archive of Rural India



Scrap NEET

That SC refused a retest is no cause for relief. This year's controversy makes clear how flawed system is

SC's refusal to order a UG-NEET retest, on the ground there wasn't evidence of a 'systemic leak', has put the lid on the controversy. The court's decision is clearly based on analysis of results, which did not indicate candidates of centres under scanner doing exceptionally well. It was also mindful of the impact of such a decision on 2.4mn students who took the test this year.

Not a win | But Centre should not be taking SC's stance as a victory for its position. For, the same SC has acknowledged that question papers were leaked at Hazaribagh and Patna. Besides, we now have unseemly scenario of all-India rankings being changed at the last stage because 4L students were granted marks for wrong answer - which, incidentally, was the 'right' answer in an older NCERT textbook. Do we need more proof that we face a mess?

Go for CBT | On NEET-UG, the way forward is clear. The pen-and-paper format must be replaced with the more secure offline Computer-Based Test (CBT). Given the huge number of examinees and keeping JEE's relative success in mind, NEET-UG must be made a two-stage exam, with the second stage being conducted with help from top medical institutions. To allow them to give their best, candidates should have the choice to take exam more than once in a year.

Choice of centres, questions vital | How exam centres are selected is all-important. Allowing outsourcing of work by successful bidders, as NTA has been doing, won't do. Roping in one of the top companies in the business is the best option.

Creation of a question bank and proper use of technology to frame questions would add another layer of security. But for all this, we need genuine concern for young people's future, not the bureaucratic mindset NTA has shown thus far.



The Talented Miss Puja

Forget disabled, this babe is very specially able

Bachi Karkaria



Disclaimer: Any reference to any person living or dead is purely intentional. This column is entirely a work of fiction. Nothing in it is meant to hurt the sentiments of anyone with genuine disability or OBC certificate. No animals were hurt during writing, but animal spirits are definitely being hailed.

Forget being shocked, I'm totally in awe of Puja Khedkar. Not just one helluva bindaas babe, she's Wonder Woman herself. With differently-enabled certifications, she gamed every system, from 'lowly' disability and OBC to lofty IAS, where this trainee turned tricks only the seasoned would dare. She was on the make, making up, audaciously manipulating everything to her advancement. She's New India, exuding chutzpah, dumping fuddy-duddy old rules. She embodied our unique jugaad, she should be made a national emblem.

Let's start with enabling disability. She wrangled three certificates using different names and different/fake addresses. Sassy Puja, 30/31, had sussed out that there's least competition in UPSC's new 1% reservation for multiple-disability. She already had a visual impairment certificate and another for locomotor disability. For such pizzazz, I'd give her a patella on the back. Adding insanity to injury she presented a mental illness cert. To get into IAS? Whatever. She's got the kind of visibility and access for which other cases would give a prosthetic arm and calipered leg.

Secondly, while OBC agitations have caste several states into simmering cauldrons, while census and sensibility turned the recent elections themselves into a pot-boiler, cool Puja got smartly classified. Thirdly, this OBC-wannabe thumbed her nose at 'twice-born brahmins', cheekily demanding perks not due to IAS probationers. Flashing a blue-batti summed up her Audi-city.

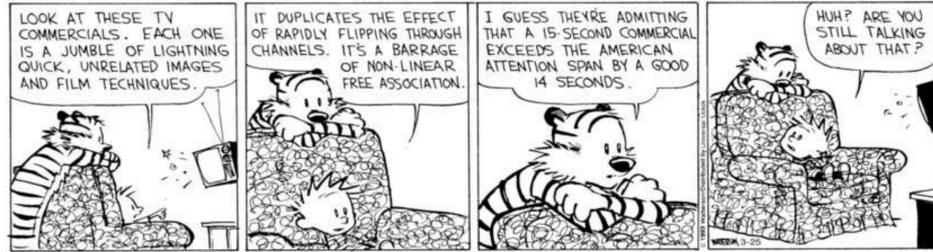
What gave her such nerve? Seeing her 'disproportionate-income' dad, her gun-brandishing mum, let's just say she owns a pair of 'distressing genes'.

Alec Smart said: "Nirmala should learn from Kamala how to rake in \$100mn in 36 hours."



erratica

Calvin & Hobbes



Sannyasins, Yogis, Saints Must Embody Selfless Living

Ashok Vohra

Saints are an integral part of all religions. Saints are conduits through whom the divine power reveals itself. A saint has eliminated his base passions through diligent worship and selfless deeds. He has a direct vision of God. The Jews call them hasid or tsaddik, the Zoroastrians call them fravashi, the Hindus sannyasi or sant, the Jains, and the Buddhists call them sadhu, arahant, or bodhisattva. They are known as waly in Islam, in Taoism as sheng-jen, and in Shintoism as kami.

Being moral, intellectual and benevolent are the characteristics of a saint. Discipline, asceticism, sacrifice, chastity and self-control are their moral qualities; contemplation on the self, phenomenal world, and ultimate reality are their intellectual qualities; unqualified universal love that redeems and welfare of all without discrimination are their

emotional qualities.

Saints 'dwell eternally with God'. There is no difference between God and a Saint. As Janabai says in her verse couplet abhanga 250: 'santa is God/ and god is santa/ jani says/ The difference is only in the name.'

Etymologically, 'sannyas' comprises two terms - 'sam' and 'nyas'. 'Sam' means all or altogether; and 'nyas' means purification. So, sannyas means 'Purification of everything.' A literal translation of sannyas is thus 'to put down everything, all of it.' A sannyasin is someone who has renounced all material possessions and cravings.

According to the Naradaparivrajaka Upanishad, people enter the state of sannyas, inter alia, for reasons like detachment and getting away from their routine, meaningless world to seek

knowledge and meaning in life. The Jabala Upanishad says that anyone of any class or gender can take up sannyas.

Baudhayana Dharmasutra also states that anyone can take up sannyas. It prescribes major and minor vows that a sannyasin ought to follow. The major vows are abstinence from injuring living beings, truthfulness, abstinence from appropriating the property of others, abstinence from sex, and liberality (kindness, gentleness). The five minor vows are abstinence from anger, obedience towards the guru, avoidance of rashness, cleanliness, and purity in eating.

Explaining the distinction between a sannyasi and tyagi, in the Bhagavad Gita, 18.2, Krishna asserts, 'Giving up of actions motivated by desire is what the learned understand as sannyasi. Relinquishing the fruits of all actions is what the wise declare to be tyag.' In short,

both imply renunciation of kama karmas - works related to acquiring wealth, progeny, prestige, status, and power. They continue to perform the nitya karmas - the deeds to be performed for the day-to-day maintenance of the body.

A sannyasi does not feel that he is the doer of an action or, as the Gita, 5.13 says, 'is the cause of anything.' By offering all his actions to the Lord, a sannyasin, as the Gita, 9.28, says is 'freed from the bondage of good and bad results.' Both these actions result in the renunciation of selfishness in a sannyasin. The Gita, 5.3, says that 'he is free from hate, has no desire and is without any dualities, opposites.'

Sant Kabir upholds that true bravery does not lie in fighting with arrows and swords. Since it lies in consistently resisting the lure of worldly pleasures and engaging in bhakti, only a sannyasin, a yogi, or a saint is truly brave as he ignores the prevalent social conventions and traditions.



THE SPEAKING TREE

Sacredspace

A sannyasin cannot belong to any religion, for his is a life of independent thought, which draws from all religions; his is a life of realisation, not merely of theory or belief, much less of dogma.

Swami Vivekananda



TECH I'D LIKE TO SEE

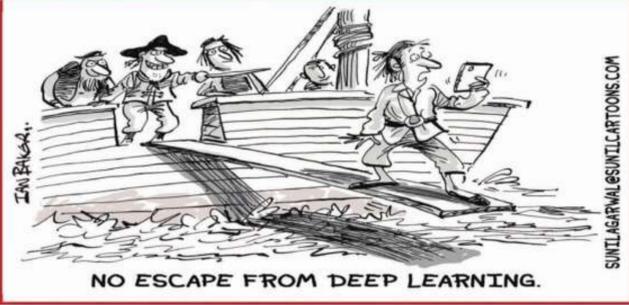
AI AT SIGNAL CROSSINGS

I envision leveraging technology for practical government applications that deliver immediate benefits. I would like to see the implementation of AI technology at major signal crossings equipped with cameras to issue real-time challans for offences like signal jumping and spitting on roads, which are huge irritants, as also health and safety hazards for every citizen. By swiftly

delivering fines via SMS that comes immediately upon the incident taking place, we can address these hazardous behaviours more effectively and promptly. This proactive approach can lead to increased compliance and resolution of these issues in a matter of weeks or months, rather than waiting for societal change in the future.

Amit Prasad | FOUNDER & CEO, SATNAV TECHNOLOGIES

Almost Artificial



Dheeraj Pandey says AI has made SaaS 2.0 possible



DevRev has about 200 of its 350 employees in India, across centres in Chennai, Bengaluru, and Mumbai

Sujit.John@timesgroup.com

In August 2020, Dheeraj Pandey made the surprise announcement that he was quitting the US-based company, Nutanix, that he had founded eleven years earlier. Nutanix had pioneered the concept of hyperconverged infrastructure (HCI), using software to converge the disparate elements in an enterprise data centre (server, storage, network) into a single appliance. When Dheeraj - who grew up in Patna, did a computer science degree at IIT Kanpur, and then moved to the US when he was 22 - announced his exit, Nutanix was a \$1.6-billion revenue company (its market cap today is over \$12 billion).

Since that exit, he, together with Manoj Agarwal, who was SVP of engineering at Nutanix, has been building another venture they call DevRev. "Dev is for development, which is proxy for product, and Rev is for revenue, which is proxy for customers," says Manoj. The existence of any company, he says, depends on just these two things - product and customers. "And our very simple idea was to bring the two together in a way that if you are coming from the product side, you know all the work happening for the product, all the customers consuming that product, all the issues coming from the customer side, all the engagement that customers have, all the revenue coming from the product. And if you come from the customer side, then you can look at all the work that I'm doing for the customers, all of the products they are consuming, the engagement they have," he says.

Dheeraj says such a comprehensive look has been made possible by AI and LLMs. He says software-as-a-service (SaaS) emerged more than two decades ago to simplify the complexity of on-premise software systems. But SaaS itself now has become very complex, he says, with lots of SaaS solutions in an enterprise. "All these SaaS tools, specially CRM tools, were created for each department; there's a sales CRM, a marketing CRM, a support CRM, a product CRM, and they just don't talk to each other. It's tough for customers to integrate them. But with AI now, they can all come together in one knowledge graph. It's what we call SaaS 2.0," he says.

DevRev is building a comprehensive knowledge graph of data across departments, feeding this to an LLM, and which in turn is being fed to a cloud data warehouse for visualisation and analytics. On this foundation, it has built a chatbot, and apps for customer support, product management, software development, and sales automation.

"We are able to serve the same solution to the smallest customers, who are not willing to pay much because they have not got funding, and the biggest enterprises. We are built for interactive apps, as also analytical apps, which SaaS 1.0 has not done a good job of at all. And we are built for both a desktop experience, as well as a mobile experience. SaaS 1.0 didn't do anything about mobile first," Dheeraj says.

In addition to AI and GPT, the new SaaS architecture, he says, has also been made possible because of cloud data warehouses, lots of public cloud services, WebAssembly (which brings amazing power in the browser to run complex code), and CDNs (content delivery networks) that are much cheaper than they used to be.

On why Indian SaaS has not taken off the way it was expected

The product and platform thinking, which is long-term thinking about programmability, extensibility, customisability, security, reliability, all the ists that the enterprise pays for, is a fairly new concept in India. Without it, you hit a ceiling, you can only sell to SMBs, and maybe the lower end of the mid-market. You can't do 10-15-20-30 million dollar deals. Enterprises say 'don't give me a black box, because my business processes are bespoke, and they're complex, and they're my grade, it's not your grade'. And that means they need all those ists, and those are very difficult to get right in a multi-tenant cloud environment. Multi-tenancy is the nemesis of all these ists. That is a big architecture piece. And then on top of that, you have to make sure you provide for analytics solutions, which is a big part of enterprise thinking. Now, even customisable LLMs - how do you provide for customisable LLM where you open up the hood, and people can go change the LLM. There's also the selling side. The enterprise selling motion is very different. First of all, you have to hire a chief revenue officer who's probably 20 years senior to you, you need to inspire these senior people, let them go and hire those reps, those SEs (sales engineers), people who make 700k to a million dollars a year. You have to create a culture where enterprise reps are celebrated. We are hobnobbing with the largest BFSIs right now in India, in our first year of selling, because if we do not understand them now, we'll never understand them.

On India's back-end, front-end talent

We founded Nutanix in 2009, and set up our India centre four years later. We were late, but back then, the ecosystem here was not that developed. 'We went on to invest \$800 million in our Indian R&D operations. In 2020, when we founded DevRev, we didn't have to think twice, we came to India on day one. You get these IITians and BITS Pilani folks who are very good at back-end. And then you get the non-IIT folks who focus on the front-end, who are very good at thinking about applications. The two require different kinds of patience, and skills. The backend people are about tinker, tinker, make it better, they continue to polish and finesse, performance, scalability and all that. And the front-end guy, they're equally patient about little things, the UI, the user experience, the fact that it's off by one pixel here and one pixel there. The two complement each other. I'd say our Bengaluru centre is more AI, Chennai is more UI, and the new Mumbai centre is a mix of the two.



Dheeraj Pandey



Manoj Agarwal

Indian engineers are helping transform this US retail giant

Target's 4,500-strong India base is now akin to an extended HQ

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American retailer Target has close to 2,000 stores across the length and breadth of the US, and this traditionally offline behemoth, which embraced digital e-commerce several years ago, is now leveraging cutting-edge AI technologies to enhance customer experiences, streamline operations, and empower its workforce. At the heart of this technological transformation is a robust global engineering team, with Target's India operation playing a pivotal role.

Brad Thompson, SVP of technology at Target, says the company has deployed hundreds of decision models (predictive AI models) across its value chain, impacting everything from inventory management to personalised marketing. "Good old-fashioned traditional AI still adds substantial value," Thompson explains, highlighting the multibillion-dollar contributions these models have made to Target's bottom line.

One of Target's most significant AI deployments is in demand forecasting, a critical function for any retailer, and especially one that is the second largest importer of goods in the US. The company's algorithms predict sales for every item in every location, dictating inventory movement throughout its vast supply chain.

The company has also been experimenting with generative AI,



Target's India employees at the company's flagship conference on AI - Target Multiplai. The conference brings together AI practitioners, industry leaders, and academia to explore and discuss the latest developments in AI at scale

Generative AI offers new tools and techniques for creating experiences that were not possible before at scale. We use large language models and pre-trained foundational models to create these new experiences. We don't just look at creating new shopping experiences for our guests using generative AI, but we also look at creating new experiences for our team members and vendors. Our approach is to have a portfolio of proof of concepts, advancing them to try and get to scale and impact



Brad Thompson | SVP, TECHNOLOGY

developing a portfolio of over 20 use cases. One recent innovation is "Store Companion," an AI-powered tool available to all store associates. This system, trained on tens of thousands of store process documents, which were painstakingly checked and edited, allows Target's employees to ask questions in their preferred language, simplifying tasks, and this, the company says, enhances productivity massively.

"We're the first retailer in the US to deploy a generative AI companion tool for all store associates,"

Target in India was incorporated in 2004, and we started operations in 2005 - that means we are one of the oldest GCCs in India, and we are currently celebrating our 20th year of operations. What's special and different about the team in India is that these 4,500 team members span a wide range of capabilities, not just a single area. We operate as an extended headquarters, not in the traditional sense of a GCC, but as a connected global headquarters.



Andrea Zimmerman | SVP AND PRESIDENT, INDIA

Thompson proudly says. Rachel Whitcomb, SVP of technology at Target, says these broader AI initiatives have had a tangible impact to the retail behemoth's financials.

"Many of the generative AI use cases we've begun to explore have a baseline business case or value evaluation. Take Store Companion, for example. Initially, the focus was on saving or redirecting team member hours of work to do more impactful tasks, a strong value proposition. But in addition to these operational ef-

Target in India is a significant part of our technology team not just in size and team member footprint, but also in the impact across the entirety of our enterprise. We have every kind of technology capability represented here in India. That includes our engineering capabilities, data science capabilities, security, and infrastructure. We also develop application software, security solutions, and data models out of India that service every part of our business.

Rachel Whitcomb | SVP, TECHNOLOGY

ciencies, there are also additional layers of value. Improving guest service (offline or online shoppers) not only boosts sales and loyalty, but also resolves issues like incorrect signage or product management quickly, leading to cost savings."

India's key role

While Target's US-based teams drive many of these innovations, the company's engineering hub in India has been instrumental in bringing these technologies to life. Andrea Zimmerman, SVP and

HOW THEY NAVIGATED TECH CAREERS

Three senior technologists at Accenture's Advanced Technology Centres (ATC) global network talk about how they have navigated their careers and how technologists should look at a career in technology.

I FOUGHT LEUKAEMIA AT 24

I like to say that I was born and raised in data, and grew up in AI. Post a Master's degree in computer science, I started my career as a software engineer in Mumbai. Soon afterwards, I moved to the US where I worked in technology roles at leading financial services firms. Life gave me a jolt when I was diagnosed with leukaemia at the age of 24. Over the next two years, I fought cancer, regained my strength, and got back to work as soon as I got a good bill of health.

A few years later, when I became a mother, I took a four-year long break to raise my two boys. While the transition back to work was not easy, I upskilled myself in cloud computing, data mining, and machine learning and returned to the industry. Over the years, I discovered my passion for data warehousing and data architecture, and even developed a patented data extraction system.

After nearly two decades in the US, I moved back to India in 2015 and joined Accenture. I believe adversity is often the best teacher. One must seize the moment

and never lose sight of the big picture.



Gopali Contractor | LEAD - AI AND GEN AI

BUILD FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS

I started my career as a software developer post a Bachelor's degree in maths and a Master's degree in IT. I have been with Accenture for over two decades, and over the years have gained expertise in customer experience technology implementations, product and platform engineering and more recently in the domains of network and 5G. I hold multiple patents including ones for cell site identification methodologies for 5G and NLP-based sign language generation. The telecom sector plays a crucial role as the technology infrastructure backbone to every other industry, and I love the sheer breadth of exposure my role gives me - the opportunity to work on cutting-edge technology for diverse clients across the world.

Building the right foundation skills and learning agility are core to a sustainable career in technology. Expertise in data, AI, and security will remain sought-after even as skills for technologies like the edge become important. Creative problem solving and the ability to build strong teams are just as essential.

Mathangi Sandilya | GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY LEAD - COMMUNICATIONS, MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY

LISTEN, UNLEARN AND RE-LEARN

Although I graduated in industrial engineering, I discovered my aptitude for IT during my first job at a consulting firm. My passion for technology was truly ignited when I joined a bank and independently simplified a legacy treasury application within a few months. The success of this project fueled my enthusiasm for how technology can solve complex business problems. Since then, I have honed my expertise in technology solutions across industries including BFSI, utilities, and life sciences, driving large-scale business transformation projects. I value fresh perspectives, like embracing new ideas, and going beyond the status quo. Meeting new people and new experiences inspire me to think differently, and my philosophy of 'Listen, Unlearn and Re-Learn' helps me stay relevant.

As women, we often underestimate our potential and second-guess ourselves. It's important to recognise and break this pattern.

Shylaja Shivaram | CLOUD, SOFTWARE AND PLATFORMS LEAD



She was unfazed by failure, layoff

Veena.Mani@timesofindia.com

Her brief attempt at entrepreneurship failed. She was even laid off once during a company restructuring. But she remained unfazed throughout all of this.

"Life is a game of snakes and ladders. It's filled with ups and downs that should be embraced and enjoyed," says Suprabha Mysore, vice president of software development at TransUnion, the US-based consumer credit reporting agency.

INSPIRATION

After a BE in computer science and three years with Nokia in a software development role, Suprabha decided to try her hand at entrepreneurship. It was 2007. Startups were not as fashionable then as they are today. The venture focused on creating mobile software that could facilitate the operations of e-commerce platforms. Such platforms were then just emerging. But after 18 months, she had to shut it down because she couldn't get investors willing to bring the product to market.

That experience, however, was invaluable. She got insights into the workings of a business, as well as the expectations of clients and investors. She highlighted it in subsequent job interviews. Employers recognised the value of her entrepreneurial background and trusted her ability to lead teams.

Suprabha went on to work in engineering and product

It (music) taught me discipline and the importance of being methodical. I tend to write everything down. Everything must be done step by step.

Suprabha Mysore, | VP, SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT, TRANSUNION

management roles for Cisco, Nokia, and Intel, before assuming her current role at TransUnion.

Throughout her career, Suprabha says, she has learned the significance of customer feedback and approaching product development from a user's perspective rather than solely from a creator's point of view. She would constantly keep the business aspect in mind while writing code.

In all this, music has been a constant companion. Suprabha can play the piano, and was trained in Carnatic music. "It taught me discipline and the importance of being methodical," she says. "I tend to write everything down. Everything must be done step by step. This has not only helped get things done, but also in the order of importance. Keeping things in order is also what I expect from my team," she says. During weekends, Suprabha spends time with her mother humming classical music.

She also writes short stories - which also trains the mind to be clear while communicating. Her first attempt was for her niece's school project. After that, Suprabha started writing stories about things that inspired her during her business trips, and sharing it with family and friends. One such was an incident on an airplane. A young boy was creating a fuss about a broken shoe. Suprabha used this scene to create a story narrating how a shoe feels when it is neglected by people, or how it feels when it is a partner only till a race is won. She titled the story 'A sole-ful run'.



GLOSSARY OF IN-GROUP TERMS USED



ON THIS PAGE

WEBASSEMBLY

WebAssembly (Wasm) is a binary instruction format designed for efficient execution in web browsers, enabling complex code to run at near-native speed. It serves as a portable compilation target for languages like C, C++, and Rust, greatly enhancing web application capabilities. WebAssembly's performance significantly outstrips traditional JavaScript, making it

ideal for heavy computational tasks such as 3D graphics, video editing, and complex mathematical operations. It operates within the same security sandbox as JavaScript, ensuring safe execution. Wasm's portability allows it to run on any platform with a compatible browser, enabling diverse programming languages to function on the web without modification. By integrating seamlessly

with existing web technologies, WebAssembly unlocks the potential for advanced web applications, like high-performance games, interactive simulations, and sophisticated data processing tools, thus expanding what can be achieved on the web. This innovation is transforming the possibilities of web development and user experiences.

CRM

Customer Relationship Management (CRM) is a strategy and set of tools used by businesses to manage interactions with current and potential customers. It involves using data analysis about customers' history with a company to improve business relationships, focusing on customer retention and driving sales growth.

CRM systems compile data from various communication channels, including a company's website, telephone, email, live chat, marketing materials, and social media. These systems provide detailed information on customers' personal information, purchase history, buying preferences, and concerns.

By centralising customer data, CRM tools help businesses enhance customer service, streamline processes, and improve profitability. They enable more personalized and effective communication with customers, identify sales opportunities, automate marketing interactions, and offer insights into customer behavior and trends.



'VEEP' VIEWERSHIP SOARS 350% AS SOCIAL MEDIA DRAWS LINK TO KAMALA HARRIS' RISE; CREATOR REMINDS FANS 'SHOW'S MADE UP'

CELINE DION RUMOURED TO MAKE COMEBACK PERFORMANCE AT PARIS OLYMPICS AMID STIFF-PERSON SYNDROME BATTLE

Kamala rakes in over \$250m in 3 days since Biden's exit

60% Of Funds Have Come From First-Time Donors; Huge Uptick In Volunteers

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: The Kamala Harris presidential campaign has raked in more than \$250 million in political contributions in the three days since Prez Joe Biden bowed out of the race, a staggering spike that is confounding pundits who thought she would be a weak candidate and Trump would trump her on the money front. Explanations for the windfall in political funding, including over \$100 million in the 24 hours since Biden bequeathed the nomination to her, include pent-up energy and money from donors who wanted Biden to bow out. Many Democrat donors dismayed with Biden's debate debacle had held back contributions — in what was dubbed a "Dembargo" — to pressure the prez into quitting the race. His exit appears to have uncorked the money spigot. While big donors from Hollywood and Silicon Valley account for a large portion of the windfall, the Harris campaign is also thrilled that 60% of the contributions have come from first-time donors, an indica-



Harris boards Air Force Two to travel to Indianapolis for a keynote speech

tion that a new cohort of voters who did not give to Biden have emerged from the political base. The Harris campaign also reported a surge in volunteer sign-ups, enrolling 58,000 since she replaced the prez at the top of the ticket, a sign-up rate that one report said is 232 times larger than Biden campaign's daily average. This would suggest that many youngsters who had distanced themselves from the battle of geriatrics are now enthused by the much younger Harris, who is 59, and are "driving up the jiving". Harris also appears to have staunchly the money flow to the Trump campaign from Silicon Valley, previously a Democratic redoubt where some principals like Elon Musk decamped to the Republican side expressing dismay over liberal wokism. On Tuesday, Musk dialed back Trump's claim that he (Musk) was going to contribute \$45 million to his campaign, saying, he doesn't subscribe to "a cult of personality". Other Silicon Valley hon-

chos said they are now opening their checkbooks after holding back for weeks because of the uncertainty over whether Biden would continue.

One Google executive who plans to hold a fundraiser for Harris — who was born in and grew up in Oakland in California's Bay Area — told Washington Post that a lot of people in the tech world were "paralysed in the last few weeks" and "now we are seeing the floodgates have opened". But Trump campaign officials maintain it is just a brief bump arising from Harris' elevation, and the industry's mistrust of gov't and regulations will be hard to overcome.

Incidentally, while California and New York fork out much of the campaign lolly, most of it will be spent — on ads, maintaining campaign offices, voter outreach etc. — in the so-called battleground states that will determine the poll outcome. They include "Blue Wall" states — Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania — and the "Sun Belt" stretch — Arizona, Nevada, Georgia and North Carolina, all of which Trump and Harris will be traversing soon.

Harris leads Trump by 2 points in one of first polls since Biden bowed out

Washington: US vice-prez Kamala Harris is narrowly beating rival Donald Trump in a national poll released Tuesday, one of the first conducted since US Prez Joe Biden ended his re-election campaign on Sunday. Harris holds a two-point lead over Trump, 44% to 42%, according to Reuters/Ipsos poll. It was conducted in the two days after Biden announced he was dropping out of the race. In the previous week's poll, Harris, 59, and Trump, now the elder in the prez race at 78, were tied at 44%. Both results are within the polls' margins of error.



Meanwhile, in a PBS News/NPR/Marist poll conducted Monday, Trump edges Harris with 46% to 45% of US registered voters, with 9% undecided. If third-party candidates or independents are included in the contest, Trump and Harris are tied at 42%, with the others far behind. The survey notably found that 87% of all Americans think Biden's decision to drop out was the right move, a view that crossed partisan and generational lines. Trump maintains a very narrow advantage of 1.6 percentage points against Harris, according to an average of polls collated by RealClearPolitics. AFP

'US, Israel must stand together, all threatened by Iran's axis of terror'

In US Congress Speech, Bibi Thanks Biden For Standing With Israel In Its Darkest Hour; Slams War Protesters As 'Useful Idiots Of Iran'

Israeli PM Netanyahu lauded US-Israeli unity and praised Prez Joe Biden in a fiery speech to Congress Wednesday that sparked boycotts by some top Democrats and drew thousands of protesters to the Capitol to condemn the war in Gaza and the humanitarian crisis it has created.

Nine months into the war in Gaza, Netanyahu sought to bolster US support for his country's fight against Hamas and other Iran-backed armed groups. He portrayed the Gaza war as a "clash between barbarism and civilization".

"Our world is in upheaval. In the Middle East, Iran's axis of terror confronts America, Israel and our Arab friends... America and Israel must stand together. When we stand together something really simple happens: we win, they lose."

said Netanyahu, who wore a yellow pin expressing solidarity with the Israeli hostages held by Hamas. He lambasted American protesters of the war as "useful idiots" of Iran. Praising the US prez, he said Biden stood with Israel in his darkest hour and it will "never be forgotten." "I want to thank him for half a century of friendship to Israel."

Freed former hostages of Hamas and families of hostages listened in the House chamber as Netanyahu spoke. Lawmakers of both parties rose repeatedly to applaud the Israeli



Pro-Palestinian demonstrators protest on Capitol Hill in Washington

Palestinian-origin Rep Rashida Tlaib wears keffiyeh

Rashida Tlaib, the sole Palestinian-American member of Congress, stayed seated and did not clap as the floor erupted in cheers as PM Netanyahu entered the chamber. She also wore a Palestinian scarf, or keffiyeh and held up a sign during the speech that read: "War Criminal. On X she wrote: "Joining me in the chamber today is Hani Almadhour, who has lost over 150 members of his extended family in Netanyahu's genocide." NYT

Cops deploy pepper spray as protesters march to US Capitol

Police deployed pepper spray Wednesday as a large crowd protesting Israel's war in Gaza marched toward the US Capitol, where PM Netanyahu was speaking to Congress. Thousands of protesters descended on Washington, chanting "Free, Free Palestine" as some tried to block streets ahead of the speech. The Capitol Police said on X that some had become "violent" and had "failed to obey" orders to move back from police line. AP

'Laffin Kamala' meme lights up Gen Z and social media

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Long geared towards attacking Joe Biden as the Democratic nominee for the 2024 prez elections, the Trump campaign is having to retool its ammunition against Kamala Harris. It's proving to be tough, with several duds having to be discarded. The age issue has gone out of the window now that Donald Trump is seen as the doddering old man. They've to be careful with the gender issue lest it upset female voters, who incidentally are greater in number than male voters in US. East Coast elite doesn't work because she is from California, and Trump himself is one — a New Yorker when he is not in New Jersey or Florida, milking Middle America's discontent. Nor is she a Washington insider or "swamp creature" that

Trump shooter googled Kennedy killing, flew drone 180m from stage hours before rally: FBI

Just hours before opening fire, the gunman in the attempted assassination of Donald Trump flew a drone roughly 180 metres from the rally stage where the Republican ex-prez would later stand, viewing and livestreaming the footage, FBI director Christopher Wray told congressional lawmakers on Wednesday. The FBI recovered the drone and a controller from the car of shooter Thomas Matthew Crooks. The new details add to the questions about the security lapses preceding the event. Wray also told lawmakers on Wednesday that a laptop tied to Crooks included a Google search of "How far away was Oswald from Kennedy?" That is a reference to Lee Harvey Oswald, the shooter who killed Prez John F. Kennedy in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. The Google search was done on July 6, a week before the July 13 shooting. AP

Trump pledged to defeat but couldn't in four years in the White House. That leaves personal attacks and racist dog whistles, and even that is not going well. Trump's efforts to disparage the vibrant laughter of "laffin Kamala" as he calls her — some of his supporters dubbed her Kackala — has backfired spectacularly after her young supporters made celebratory mash-ups of her hearty laugh and dance moves set to music viral. One of the more popular memes showed a video cut of Harris laughing and dancing to British singer Charli XCX song

from the album "Brat", a nightclub favourite that underscores the aspiration of Gen-Z, which sees the term as an embrace of authenticity and self-confidence, not a badly behaved child.

The Harris campaign quickly co-opted the "brat" colour — the very specific shade of chartreuse or lime green — adding it to the coconut emoji that has already become part of the Kamala iconography. She herself is aware of the Trump flock's effort to deride her hearty laughter, explaining in one interview that she has inherited it from her mother Shyamala. "I grew up with a bunch of women who laughed from the belly. I'm never gonna be...tee hee hee" she said, imitating a snicker.

MAGA radicals bid to stir up Kamala's relationship with San Francisco ex-mayor Willie Brown nearly 30 years ago has

misfired, not that it was ever potent given Trump's own peccadilloes. Brown, now 90, wrote a short comment when she ran for prez in 2019 under the headline: Sure, I dated Kamala Harris. So what? "It was more than 20 years ago. Yes, I may have influenced her career by appointing her to two state commissions when I was assembly speaker. And I certainly helped with her first race for district attorney in San Francisco. I have also helped the careers of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Gov. Gavin Newsom, Sen. Dianne Feinstein and a host of other politicians," Brown said. Then came the clincher which elevated Harris in the eyes of many: "The difference is that Harris is the only one who, after I helped her, sent word that I would be indicted if I "so much as jaywalked" while she was DA..." Brown wrote.

Bangladesh crawls back to normalcy; '2,700 arrested'

Dhaka: Bangladesh was crawling back to normalcy with limited internet and office hours Wednesday after more than a week of chaos triggered by student protests over govt job quotas. Nearly 200 deaths were reported in the violent clashes.

Most of the country remained without internet access, but thousands of cars were on the streets of the capital Dhaka after authorities relaxed a curfew for 7 hours. Offices and banks opened for a few hours Wednesday, while authorities restored broadband and internet in some areas in Dhaka and the city of Chattogram. Officials said the curfew would continue in Dhaka and elsewhere until the situation improves.

Since July 16, at least 197 people have been killed in violence, the leading Bengali-language Prothom Alo daily reported Wednesday. Mohammad Ali Arafat, junior minister for I&B, said Wednesday that official casualty figures would be announced after a judicial inquiry.

While the govt has pledged student protesters would not face legal action or harassment, media reports said that nearly 2,700 people had been arrested in recent days across the country. Many of the detainees, including opposition supporters, were sent to prison pending further legal procedures as PM Sheikh Hasina pledged that perpetrators would face justice.

Schools and other educational institutions have remained shut until further notice.

Clashes have taken place since July 15 between the police and mainly student protesters demanding an end to a quota reserved 30% of govt jobs for kin of veterans who fought in Bangladesh war of independence in 1971. AP

Rushdie attacker charged with supporting Hezbollah

Buffalo (US): A man who severely injured author Salman Rushdie in a frenzied knife attack in western New York faces a new charge that he supported a terrorist group.

An indictment unsealed in US district court in Buffalo on Wednesday charges Hadi Matar with providing material support to Hezbollah, a militant group based in Lebanon and backed by Iran. The indictment didn't detail what evidence linked Matar to the group.

The federal charge comes after Matar earlier this month rejected an offer by state prosecutors to recommend a shorter prison sentence if he agreed to plead guilty in Chautauque County Court, where he is charged with attempted murder and assault. The agreement also would have required him to plead guilty to a federal terrorism-related charge, which hadn't been filed yet at the time. Instead, both cases will now proceed to trial separately. Jury selection in the state case is set for Oct 15.

Matar, 26, has been held without bail since the 2022 attack, during which he stabbed Rushdie more than a dozen times as the acclaimed writer was on stage about to give a lecture at the Chautauque Institution. Knife wounds blinded Rushdie in one eye.

The author spent years in hiding after the Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran issued a fatwa, or edict, in 1989 calling for Rushdie's death over his novel "The Satanic Verses." Khomeini considered the book blasphemous. Matar was born in the US but holds dual citizenship in Lebanon, where his parents were born. AP

Plane crashed less than a min after take-off; airport chief says it turned in wrong direction

Continued from P 1

Videos posted online showed the plane being enveloped in fire and smoke. Fire engines and ambulances were rushed to the spot after the incident. "I came out and saw a plane had crashed and there was smoke and fire coming out," said Ram Kumar Khatri Chetri, who owns a car parts store barely 100 metres from the crash site. "There was chaos and confusion. There was no way that anyone could go near the plane and help out."

It is monsoon season in Kathmandu but it was not raining at the time of the crash. Visibility, however, was low. Of the deceased, 15 died on the spot while three died during treatment at a local hospital, authorities said. The bodies of the deceased have been shifted to Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital for post-mortem.

Pilot Shakya, 37, is undergoing treatment at Kathmandu Model Hospital. Officials said that he remains in a critical condition. He is currently undergoing a crucial eye and spinal cord surgery and is admitted to the neuro-intensive care unit.

Co-pilot Sasant Katuwal had been flying for the past three years after completing training in France, his uncle Dhyan Bahadur Khadka said, adding, he had

just received a visa to go to Germany for further training.

PM K P Sharma Oli and home minister Ramesh Lekh separately visited the accident site to gather details about the incident and provide necessary directions. Oli said he was deeply saddened by the tragedy and urged all for patience at this hour of grief.

According to Tribhuvan International Airport chief Jagannath Niraula, the plane flying from Kathmandu to Pokhara turned in the wrong direction. "As soon as it took off, it turned right instead of turning left," Niraula was quoted as saying by the BBC News Nepal. However, "the cause of the accident has not been revealed yet", he said. The accident happened less than a minute after the plane took off, Niraula said.

A cabinet meeting held in Singhadurbar decided to form a five-member committee to investigate the crash and given 45 days to submit a report.

Nepal has been criticised for its poor air safety record in recent years but the reasons also include sudden weather changes and airstrips located in hard-to-access rocky terrains, apart from human error. According to Nepal's civil aviation body, 914 people have died in air crashes in the country since the first disaster was recorded in Aug 1955.

360 DEATHS IN 19 AIR CRASHES SINCE 2000

Nepal has been criticised for its poor air safety record, where airlines fly to small airports in remote hills and near peaks shrouded in clouds. The main airport in Kathmandu is ringed by mountains, affecting wind directions and intensity in the area and making takeoff and landing a challenge. Before Wednesday's crash, nearly 360 people have been killed in Nepal in 19 air crashes since 2000. A look at some crashes...

<p>July 24 18 die as plane catches fire while taking off from Kathmandu</p>	<p>July 11 6 killed in helicopter crash in Solukhumbu district, home to Mt Everest</p>	<p>Jan 15 72 die in crash in Pokhara. Worst air crash since 1992 when all 167 aboard a PIA plane were killed as it tried to land in Kathmandu</p>	<p>May 29 16 Nepalese, 4 Indians and 2 Germans die after aircraft crashes 15 minutes after taking off from Pokhara</p>	<p>Feb 27 7 die in helicopter crash in bad weather, including the tourism minister</p>
<p>March 12 51 of 71 people on a Bangladeshi airliner die when it crashes while landing in Kathmandu</p>	<p>Feb 16 Plane with 18 onboard crashes in bad weather</p>	<p>Sept 28 19 killed as Dornier aircraft hits a bird after takeoff from Kathmandu</p>	<p>Sept 25 Plane carrying foreign tourists to visit Mt Everest crashes, killing all 19</p>	<p>Dec 16 22 die in crash in east Nepal</p>
<p>July 27 25 die in crash in western Nepal</p>	<p>AUG 22 18 die, mostly foreign tourists, after plane slams into a mountain in bad weather</p>	<p>June 21 9 die as a passenger plane crashes minutes before landing in the west of the country</p>	<p>Aug 24 14 killed in small plane crashes in bad weather</p>	<p>Oct 8 Crash in remote Nepal kills 18, mostly foreigners</p>
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Source: Reuters

John Mayall, tireless and influential British blues pioneer, dies at 90

London: John Mayall, the British blues musician whose influential band the Bluesbreakers was a training ground for Eric Clapton, Mick Fleetwood and many other superstars, has died. He was 90. A statement on Mayall's Instagram page announced his death Tuesday, saying the musician died Monday at his home in California. "Health issues that forced John to end his epic touring career have finally led to peace for one of this world's greatest road warriors," the post said. Among this year's new

members of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, he is credited with helping develop the English take on urban, Chicago-style rhythm and blues that played an important role in the blues revival of the 1960s. At various times, the Bluesbreakers included Eric Clapton and Jack Bruce, later of Cream; Mick Fleetwood, John McVie and Peter Green of Fleetwood Mac; Mick Taylor, who played five years with the Rolling Stones; and Harvey Mandel and Larry Taylor of Canned Heat. Clapton and McVie both



Blues legend John Mayall

played on the 1966 release "Blues Breakers With Eric Clapton", which Rolling Stone magazine has ranked among the 500 greatest albums. "He was a great pioneer of British

blues and had a wonderful eye for talented musicians," Mick Jagger wrote on X, adding that it was Mayall who recommended Taylor as a replacement in 1969 for founding Stones guitarist Brian Jones, "ushering in a new era" for the band.

Mayall protested in interviews that he was not a talent scout, but played for the love of the music he had first heard on his father's 78-rpm records. "I'm a band leader and I know what I want to play in my band — who can be good friends of mine," Mayall said in an inter-

view with the Southern Vermont Review. "It's definitely a family. It's a small kind of thing really." Though Mayall never approached the fame of some of his illustrious alumni, he was still performing in his late 80s, pounding out his version of Chicago blues. The lack of recognition rankled a bit, and he wasn't shy about saying so. "I've never had a hit record, I never won a Grammy Award, and Rolling Stone has never done a piece about me," he said in an interview in 2013. "I'm still an underground performer."

Known for his blues harmonica and keyboard playing, Mayall had a Grammy nomination, for "Wake Up Call" which featured guest artists Buddy Guy, Mavis Staples, Mick Taylor and Albert Collins. He received a second nomination in 2022 for his album "The Sun Is Shining Down". He also won official recognition in Britain with the award of an OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire) in 2005.

Mayall was born on Nov 29, 1933 in Macclesfield, near Manchester in central England. AP

AROUND THE WORLD



TINY SEA: Residents of a beautiful bay on Croatia's Adriatic coast are hoping that the place they have always called the Karin Sea can be officially designated the world's smallest sea. Officials are planning to apply to Guinness World Records for the title. At present, the smallest is Turkey's Sea of Marmara. The Karin Sea, home to protected marine life such as dolphins and sea turtles, covers an area of about 6sqkm and locals say it is so small that a swimmer can cross it in a few strokes

Art student pulls off a (very brief) coin heist at British Museum

A Brazilian artist strolled into the British Museum last month and approached a table where visitors are allowed to interact with historic objects. After handling a 17th-century British coin for a moment, he seemingly returned it and moved on, like thousands of other visitors. Only last week did the museum discover — through the artist's Instagram page — that he had replaced a genuine coin with his own replica and discarded the real artifact in the museum's donation box. The act was the culmination of a more-than-year-long project by Ile Sartuzi, an art student. To briefly steal the coin, he used the type of sleight of hand often associated with magicians to draw

parallels to what he called the "trickery" of the museum's display of objects with contested provenance. The museum has long faced criticism regarding its acquisition methods. Several nations have sought the return of particular objects in the museum's exhibits and questioned the legitimacy of its collections. This latest stunt did not seem to resonate with the museum. "We're quite open about what is looted and what is a contested object," said Connor Watson, the museum's spokesman. While the museum called the incident "disappointing", he said the incident broke no law. "No issue of theft here."

North's trash balloons hit S Korea prez house area Trash carried by North Korean balloons fell on the South Korean presidential compound in Seoul on Wednesday, raising worries about the security. The rubbish contained no dangerous material & no one was hurt.



"You never want to be involved in an era where it's boring in the 1500m, where you know someone is going to win it. We're having a bit of fun back and forth, aren't we?"

JOSH KERR | MEN'S 1500M WORLD CHAMPION ON HIS RIVALRY WITH JAKOB INGEBRIGTSEN



TALL TARGETS: Women beach volleyball players train under the Eiffel Tower in Paris on Wednesday

THE WORLD IS MEETING IN THE CITY OF LOVE

Parisians Are Slowly Waking Up To The Fact That The Olympics Are Home...

TIMES AT THE GAMES
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Paris: "This way, sir." The tall, burly man flashed a huge smile outside the Main Press Centre at the Palais des Congrès in Porte Maillot. "Which country? Oh India. Viva India." He kept smiling, shook hands and then suddenly turned serious. "We need to check your bags, please. Phone, wallet, coins out in the tray." That familiar security drill

done, the first steps towards Paris 2024 had been taken.

The hall on the second floor was buzzing — journalists busy on their laptops, writing stories, downloading pictures from their cameras or simply chatting over a coffee, catching up with old friends. With two days still to go for the opening ceremony on the Seine, it was house full here on Wednesday evening. Yes, the world is here.

Outside in this City of Love, people are still waking up to the fact that the Olympic Games are home and so near. On arrival, the

Charles de Gaulle airport was surprisingly quiet, but the volunteers were welcoming and the security check was a breeze. Fawad, the Uber driver, was the first person one got to have a conversation with. A football and basketball fan, the young man with Tunisian and Algerian roots sounded excited about the Games but was not sure about what it meant for business.

"Too much security means blocked roads. You will discover that soon. A lot of Parisians have moved out or are moving out to the city's outskirts or

other towns and cities. I've got to make a living, so I am going nowhere. Paris. I hate your traffic," he groaned. The Zinedine Zidane fan then sighed: "I would love to watch some football."

The Seine riverfront has been barricaded over a long stretch and traffic snarls will indeed make the already congested downtown roads difficult to move through, at least on Friday, the opening ceremony day.

Alexandra, our host, said she had no such luck when asked whether she would get a paid holiday like many other

Parisians over the coming fortnight. The artist who teaches contemporary dance forms moved to her father's home with her daughter and pet cat after welcoming us in.

"No buzz? You may feel that it is business as usual out there on the streets, but things will change suddenly. Paris has a very vibrant sporting culture. Many of us would love to watch the opening ceremony or catch some action inside the stadiums, but can't afford the tickets. We will watch it on big screens, which will come up at various

places in the city. You'll be surprised by how quickly the city changes," she said.

Outside our apartment in the Belleville neighborhood, one could see a crowd of young boys playing football in a corner, and another bunch knocking the ball around on a makeshift basketball court, shrieking and shouting in happiness. Sports does that to you, young or old — brings you unbridled joy, and sometimes a lot of pain. We will see several of these mixed emotions when it all begins in the arenas of this historic city.

SINNER PULLS OUT OF GAMES WITH TONSILLITIS

Paris: World No. 1 tennis player Jannik Sinner has withdrawn from the Paris Olympics due to tonsillitis, the Italian said on Wednesday. Sinner won his first Grand Slam at the Australian Open earlier this year and reached the semifinals of the French Open. "I am saddened to inform you that unfortunately I will not be able to participate in the Olympic Games," Sinner posted on X. "After a good week of clay training I started to feel unwell. I

visit the doctor found tonsillitis and strongly advised me against playing. Missing the Games is a huge disappointment as it was one of my main goals. Good luck to all the Italian athletes." Sinner was also due to play in the men's doubles alongside Lorenzo Musetti. Sinner's withdrawal means World No. 2 Novak Djokovic will be the top seed in the men's singles draw. REUTERS

THREE MORE OZ WATER POLO PLAYERS TEST POSITIVE

Paris: Three more Australian women's water polo players have tested positive for Covid ahead of the Paris Games, the country's Olympic team chief Anna Meares said on Wednesday, taking the total number of confirmed cases in the team up to five. Two players had tested positive on Tuesday. Meares added that the cases were confined to the water polo team. "There have been five athletes in total who have tested positive," Meares said. "And again, if those five athletes are feeling well enough to train, they will and they are following all the protocols. The whole water-polo team has been tested. They've been wearing masks, they're isolating, they're not going into the high-volume areas and we have respiratory illnesses protocols in place." REUTERS

COCO GAUFF TO BE FEMALE FLAGBEARER FOR TEAM USA

Paris: Tennis star Coco Gauff will join LeBron James as a flagbearer for the US Olympic team at Friday's opening ceremony. Gauff, the reigning US Open champion, is set to make her Olympic debut at the Paris Games and will be the first tennis athlete to carry the US flag. She and James were chosen by Team USA athletes. "For me, the Olympics is top priority, I would say equal to Grand Slams. This is my first time," Gauff said. "Obviously, I always want to do well, try to get a medal." Gauff and James, the 39-year-old leading scorer in NBA history, both compete in sports that are outside the traditional Olympic world and get attention all year round. REUTERS

CANADIAN ASSISTANT COACH OUT AFTER DRONE DRAMA

Paris: The Canadian women's soccer team assistant coach and an analyst have been kicked out of the Olympic squad after New Zealand said its team had their training session disrupted by a drone flown by a staff member of their Group A opponents, the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) said on Wednesday. Head coach Bev Priestman has also removed herself from coaching the team against New Zealand in Group A on Thursday, the COC added. "Joseph Lombardi, an unaccredited analyst with Canada Soccer, is being removed from the Canadian Olympic team and will be sent home immediately," COC said in a statement. "Jasmine Mander, an assistant coach, is also being removed and will be sent home immediately." REUTERS

VIDEO EMERGES OF DUJARDIN WHIPPING HORSE'S LEGS

Versailles: After the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) shocked the riding world when it suspended Britain's six-times Olympic medalist Charlotte Dujardin over inappropriate training methods, the video footage that led to Britain's joint-most decorated female Olympian pulling out of the Paris Games has emerged showing her whipping a horse's legs multiple times. "What is shown in this video is completely unacceptable at any point in a horse's training," FEI veterinarian director Goran Akerstrom said. "You can certainly see some of the whiplashes did hit the horse and the horse was stressed with it," he said, describing the whiplashes as "stupid" for the horse's learning process. At the 2021 Games, one horse died in a cross-country accident while scenes of horse abuse in the pentathlon. REUTERS

OLYMPIC BMX CHAMPION LOSES EQUIPMENT IN VAN BREAK-IN

Paris: Reigning Olympic BMX freestyle champion Logan Martin had some of his equipment stolen by thieves who broke into a team van in a "crazy start" to the Australian's title defence. Martin posted a video on Instagram showing the passenger side window of the vehicle smashed and police officers speaking to a member of the Australian delegation. "Our van got broken into last night," he said. "Luckily my bikes weren't in there, although my bike bags were in there with some things in it. What a crazy start to the trip," Martin said. AFP



QUEST FOR PERFECTION: Diver Andrew Capobianco of the US trains in Saint-Denis on Wednesday



TIME TO FLEX: Brody Malone of the US on the parallel bars at the Bercy Arena in Paris



IT'S NOT JUST IN PARIS! France's Kauli Vaast surfs in Tahiti, which will play host to the event



SECURITY SCARE: Police officers gather outside Parc des Princes after a bomb alert

'It makes sense for athletes to have personal coaches around'

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New Delhi: Union sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday reacted for the first time to the off-field issues which have affected the Indian contingent's build-up for the Paris Olympics. Mandaviya addressed concerns about delay in visas for wrestler Antim Panghal's personal coach and support staff and eviction of a masseur attached to the boxing team to accommodate PV Sindhu and Vinesh Phogat's coaches.

He also justified the govt's decision to allow a sizeable number of personal coaches to accompany their wards to Paris, which the minister said was done to "keep athletes in the best mind space". In his first interview with any media outlet after taking over as sports minister, Mandaviya said the govt has spent more than Rs 470

cr across 16 disciplines. "As the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has explained, Antim's coach and support staff's names were not included in the long list and hence they could not secure accreditation. As soon as she escalated the issue, the ministry and IOA addressed it. Besides, the ministry sought the support of the MEA to facilitate visas being granted by the embassy of France here," Mandaviya said. "I can say with certainty that the IOA has done well to recommend the inclusion of 131 coaches and support staff. Given the restrictions on the number of beds, IOA and Sports Authority of India (SAI) had to perform a balancing act. They have done the best they could have. The masseur (Vijay Kamboj) has access to

TOI EXCLUSIVE



MANSUKH MANDAVIYA

the venue and will get a day pass to be in the Olympic Village if needed. As far as personal coaches are concerned, we have wanted our athletes to be in the best mind space. And if the presence of their coaches can assist them, we have an open approach. It makes sense for the athletes to have their coaches around in the most critical competition of their lives. This time a support team of 140 coaches and support staff is going for 117 athletes as compared to the 101 coaches & support staff in 2021," he said.

The minister sounded confident that the country's athletes will come up with their best-ever show in Paris. "Our athletes are prepared to deliver the best performance by an Indian contingent," he said.

Antim's coach, support staff get visa

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New Delhi: Paris-bound wrestler Antim Panghal can finally heave a sigh of relief. After days of struggle, the visa applications of her personal coach Bhagat Singh and other support-staff members were cleared by the French embassy in Delhi, allowing her team to travel with her to Paris.

TOI has learnt that World Championships bronze medalist's coach Bhagat, sparring partner Vikas and physio Heera Mundruva have received their

passports with French visa stickers. On July 16, the govt cleared the names of all support-staff members attached with Antim while approving the final list of 117 athletes and 140 coaches and support staff. TOI had, in its edition dated July 17, published a report highlighting problems faced by Antim's team in securing visas.

"Yes, we have received our visas with stickers. Finally, we



ANTIM PANGHAL

all can now fly with Antim on Aug 3 to Paris. It was a difficult few days for all of us. We went to the Visa Facilitation Service (VFS) centre, Indian Olympic Association's (IOA) headquarters and the French Consulate in Delhi several times, but nothing happened. Finally, when the govt intervened after Antim approached the authorities, we were able to secure the visas. We now want to focus solely on preparing Antim," a support staff member said.

"Had IOA sent the mail to the consulate in a particular format for each of the support staff members in time, the consulate would have updated it in its system before intimating the VFS staff to collect the biometrics. It should have happened much earlier but now we want to shift our focus to the Games," the member added.

On July 10, IOA president P T Usha had written to the visa officer at the consulate, requesting the facilitation of visa for Antim's support staff at the earliest. Later, Usha had blamed its own three-member wrestling ad-hoc committee — which has now been disbanded — for the delay in processing visas to Antim's support staff. Usha had said that the ad-hoc panel failed to include names of Antim's support staff members in the long list, which was sent to the organisers months ago.

Antim won the Paris quota for India in the 53kg category when she won bronze at the Worlds in Sept last year.

Deepika unafraid to embrace 'fear' in quest for elusive medal

TIMES AT THE GAMES
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Paris: The Eiffel Tower peeps out from above Parisian terraces — that architectural mix of Renaissance and Revivalist, gazing upon you without plan or preamble, rhyme or reason. Everywhere you go, the city's labyrinthine lanes, its leafy, shaded avenues, past their many cafes and their patrons for life, everywhere you look — and Paris compels you to look up from your phones — the Eiffel will be looking back, in that giant, all-metal silent stalk that only the Eiffel

can do. Under its unrelenting watch then, Deepika Kumari was shooting arrows into the warm Parisian air at the Les Invalides, a 17th century military complex in the heart of the French capital, with a 7600-seating gallery and tickets for all stages of the archery competition sold out.

As you watched, shading your eyes from the harsh afternoon sun, you could almost see a 'Queen' parallel playing out here in Paris.

Haunted initially by the wrought-iron tower's constant presence, the protagonist in the 2013 film, travelling alone, found friends and eventually found herself. The 30-year-old 'veteran' of the Indian women's archery team, you could say, is on a similar journey here. She has the



DEEPIKA KUMARI

comfort of an old, familiar set-up but somewhere, she knows she must travel alone. Will she find what she has been looking for? Ask her about her evolution from a prodigious teenager to team elder and Deepika lists "experience" as one of the key aspects of her evolution.

"Darr lagta hai, nervousness hoti hai. You suddenly learn to ex-

perience fear, especially as you grow older. You become very aware of fear," Deepika smiles gently, attempting to articulate the feeling of growing up and the task ahead of her. "But the key is to be in control of that darr, not let that nervousness overpower you."

A major recent part of her evolution has also included motherhood

when she and archer husband, Atanu Das, gave birth to a girl in Dec 2022. "Call it a type of selfishness," she says. "But I haven't experienced so many moments of her growing up — her first steps, first words, I miss her so badly, it's one of the biggest sacrifices I've made. Bahut khataкта hai, but kya karen, yeh joke ambition fulfil karna hai (it rangles, but I have to fulfill this ambition)."

For someone who had initially joked that she will only give single-lined replies to questions and not more, Deepika would have probably surprised herself with her candour, even at the expense of keeping the team bus waiting. At London 2012, she was an 18-year-old prodigy. Much was expected of her. Today, in what is her fourth Olympics, Deepika — and the rest of the country — still await that medal.

"More than anyone else, more than what they say — and they say a lot — it is a personal slight ki

World Cup and World Championships mein medal hai, lekin Olympics mein nahin hai. Personally too, I want to find that out. I can win at the Worlds, what happens at the Olympics? Skill wohi hai, talent haven't been there for that. I miss her so badly, it's one of the biggest sacrifices I've made. Bahut khataкта hai, but kya karen, yeh joke ambition fulfil karna hai (it rangles, but I have to fulfill this ambition)."

same, training bhi and competition bhi, so what is the issue? It is intriguing." It is this mix of intrigue, personal slight and the desire to correct it all that has kept Deepika going. A former World No 1, she laughs at how she knew no fear as a youngster but is acutely aware of it now. "Jab young they, sirf performance yaad rehti thi, aur kuch dhyaan mein hi nahin aata tha. We had no idea what mental health was, that we needed a psychologist at all. Anything that we found we needed attending to, we took care of ourselves. Anything emotional, just sleep it off. Subah theekh ho jayega. But but now, especially, with age — by the way, I'm only just 30, — and being more aware of fear, a

session with the psychologist can help. But I'm still of the old school belief that you have to fight it out yourself, they can only help with showing you a direction."

The archery competition gets under way on Thursday, a day before the opening ceremony with the individual ranking rounds, following which the subsequent stages will be held between July 28-Aug 4. The setting is imposing too. The Les Invalides venue promises to be the most spectacular archery competition in Olympic history. Does that work on the mind anywhere — usually archery at the Olympics is held at marquee locations? "Humme toh bas target dikhta hai, gallery nahin dekhtey," she laughs it off. "It could affect a first-timer but we tell them that we just see it as any other tournament, in a way. The final aim is the medal. The setting is incidental."

Somewhere, an eavesdropping Eiffel would have approved, but given its rigid frame, unable to nod.

IPL franchises to discuss retentions and salary cap

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Mumbai: If one of the suggestions by the franchises is implemented, the salary of a player, bought for say just Rs 30-50 lakh at the IPL mega auction in December this year, could be increased multiple times by the franchise—perhaps even to a few crores—if that player performs outstandingly in IPL-2025. TOI has learnt.

"The current system doesn't allow for a player's salary to be increased by a franchise once he's bought in the IPL auction. Like most jobs, there's no provision of increment. Suppose he's bought for Rs 30 lakh and has an outstanding IPL, the franchise should have the option of offering him, say a Rs 3 crore fresh contract for the next year, rather than lose him to some other team. This will prevent poaching by other teams. The IPL needs to allow franchises to renegotiate the salary of a high-performing player. It will allow a team the option to retain its best players of the previous season without the worry that they would ask to be released or traded by other teams," a franchise official told TOI.

Among other suggestions that the franchises have put forward in their individual meetings with IPL CEO Hemang Amin and other BCCI officials are: Conduct a mega auction only once in five years, allow teams to retain five players at the most, give each franchise as many as eight right-to-match (RTM) options to the franchises, and increase the salary purse to around Rs 130-140 crores. The final picture of what will eventually be implemented—most importantly how many player retentions will eventually be allowed—will become clear when the BCCI holds its meeting with the IPL owners at the end of this month.

We should capitalise on India's big stars' retirement: Jayasuriya

Pallekele: Sri Lanka's interim head coach Sanath Jayasuriya on Wednesday revealed that IPL side Rajasthan Royal's high performance director Zubin Bharucha has helped his batters prepare for the upcoming T20 series against India where he expects them to take advantage of the recent retirements by stars like Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli.

Rohit, Kohli and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja retired from the T20 Internationals after India's World Cup triumph last month. The T20 series against Sri Lanka will get underway here on July 27.

Jayasuriya revealed despite some of the Sri Lankan players' involvement in the Lanka Premier League, they have held a six-day camp with Bharucha.

"We just started the sessions just after the LPL. Most of the players are playing the LPL, so they were busy with cricket and what we wanted (for them) was to play cricket as much as possible," he said. "We got Zubin from Rajasthan Royals and we had about six days of work and also with the other cricketers who finished with the LPL. I hope the players have learnt what you (management) wanted to do in terms of practice and their technique.



FORWARD BLOCK: India's head coach Gautam Gambhir with Sanju Samson during a training session in Pallekele on Tuesday

"The preparation was good, and we have two more days in Kandy before the T20 starts," he added. Jayasuriya said the sessions with Bharucha were intense and the players have been able to learn a lot from him. "It is important to learn as international cricketers new techniques, new approaches and shot making to be effective," he said.

India also have a new captain in Suryakumar Yadav for T20Is and Jayasuriya, while acknow-

ledging the struggles of his side, urged them to make the most of the opportunity.

"Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli are best players in the world. Looking at their talent and the kind of cricket they have played we all know where they belong, along with Jadeja," Jayasuriya said using a press meet. "Their absence will be loss to the Indian team and we have to take maximum advantage out of that," he said.

Pickleball World Rankings, World Series launched

Dubai: Pickleball, said to be the world's fastest growing sport, on Wednesday announced a global league with the launch of Pickleball World Rankings, PWR World Series and PWR World Tour: Gulf Cooperation Council - which includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE - was named as the region that will host the first PWR World Series in March 2025.

The news was backed by Pickleball League Asia Pvt Ltd in partnership with The Times Group. PWR will bring together regional bodies under one structure to enhance governance. The announcement was made by PWR, The Times Group, members of international Pickleball bodies and some of the world's top players, includ-

ing women's world No. 1 on APP Tour, Megan Fudge DeHart, Pranav Kohli, CEO and Founder of PWR, said, "We will be offering \$15 million in prize money for the PWR World Tour and \$1.5 million for the GCC stop in PWR World Series. This is the highest prize money ever offered in the sport."

Times Group MD Vineet Jain said: "The Times Group is proud to be an anchor investor in PWR, a path-breaking initiative that unifies the global pickleball community... I personally believe that pickleball will overtake tennis in terms of participation in near future. PWR is a platform that will empower players from every corner of the globe to compete, excel, and showcase their talent on an international stage." **TNN**

VAR call after 2 hrs, Argentina beaten 2-1 by Morocco in chaotic opening Oly game

Paris: A fan invasion in the opening match of the Olympic football tournament between Argentina and Morocco on Wednesday caused chaos, with Argentina eventually beaten 2-1 following a VAR review after play was suspended with the score tied at 2-2.

Argentina's Cristian Medina scored deep in injury time to salvage what looked like a 2-2 draw, but the decision ruling out the goal was delivered about two hours after play was suspended when the teams re-emerged on to the pitch to finish the match in an empty stadium. The teams played for three minutes and 15 seconds after VAR completed its review and disallowed the goal.

After order was restored in Saint-Etienne and the teams had left the field following the fan invasion, they discovered that the match had not been completed but suspended by officials. The venue manager told Reuters



Security tackles a fan of Morocco after supporters invaded the pitch at the end of the match between Argentina and Morocco

the game had been interrupted, adding that a decision about whether the match would be completed was being discussed.

The teams re-emerged just before 7:00 p.m. local time and warmed up a second time so the final minutes could be

played. The gold medal winners in 2004 and 2008 were not at their best despite lining up with recent Copa America winners Julian Alvarez, Nicolas Otamendi and Geronomo Rulli.

Soufiane Rahimi put Morocco ahead after Achraf Hakimi set him up from the right following a superb passing move in the final seconds of the first half.

Rahimi doubled the advantage and netted his second from the penalty spot in the 49th minute before Giuliano Simoneone pulled one back for Javier Mascherano's side in the 68th.

Medina then found the net 16 minutes into stoppage time before fans stormed the pitch and objects were thrown at players as chaos erupted in the eastern French city.

Spain beat Uzbekistan 2-1 in their opening match of Group C at the Parc de Princes. **REUTERS**



B'desh cruise to 114-run win against Malaysia

Dambulla: Bangladesh dominated Malaysia in the Women's Asia Cup match and clinched a thumping 114-run win at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium on Wednesday. After winning the toss, Bangladesh decided to bat against Malaysia and their decision did go in their favour as they got an upper hand with some fine batting.

WOMEN'S ASIA CUP
Murshida Khatun (60 runs from 59 balls, 10 fours and 1 six) and Dilara Akter (33 runs from 20 balls, 4 fours and 1 six) opened for Bangladesh and scored

a 65-run partnership. After the dismissal of two Bangladesh openers, Dilara and Khatun, skipper Nigar Sultana (62 runs from 37 balls, 5 fours and 2 sixes) and Rumana Ahmed (66 runs from 4 balls, 1 four) took charge of the game and powered Bangladesh to 191/2. Mahirah

Sri Lanka women also romped past Thailand to register a 10-wicket win. Thailand could muster 93/7 as the hosts chased down the target in 11.3 overs.

India women will face Bangladesh in the semifinal while Sri Lanka will take on Pakistan in the other semifinal. **AGENCIES**

'Nurturing potential of youth is govt's commitment'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The govt is committed to providing necessary support and resources to nurture the full potential of the country's youth towards developing a 'Viksit Bharat', said sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday.

During an interaction with National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers from across India through video conferencing, he lauded the efforts of NSS in fostering a

sense of social responsibility among the youth.

Earlier, Mandaviya had interacted with National Youth Awardees, National Service Scheme Awardees and volunteers of NYKs. He also said that the govt was committed to giving opportunities to young sports persons so that they can bring glory to the country.

NSS volunteers also shared experience about their activities and participation in various awareness campaigns and community services.

Univs not waiting for CUET scores, begin admissions

► Continued from P1

Anxiety No. 3: Will students lose money? UGC had said tuition paid by students should be refunded by Sept if admission is cancelled. But many students stand to lose what they paid as hostel fee. There's also the additional spend from securing a backup admission. Nyasa Gautam, from Indore, says the backup admission has been an extra cost, which has added to the stress.

Universities have started accepting students basis their own admission exams or other test scores, without waiting for CUET. Neelakantan T A, from Thiruvananthapuram, says his preferred option was a central university, not a private one. But since Azim Premji university admissions are open, he's decid-



A STUDY IN CHAOS: Some institutions are resigned to the fact that the academic calendar will be messed up

ed to enrol there. Some institutions are resigned to the fact that the academic calendar will be messed up. All universities in Hyderabad are waiting for CUET results. "We are hoping that the results will be declared in a day or two so that we won't lose much," said Ishfaq Ahmed, registrar, Maulana Azad Na-

tional Urdu University. Visva Bharati's acting public relations officer Atig Ghosh said extra classes or curtailing vacations will have to be considered. Other universities that have not started admissions expressed similar sentiments. Kanhaiya Ahuja, CUET admissions coordinator at Indore's DAVV, said, "The

delay leaves us with only three and a half months to complete the syllabus for the first semester, which needs to be over by Dec."

The CUET delay has pushed back the calendar by at least a fortnight for Central University of Gujarat (CUG), the only university in the state admitting students through the central test.

Darshan Maru, controller of examination at CUG, told TOI that the PG admissions are already done for 300-odd students, whereas admissions are pending for UG courses. "We have 100-odd seats in three disciplines where admissions take place through CUET. Last year too, these admissions had started in Aug," he said.

(With inputs from Mumbai, Indore, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Thiruvananthapuram & Ahmedabad)

Girl dies during 'forced abortion', 2 brothers & pradhan held

Lucknow: A teenage girl from a village in UP's Hardoi district died on Tuesday during a "forced abortion" at a nursing home run by a quack. Police on Wednesday arrested her two brothers and the gram pradhan (village head) for the death.

Hardoi SP Neeraj Kumar Jadaun said police were searching for the doctor who performed the abortion. Provisions of SC/ST Act and Pcoo Act had been invoked in the case, he added.

Sandi police station SHO R K Shukla said the 16-year-old girl was allegedly in a relationship with a local youth. "When her brothers, who worked in private jobs in Sandila and Bhopal, learnt she was eight months pregnant, they returned to the village. One of the brothers arranged for an abortion and forced her to undergo the procedure," said Shukla.

The family quietly buried her on Wednesday. **TNN**

Identity of terrorist killed in Kupwara yet to be established

► Continued from P1

On July 15, 10 Rashtriya Rifles lost a Captain and three men in a shootout with suspected Pakistani terrorists in Doda district, while an ambush on a two-truck patrol claimed the lives of five soldiers from 22 Garhwal Rifles in Kathua district's Machedi forest on July 8.

Army and J&K police had launched an operation in the forests of Lolab valley in Kupwara a few days ago following information about possible terrorist movements, officials said. On Tuesday, the security forces located a group of hiding terrorists along the LoC in Trimukha Top, leading to a gunfight. During the overnight operation, Naik Khan was fatally wounded. Officials haven't established the identity of the slain terrorist till the filing of this report.

The forest of Trimukha Top is close to a military camp, which monitors Lolab valley. This forest serves as a strate-



Armymen pay tribute to Lance Naik Subash Kumar after he succumbed to injuries attained while thwarting an infiltration bid in Poonch on Tuesday

gic corridor connecting Lolab with Bhandipora and Baramulla districts and is frequently used by terrorists to move between districts after infiltrating the LoC. Senior Army and police officers paid their last respects to Lance Naik Chander in Jammu. "A wreath-laying ceremony was held at the IAF station before his mortal remains were sent to his home town in UP," an official said.

This summer, terrorist violence was concentrated mostly south of the Pir Panjal

mountains, which divide Jammu and the Kashmir valley. The Jammu zone recorded a surge in terrorist violence following four attacks between June 9 and 12 in Reasi, Kathua, and Doda districts, which resulted in the deaths of seven pilgrims, their local bus driver and conductor, and a CRPF constable. Since Oct 2021, at least 50 security personnel, including 40 Army men and one from IAF, have been killed in Jammu, a region earlier free from terrorism.

PC: Bypoll results people's punishment for govt's 'casual' approach to inflation

► Continued from P1

Former finance minister and Congress MP P Chidambaram accused FM Nirmala Sitharaman of dismissing the subject of inflation "in 10 words" in her Budget speech. "Is inflation such a trivial subject that you can deal with it casually...? Inflation is a humiliating situation as every family is affected by it," he said in Rajya Sabha.

"I warn this govt, you are not taking inflation seriously. The results of the last set of by-elections in which the INDIA bloc won 10 out of 13 seats was a punishment and warning by the people to NDA for high inflation," he said. "If you don't take inflation seriously, you will be punished more. If you want to suffer, you are welcome to suffer the punishment," he cautioned.



If you don't take inflation seriously you will be punished more, Chidambaram said in Parliament

The former FM also attacked govt on the issue of federalism. "I don't grudge at all that you are giving relief to Andhra Pradesh or Bihar, but what about other states? We are a federal country. You are the Union govt, you are govt of all the states. You cannot pick and choose one state and deny relief to another state," he said.



65% quota my initiative, Cong did nothing: Nitish in House

► Continued from P1

The Bihar CM also reminded everyone that the hike in reservation wouldn't have happened had he not taken the initiative.

"It was at my behest that you all agreed to a caste survey, after which quotas for SCs, STs, OBCs and extremely backward classes were hiked to 65% in govt jobs and educational institutions," he said.

"Your protest has no meaning. Congress did nothing to make this (increased reservation) happen while in govt." The continuing commotion, including opposition members shouting slogans and trooping to the well of the House, led speaker Nand Kishore Yadav to adjourn the proceedings till 2pm.

Ballistic missile shield has been in works since the late-1990s

► Continued from P1

Swiftly "detected" by radars, the BMD system kicked into action to launch the "advanced area defence endo-atmospheric interceptor missile" from the integrated test at Chandipur at 4.24 pm. "The interceptor destroyed the target. The flight test fully met all the trial objectives, validating the complete network-centric warfare weapon system consisting of long-range sensors, low latency communication system and advanced interceptor missiles," a DRDO official said.

The solid-fuelled, two-stage interceptor missile system is meant for "neutralising many types of enemy ballistic missile threats in the altitude bracket of endo to low exo-atmospheric regions", he added. Congratulating DRDO, de-

fence minister Rajnath Singh said it has again demonstrated country's BMD capability.

India, unlike countries like the US, Russia, China and Israel, however still has a long way to go before it can operationally deploy an effective BMD system, with an overlapping network of early-warning and tracking sensors, reliable command and control posts, land and sea-based batteries of advanced interceptor missiles.

DRDO has successfully completed a series of tests for Phase-I of the BMD system, which is designed to track and destroy enemy ballistic missiles in the 2,000-km range class, both inside (endo) and outside (exo) the earth's atmosphere at altitudes from 15-25 km to 80-100 km for "a higher kill probability", as was earlier reported by TOI.

Even as Phase-I of the BMD system, with the interceptor missiles flying at Mach 4.5 supersonic speeds, is yet to be deployed, DRDO had tested a new long-range flexible interceptor missile called AD-1 under Phase-II in Nov 2022. DRDO also conducted the maiden flight trial of a sea-based endo-atmospheric interceptor missile from a warship in April last year. Apart from a land-based BMD system, A mobile sea-based version is also required to build an operationally effective missile shield. "Sea-based version gives you distributive capability," an officer said.

The US, incidentally, has around 50 ship-borne Aegis BMD systems that provide layered air and missile defence against all sorts of missiles, from short-range ones to ICBMs (intercontinental ballistic missiles).



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Bangladesh officially conveys to India its displeasure over CM Mamata's remark that she will open doors for refugees if situation there deteriorates, P14

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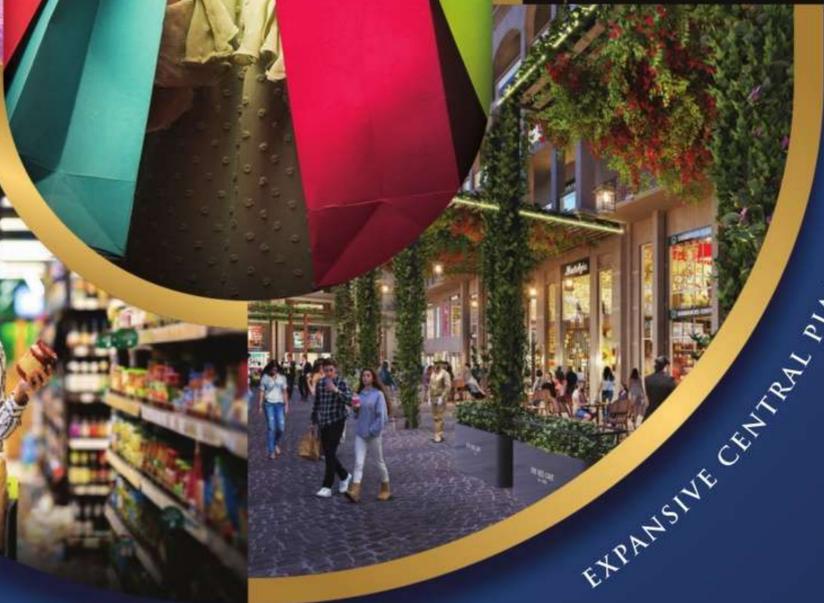
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KAMALA HARRIS TAKES 44%-42% LEAD OVER TRUMP IN FIRST NATIONAL OPINION POLL AFTER BIDEN DROPPED OUT OF PREZ RACE, 24

Plane crashes after takeoff at Nepal airport, 18 killed

Wife, 4-Year Son Of Airline Staff Among Fatalities

Kathmandu: A Nepalese airliner crashed and caught fire shortly after taking off from Tribhuvan International Airport here on Wednesday, killing 18 people aboard, including a child, and seriously injuring the pilot — the lone survivor — in the latest aviation disaster to hit the Himalayan nation. The Bombardier CRJ-200 aircraft of Saurya Airlines, carrying 19 people, including two crew members and technical staff of the airline, was bound for Pokhara International Airport for regular maintenance service when the accident occurred. “Shortly after takeoff from runway 02, the aircraft veered off to the right and crashed on the east side of the runway,” said a statement issued by the civil aviation authority of Nepal. It said rescue operations were initiated immediately and fire was brought under control. “One injured person (Captain Manish Ratna Shaky) was rescued and taken to the hospital, and 18 people were found dead,” it added. The deceased were identified as co-pilot S Katuwal, the employees of Saurya Airlines and a Yemeni national (Aref Reda). Manu Raj Sharma, a technician of the airline, his wife Priza Khatiwada and their four-year-old son Adhi Raj Sharma were among the deceased. Priza worked as an assistant computer operator at the ministry of energy, water resources and irrigation. A statement by the airline said that Priza and her son were initially identified as employees of the company, but it was later revealed that they were passengers. AGENCIES



Videos showed the plane enveloped in fire & smoke. The cause of the crash is yet to be revealed

PILOT LONE SURVIVOR

- > 50-seater plane belonging to Saurya Airlines was headed for Pokhara. **Most aboard were airline employees**
- > Plane took off from Kathmandu airport at 11.11am local time and turned right but **crashed moments later** in airport's eastern section
- > Pilot has injuries to his eyes but his life is not in danger, docs say
- > **All aboard, including co-pilot, were Nepalese** except for a Yemeni passenger
- > Kathmandu airport is ringed by mountains, **making takeoff and landing a challenge** for pilots
- > Before Wednesday's crash, **nearly 360 people** had been killed in Nepal in **19 crashes since 2000**. Deadliest was in 1992, in which 167 died

Dy CM pressured me to frame MVA netas: Deshmukh; Fadnavis denies it

Former home minister Anil Deshmukh has claimed deputy CM Fadnavis had pressured him to file false affidavits against MVA netas to frame them in cases and topple Uddhav Thackeray 3 years ago. Fadnavis rubbished the allegations. The NCP (SP) leader said he was “promised freedom from ED-CBI probes”, but MVA govt would’ve fallen had he succumbed. **P14**

'Encroachers also humans': SC relief for 50k in Haldwani

Supreme Court has ordered the creation of a rehab scheme for over 50,000 people living on “encroached” railway land adjoining Haldwani station. “They are all human beings... residing (there) for decades... perhaps (from) before Independence,” SC said, instructing authorities to identify land for railway track expansion and for families set to be affected by it within four weeks. **P16**

Mumbai frigate fire: Sailor's body found

The body of Leading Seaman Sitendra Singh (25), who had gone missing after INS Brahmaputra keeled over at Mumbai naval dockyard following a fire on Monday, was found at the end of intensive diving operations Wednesday. Singh hailed from Rajasthan. **P17**

Tattoo artist killed; live-in partner at large

26-year-old tattoo artist from Delhi was found dead with multiple head injuries, possibly inflicted by a sharp weapon, in Maharashtra's Akola Wednesday. Deceased Shantikriya Kashyap's live-in partner Kunal alias Sunny, a prime suspect, is on the run. **P8**

11th soldier killed in July as terrorist activities surge in J&K

Srinagar/Jammu: The Army lost two soldiers in as many days in J&K as a non-commissioned officer (NCO), identified as Naik (gunner) Dilwar Khan, died in hospital after suffering fatal bullet wounds during a shootout with suspected Pakistani terrorists near the LoC in north Kashmir's Kupwara Wednesday. Securitymen take position during an encounter in Sopore



Securitymen take position during an encounter in Sopore

► Will send ultras to jail or jahannum: Min, P 14

day. A terrorist was gunned down, sources said.

This took the military toll in terror violence this month in J&K to 11, following the death of Lance Naik Subhash Chander, 28, from 7 Jat Regiment and a native of Hathras during a counter-infiltration op in Battal sector of Poonch early Tuesday. **TNN AND AGENCIES**

► Terrorists' identity, P 26

LG sacks 4 J&K staff for 'terror links'

J&K LG Manoj Sinha on Wednesday ordered the dismissal of four J&K govt employees, including two police constables and a staffer each from the education department and rural development department, over 'links with terror outfits'. **P14**

Puja fails to report at IAS academy; may face action

Trainee IAS officer Puja Khedkar failed to meet the July 23 deadline to report at the Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) in Mussoorie and did not appear at the academy on Wednesday as well, officials privy to developments, told **TOI, reports Anmol Jain**. LBSNAA had suspended Khedkar's training on July 16, instructing her to report by Tuesday.

The academy is now considering disciplinary action against her, officials said. “The course of action will be decided by the director in consultation with senior officials,” a senior official said.

Significantly, following doubts raised about Khedkar's disability claims, the academy is also planning to review the disability claims of several other officers.

IN THE COURTS

> Can a person, upon reversal of his conviction in a criminal case by a higher court, exercise his 'right to be forgotten' to demand erasure from websites of earlier ruling that convicted him? SC to decide case | **FLAP INSIDE**

> Psychological scars of sexual abuse during childhood are indelible & continue to haunt survivors forever, hindering their proper development, a court says while awarding 20-yr RI to a man for kidnapping and committing aggravated penetrative sexual assault on a girl in 2022 | **P 12**

> SC stays a Madras HC order directing RBI to carry out a detailed evaluation of shares & bonds of distressed Laxmi Vilas Bank, prior to amalgamation with DBS Bank India in 2020 | **FLAP INSIDE**

> Guj HC observes that women often resort to pressure tactics & level dowry allegations against husbands & in-laws to make the offence 'graver' when charging them with domestic violence | **FLAP INSIDE**

'Judicial impropriety': 2 SC benches hearing same tree felling issue

AmitAnand.Choudhary @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A case of illegal felling of hundreds of trees in south Delhi's Ridge took a twist on Wednesday. A Supreme Court bench, which had passed stinging orders over the issue, faced charges of “judicial impropriety” for taking up the case while it was pending before another bench.

The two SC benches — one headed by Justice B R Gavai and the other by Justice A S Oka — have been dealing with a case pertaining to widening of a road in the Ridge.

On Wednesday, Gavai, after finding out the matter had also been heard by Oka, said his bench had first initiated contempt proceedings against DDA and Oka should've sought clarification from CJI

SC wants 'neutral umpires' to break Shambhu impasse

Observing the need to appoint “neutral umpires” to hold talks with farmers protesting at Shambhu border, SC has proposed setting up a panel of “eminent persons” along with Punjab and Haryana officials to reach out to them, end the stand-off and clear the highway. **FLAP INSIDE**

before going ahead with the hearing. “The other bench hasn't adhered to judicial propriety,” Gavai said, put the proceedings before his bench on hold and referred the matter to “master of roster” CJI.

► Appropriate, says SC, P 5

Another test of nerves for students: CUET exam held in May but results not out yet

TEAM TOI

Another NTA-administered exam. Another lot of students who don't know what's happening. Even as NEET grabs headlines for all the wrong reasons, CUET — NTA's test for college/university admissions — seems headed for bad news as well. A Mumbai-based private university, Somaiya Vidyavihar, that signed up for taking students basis their undergraduate CUET scores is holding induction programmes for freshmen. Seats are all filled, and admissions closed. Just one problem — CUET-

STUDENTS FEAR LOSING SEATS, MONEY

- > Introduced in 2022 as a mandatory common entrance test for undergrad courses in central univs, with other varsities joining in voluntarily, this is the 3rd year of CUET-UG
- > Like NEET, CUET is conducted by **National Testing Agency**. 1.4m students took the exam this year

- > Students don't know if they should take admission elsewhere and risk losing money if they pull out after CUET results
- > Academic calendar set to get squeezed for 3rd straight year. Pvt univs in quandary on whether to wait for CUET results or fill up seat basis other tests/school results

UG happened in May, results aren't out yet. For universities and students, this is déjà vu. Last year, too, results were delayed. Some universities pulled out of CUET as a result.

This time, 1.4 million students took CUET-UG, and, again, they don't know what's happening. Naturally, there are multiple anxieties. Anxiety No. 1: Most private

varsities accept CUET scores and hold their own entrance tests. Should everyone wait for CUET results and postpone the academic calendar? This'll have knock on effects. Not just delayed start, but extra classes to finish the curriculum, shortening holidays. Anxiety No. 2: Students are worried how long universities will wait for CUET scores. So, those who can, are arranging fallbacks. Ekta Jain, who wants to study psychology and is waiting for her CUET score, has secured a spot in another college as back-up.

► Univs not waiting, P 26

Can right to be forgotten beat right to info? SC to decide

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New Delhi: Can a person, upon reversal of his conviction in a criminal case by a higher court, exercise his "right to be forgotten" to demand erasure from the websites the earlier judgment that had convicted him/her?

And would a higher court that acquits an accused in a criminal case by reversing the earlier judgment convicting him be within its jurisdiction to order a web portal or a legal chronicler to expunge the earlier conviction judgment to honour the acquitted person's right to be forgotten?

These two questions were raised on Wednesday before a Supreme Court bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra by online legal chronicler, Indian Kanoon, challenging a Madras high court order, which after reversing a trial court judgment convicting a person of sexual assault charges, had



ACQUITTED MAN'S RIGHT VERSUS CITIZENS' RIGHT

Even though the CJ-led bench agreed to examine the issue, it said, "How can a high court direct removal of an earlier judgment from a website even if it sets it aside? Every judgment of the courts in the three-tier justice delivery system is part of public record"

directed the portal to remove the conviction judgment.

CJI Chandrachud was prima facie in disagreement with the HC's decision, even though the bench agreed to examine this issue that underscores the tension between the "right to be forgotten" of

the acquitted person and citizens' "right to be informed".

The CJ-led bench said, "How can a high court direct removal of an earlier judgment from a website even if it sets it aside? Every judgment of the courts in the three-tier justice delivery system is

part of public record."

The bench said that at best the HC could, in a sensitive case, direct redaction or masking of the name of an acquitted person and his personal details from a judgment uploaded on a website. "Ordering removal of a judgment is an extreme step that goes against the universal right to information," the bench said.

Moreover, since judgment of trial courts and high courts get published in book form, SC, while adjudicating the complex issue, would find itself confronting another dimension of it — can these books containing the judgments be also barred from being perused by the public? There are several HC judgments which are reversed almost daily by SC. Would it be logical to order erasing of these HC verdicts from websites and legal chronicles?

SC stayed the Madras HC judgment and decided to adjudicate the issue.

SC for a panel of 'eminent persons' to end Shambhu block

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New Delhi: Observing that there is a "trust deficit" between the farmers protesting at Shambhu Border and govt, Supreme Court on Wednesday proposed a panel of 'eminent persons', along with Punjab and Haryana govt officials, to reach out to them, end the stand-off, and clear the border and the national highway.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant, Dipankar Datta and Ujjal Bhyan said govt's efforts had not been fruitful because of trust deficit and there is a need to appoint "neutral umpires" to hold discussions with farmers. It then asked both Haryana and Punjab govts to suggest names of who could be made part of the panel. The court directed them to come back in a week with recommended names.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Haryana, submitted that over 500-600 large vehicles, which have been modified as "armoured tanks", are stationed at the site and if they are allowed to move into Delhi, the capital's law and order situations may be severely jeopardised.

"You have to take some steps to reach out to farmers. Have you taken any initiative to negotiate with the farmers? Your ministers may have gone to the farmers without realising the local issues," the bench told Mehta.

The SG said the state has no problem with the farmers' march to Delhi but they cannot be allowed at any cost to come with "armoured tanks" and JCBs due to the huge ramifications it could have.

Sensing the lack of trust between govt and the protesting farmers, the court said that sending an impartial panel could be the best way to resolve the problem.

The court was hearing an appeal filed by Haryana challenging HC's order directing it to remove barricades on the border, saying it is a "lifeline" for citizens' movement between Punjab and Haryana and to Delhi and J&K. The Haryana govt had closed this border during a farmers' protest to restrict agitators from Punjab from entering the state.

SC stays Madras HC order for valuation of LVB equity shares

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New Delhi: Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed a Madras high court order directing Reserve Bank of India to carry out a comprehensive evaluation of shares and bonds of the distressed Laxmi Vilas Bank (LVB), prior to its amalgamation with Singapore's DBS Bank India in 2020. RBI and DBS Bank had questioned the legality of the HC's April 26 order.

Appearing for RBI, solicitor general Tushar Mehta told a bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra that to revive LVB, RBI had persuaded Singapore's DBS Bank to take it over to protect small depositors' interest.

He said the HC decision off-tracks the entire scheme which was based on an agreement between RBI and DBS for taking over of LVB. For DBS, senior advocate Shyam Divan said writing off the equities and bonds was part of DBS's pre-condition to take over LVB and any variation would adversely impact the amalgamation that took place in Nov 2020.

Countering their con-

tention, senior advocates Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Arvind Datar said that the scheme for amalgamation can go on, but surely 92,000 ordinary equity holders could not be told one fine day that the value of their shares in LVB was zero even without a valuation being carried out. Both said they do not advocate the case of LVB bond holders.

When the bench during the hearing mulled allowing

“Valuation of shares four years down the line completely vitiates the scheme of amalgamation... If the HC order is upheld, investors' confidence in the regulatory mechanism would be shaken... We are in a completely different economy... Courts must be very very careful in interfering with such matters,” the bench said, but agreed to adjudicate the issue raised by equity holders

The HC had noted that a review of RBI's decision should consider the grievances of shareholders and bondholders and seek to mitigate any hardships caused by the compulsory amalgamation. Cases relating to this issue were transferred to Madras HC from various HCs by SC in 2022.

Dowry charges often used as a pressure tactic, says Guj HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: Gujarat HC has observed that women often resort to pressure tactics and level dowry allegations against their husbands and in-laws to make the offence "graver" when charging them with domestic violence and cruelty.

On the matter of levelling allegations of domestic violence, the court said that not only SC but HC also has noted in numerous cases that there is a growing tendency to level exaggerated allegations, roping in every relative of the husband. "If one of them happens to be of a higher status or vulnerable standing, he or she be-



'GRAVER' OFFENCE

comes easy prey for better bargaining and blackmailing," the court said.

Justice D A Joshi made these observations while quashing an FIR filed by a woman against her husband and in-laws in 2019. She had accused them of cruelty under IPC Sec 498A (punishment if the husband or relative of the husband subjects the wife to cruelty),

along with assault, abuse and criminal intimidation. She also invoked provisions of the Dowry Prohibition Act and later filed a complaint in a court under the Domestic Violence Act.

The accused moved HC requesting the FIR be quashed, claiming that the charges were false. The court noted that the marriage took place in Jan 2018 and the wife left her matrimonial home in June 2019 to file the FIR and the domestic violence case. She later consented to the quashing of the FIR and returned to live with her husband but subsequently left for her parental house again, voluntarily leaving her matrimonial home.

This wasn't the first attempt, Bishnoi gang wants to hurt me and my family: Salman

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Mumbai: In his police statement, actor Salman Khan (58) has alleged that he believes gangster Lawrence Bishnoi and his gang members were behind the firing incident outside his Bandra residence on April 14. Khan said he believes the attack was carried out with the intention of killing him and his family members.

Observing that there is ample prima facie evidence on record to proceed against the accused, a special MCOCA court on Monday took cognisance of the chargesheet filed in the case earlier this month. On April 14, a biker and a pillion rider discharged several rounds at the balcony of Khan's Bandra home and absconded.

In his statement made in June, which is part of the chargesheet, the actor said, "There had been attempts to hurt me and my family prior to this as well. I have learned from social



Salman Khan's Bandra home. The actor has been provided with Y+ security

media that Bishnoi and gang have taken responsibility for the attack. So, I believe that it is the Bishnoi gang who have carried out the firing at my balcony." As a result, Khan always advises his family members and those around him to stay alert. Khan has been provided with Y-Plus security from Mumbai police. He has weapon-trained policemen, bodyguards and private security for protection too.

Recalling the events of April 14, Khan

Co-accused fired at actor's home: Shooter

In his confessional statement mentioned in the chargesheet filed in the case of the firing at Salman Khan's Bandra residence in April, Vikas Gupta, one of the two arrested shooters, said that his co-accused, Sagar Pal, discharged rounds towards Khan's first-floor balcony. TNN

said he heard a cracker-like sound while asleep. Later, at 4.55am, his police bodyguard informed him that two people on a bike had fired at the first-floor balcony of his home in Galaxy Apartment.

The chargesheet also includes transcripts of a conversation over Signal app between wanted accused Anmol Bishnoi and shooter Vikas Gupta. In the conversation, Anmol instructs Vikas to fire thoughtfully and in a manner that scares "Bhai" (referring to Khan).