

THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUSIVE OF DELHI TIMES (CIRCULATED ONLY IN DELHI NCR) | APPLICABLE ONLY ON MONTHLY PURCHASE (IN DELHI NCR) | INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER | To subscribe call 1800 1200 004 or visit subscribe.timesofindia.com



Days after NGT flagged high faecal coliform levels in rivers in Prayagraj, UP CM Yogi Adityanath asserts in Assembly that water at Sangam is fit for both 'snan' (bathing) and 'aachman' (ritual drinking), P 16

Tamil Nadu dy CM Udhayanidhi Stalin says 'states that accept Hindi lose their mother tongue' and that his state is ready for a 'language war', P 16

Pope Francis is alert and still cracking jokes despite having double pneumonia, Italy's PM Giorgia Meloni says after visiting 88-year-old pontiff in hospital, P 18

Concern over a man who'd exhibited 'fixated behaviour' makes Emma Raducanu approach the chair umpire in tears and take an unscheduled break in her second-round match at the Dubai Championships, says Women's Tennis Association, P 24



EuRekha! BJP picks first-time MLA as Delhi's 4th woman CM

3-Time Councillor Gets LG's Invite To Form Govt

Abhinav Rajput
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Catching heavyweights and hopefuls in the party off-guard, BJP Wednesday chose a first-time MLA from Shalimar Bagh, Rekha Gupta, as Delhi chief minister.

The fourth woman to get the top job in Delhi after Sushma Swaraj (BJP), Sheila Dik-

FULL COVERAGE: P 2 & 3

hit (Congress) and Atishi (AAP), Gupta, 50, will steer BJP's govt in the city 27 years after the last one led by Swaraj. After Gupta, a three-time councillor, was elected leader of the legislature party, she went to Raj Niwas and staked her claim to form the govt before LG V K Saxena. Her name had been proposed by MLAs Parvesh Verma, Satish Upadhyay and Vijender Gupta—all probable candidates for the coveted job before the central brass announced its decision. Saxena greeted her with a bouquet and gave BJP the green signal for the swearing-in ceremony to be held at Ramliya Maidan on Thursday noon.

► 'Moment of pride', P 2



Rekha Gupta with Parvesh Verma, who was also seen as a contender for the CM's post

WHAT WORKED FOR HER?

► She is a woman, belongs to Bania community, which played a key role in BJP's win, and has risen from the grassroots

► Her appointment is in keeping with recent trend of BJP going for relatively low-profile netas for CMs, as seen in other states too

► This is a moment of pride for women across the country. I am fully committed... to take Delhi to new heights. Will work with honesty and integrity. All MLAs will work like Team Modi —**Rekha Gupta**

► I have full faith you will work with dedication in the direction of the resolution taken by PM to make Delhi one of the top capitals of the world —**Amit Shah** | HOME MINISTER

► It is a matter of happiness Delhi will be led by a woman. You will get full support of AAP for the development of the city —**Atishi** | EX-CM

Ex-ABVP neta Ist Dusu office bearer to take city's hot seat

Rekha Gupta, born in Hariana's Jind district in 1974, joined ABVP, the student organisation of RSS, when she was a student of Daulat Ram College. In 1996, she was elected president of Delhi University Student Union (Dusu); in fact, she will be the first Dusu office bearer to be Delhi chief minister, reports Atul Mathur. In the next few years, she worked as a ground-level BJP

Traffic advisory out: Crack diversions near Ramliya Maidan

Traffic diversions are expected from 7am to 4pm at key roads around Ramliya Maidan for the swearing-in Thursday given VVIP movements. Delhi Traffic Police has issued an advisory on its social media handles, citing expected diversions at Subhash Park T-Point, Raj Ghat, Delhi Gate, ITO, Ajmeri Gate, Ranjit Singh flyover, Bhavbhuti Marg-DDU Marg traffic light, and Jhandewalan roundabout. Train passengers have been advised to take the Paharganj side exit instead of Ajmeri Gate. P 2

Trapped in burning building, 4 of family jump off 2nd floor

A couple, their son and daughter were critically injured after they were trapped in a fire at their home in Nangloi, west Delhi, Monday and jumped off their second-floor balcony. Two others were also injured. The daughter's twin ran to the terrace and was unhurt. P 6

Bikaner powerlifter, 17, dies in gym accident

Nitesh Kumar@timesofindia.com
Jaipur: Powerlifting champion Yashika Acharya lost her life in a tragic gym accident in Rajasthan's Bikaner when a 270kg barbell slipped and crushed the 17-year-old's athlete's neck during training on Tuesday night. Acharya had clinched a gold medal at the National Equipped Bench Press Championship in Oct 2024 in Goa. Her sudden demise highlights the often-overlooked dangers of extreme weightlifting, even for seasoned athletes. Under the supervision of her trainer, she was attempting a lift as part of her routine practice. Witnesses said as she prepared to lift the heavy barbell, she lost balance, and the immense weight came crashing down. The trainer suffered minor injuries while trying to catch the barbell. P 17



Yashika Acharya broke her neck while lifting a 270kg barbell

4 women Maoists gunned down in MP's Balaghat

Four women Maoists were shot dead in an encounter with MP's Hawk Force in the rugged Supkhar forest range of Garhi, close to Chhattisgarh border, in Balaghat district Wednesday. The four were believed to be behind a series of violent attacks on security forces and civilians. An INSAS rifle, an SLR and a 203 rifle along with ammo and survival gear were found on them. Police said several Maoist cadres were injured in the gunbattle but managed to escape or were dragged away by their comrades. A search operation, also involving CRPF, CoBRA commands and district cops, is under way to hunt down the fleeing Maoists. P 7

Everest snow line rose 490ft in 1.5 mths

In just 1.5 months, the snow line in the glaciated landscape around Mt Everest rose from 20,000ft on Dec 11, 2024 to 19,510ft on Jan 28, due to sublimation, in which strong winds, low humidity & warm temperatures cause snow to evaporate directly. Nasa scientists said. P 10

Celebratory firing death: Lawyer held

Gurgaon's Deepanshu, a lawyer, was arrested Wednesday after shots fired from a wedding procession in Noida last Sunday led to the death of a two-year-old boy. Cops seized a pistol from Deepanshu, the groom's friend, but it was not clear if his firing killed the child. P 7

2 more GBS deaths; national toll at 23

Two young people being treated for Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) in different Pune hospitals died over the past 48 hours, taking casualties linked to the outbreak in Maharashtra to 19 and the nationwide toll to 23. Pune has accounted for 11 of the deaths. P 14

U'khand to ban outsiders from buying agri land

Dehradun: The Uttarakhand cabinet Wednesday approved a draft law banning people from other states from purchasing agricultural and horticultural land in 11 of its 13 districts, excluding Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar. The move aims to "protect the state's resources, cultural heritage and citizens' rights." The bill is expected to be tabled in the ongoing Budget session, reports Kautilya Singh. Under the proposed law, land within municipal limits can only be used as per designated land use. P 17

Prevent abuse but don't punish young love: HC

New Delhi: Law should evolve to "acknowledge and respect" consensual relationships between adolescents and prioritise understanding over punishment in such cases, the Delhi high court said, upholding a trial court judgment acquitting a man of the alleged offence of penetrative sexual assault under the PoCSO Act. "Societal and legal views on adolescent love should focus on the rights of young individuals to engage in consensual relationships that are free from exploitation and abuse," Justice Jasmeet Singh said in a recent order. The law should focus on preventing exploitation and abuse, rather than punishing love, he said. P 8

BANGLA TEST FOR TEAM INDIA TODAY

While odds are tilted in India's favour as they face B'desh in their opening ICC Champions Trophy match, Najmul Hossain Shanto's boys will look to upset the favourites with their band of spinsters

<p>INDIA</p> <p>STRENGTHS: Strong batting line-up featuring Virat Kohli & Rohit Sharma, with Shubman Gill & Shreyas Iyer adding depth. Spinners Kuldeep & Jadeja are more than ready.</p> <p>WEAKNESSES: Bumrah's absence leaves Mohd Shami to do the heavy lifting. Concerns about form of Rohit and Virat.</p> <p>OPPORTUNITIES: With B'desh integrating new players, India can leverage their experience to unsettle and dominate the opposition.</p> <p>THREATS: Key players like Shami and Kuldeep are returning from injuries.</p>	<p>BANGLADESH</p> <p>STRENGTHS: Spinners adept at exploiting Dubai conditions. Veterans like Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah provide solidity.</p> <p>WEAKNESSES: Inconsistency dogs the squad. Batting prone to collapses. Pace attack has struggled on flat tracks. Team lacks lower middle order punch.</p> <p>OPPORTUNITIES: A strong performance can set positive tone for other games. Being underdogs works in their favour.</p> <p>THREATS: Absence of Shakib Al Hasan weakens spin attack & batting. B'desh have lost recent ODIs against teams like Af and WI.</p>
---	--

Invitation Letter

You voted for progress.
Now, bless us with your presence
as we take the oath to deliver it.

Viksit Delhi Oath Ceremony

You are cordially invited

20th February 2025 11:00 AM

Ramliya Maidan, Delhi

Bharatiya Janata Party, Delhi

Chargesheet delayed in AQIS case, 3 get bail

A Delhi court has granted default bail to three men allegedly part of a terror module linked to al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), observing that accused are entitled to bail if investigators fail to file a chargesheet within the mandated 180-day period from the date of arrest, reports Vineet Upadhyay. "There is no embargo on the powers of the investigating agency to investigate the matter further; however, after the lapse of statutory time, accused are entitled to statutory bail," said the court of Additional Sessions Judge Hardeep Kaur. P 14

Published by Bhartiya Janata Party, 14, Pandit Prasad Marg, Delhi

TEMP ON WEDNESDAY 28.4° MAXIMUM 10.4° MINIMUM. FORECAST: Cloudy sky. Max and min temperatures on Thursday would be around 25°C and 13°C. MOONRISE 10:55AM (THURS) SUNSET 6:15PM (THURS). MOONRISE 1:20AM (FRI) SUNRISE 6:56AM (FRI)



Helmetless bikers, parking chaos keep 'traffic praharis' on high alert | 5



HC Asks Indian Rlys to address sale of excess tickets | 3

Neighbourhood celebrates as BJP puts Delhi in Rekha's hands

Meghna Dhulia @timesofindia.com New Delhi: Excitement hung heavy in the evening air outside the grey, four-floor building. A crowd gathered on the narrow lane, chanting 'Jai Shri Ram' and waving BJP flags. Sparklers lit up the night sky, their glow reflecting off the house windows. Manish Gupta, who lives on the third floor of this building in northwest Delhi's Shalimar Bagh, was swarmed by people offering hugs and congratulations. All he had to say was, 'It's not just Rekha, today the entire public has become Delhi's CM.'

band, other family members gathered to cheer the wedding of Gupta's BJP CM after 27 years out of power. The 50-year-old politician's mother-in-law smiled proudly, playfully teased by relatives who remarked on her special saree drape for the occasion. Gupta's children, Harshita, an MBA graduate in her early twenties, and Nikunj, two years younger than his sister, could not join the celebration. Harshita works in Australia, while Nikunj is doing his engineering course in Vellore.



The mood is joyous outside CM-designate Rekha Gupta's residence in Shalimar Bagh; (right) her husband is greeted by neighbours

"We hadn't imagined she would become CM, but I felt she was destined for more when she defeated the sitting M.L.A. Bandana Kumari," beamed Meera Gupta, the mother-in-law. The new CM's sister-in-law added, "People have replaced their trust in her because she has the ability to transform Delhi and make it better." Another relative, Meghna Gupta, revealed that Gupta always balanced her

family and political life. "Rekha Gupta hamari CM" reverberated through the streets, with adults and children alike dancing joyously. Many of the locals felt this was her reward for the work she did for the welfare of girls in the area. "She's a very hard-working woman. She has ac-

complished so much in Shalimar Bagh as a municipal councillor and we know she'll go on to become both an MLA and the CM," claimed neighbour



Shelly Oberoi in the mayoral poll in 2023 but the numbers were stacked against her, resulting in her defeat. Green and its political exile in Delhi, BJP banked her again, fielding her in the assembly polls. This time Gupta didn't disappoint the party. She avenged her 2015 loss and defeated AAP's sitting MLA and her old rival, Kumari, by a huge margin of over 29,000 votes.

ment in Delhi. All the subsidies go to waste. That will change now." Bhumi, looking with confidence at the new CM, felt certain that her priority would be the safety of women in Delhi. "Not only local residents, but also people from nearby jugs gathered around the new CM's house. 'My shack was recently demolished. I hope she makes things better for us,' said one hospital slum dweller. Assured of support of her loved ones and the public, Gupta's role as chief minister, the fourth woman in that post in the city, may mark the beginning of what many hope will be a transformative chapter for the capital. As the chants and dance moves got louder and more energetic, there was a feeling in the air, signalling a new era in Delhi's politics.

A moment of pride for women of country, says CM-designate

Continued from P1

Gupta was accompanied by Raj Niwas by Delhi BJP president Videndra Sachdeva and central observers for conducting the legislative party meet, Ravi Shankar Prasad and Om Prakash Dhanekar. "I want to thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi, our party's top leadership and people of Delhi for giving me the responsibility to preside over a new era that is starting in Delhi after 27 years. This is a moment of pride for women across the country," said Gupta. "To fulfill each and every commitment of BJP made to people of Delhi is the goal of my life," she said. "All MLAs will work like Team Modi to fulfill these commitments," she added.

and claimants to the top job, besides media personnel, had gathered in large numbers long before the meeting began. The supporters were shouting slogans in favour of their preferred choice, particularly Rekha Gupta and Parvesh Verma, in a show of strength. Party sources said Delhi BJP Chief Videndra Sachdeva had a private discussion with Verma, Vijender Gupta and Upadhyay. Parvesh defeated AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal. Upadhyay has previously served as the party's state chief, and Vijender Gupta had managed to buck the trend by winning in the assembly polls in 2015 and 2020 in the face of an AAP wave. According to party sources, they are all being considered for important positions, including that of ministers, speaker and other posts.

ing stressed on the party's decision to appoint a woman CM, highlighting its dedication to women empowerment. Party functionaries said she fulfilled three crucial criteria: that of being a woman, belonging to the Bania community and maintaining a low-key public profile. This is in keeping with the recent trend of the party going for relatively low-profile leaders for the chief minister's role as evident in other states. BJP MP from South Delhi Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, who had drafted the party's manifesto, said after the meeting: "She will prove to be the best chief minister of Delhi. The party has always been a pioneer in women empowerment, and this is another example of that. Delhi will now become the developed and prosperous capital of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's dreams."

A Surprise Pick Who Has Always Kept Low Profile

Rekha Gupta Has Held Many Key Positions In 3-Decade Journey

Atul Mathur@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: From a student leader to the post of CM, Rekha Gupta has held several important positions during her nearly three-decade-long political journey but always maintained a low profile. This time too, she wasn't among the front-runners for the coveted CM's post after BJP upstaged AAP to win its first assembly election in 27 years. The 50-year-old's election as leader of the legislative party came as a surprise even to many in her own party. She will take oath as the fourth woman CM of Delhi on Thursday at Ramliya Maidan on Thursday.

making her chairperson of the education committee. She did not disappoint, bringing about a few reforms in the system of the municipal schools. For one, Gupta made MCD students look as sharp as the friends studying in private schools in new uniforms. She also initiated the construction of pucca buildings for a few schools that were being run from tents. In the 2015 assembly polls,

Gupta was fielded against AAP's Bandana Kumari in Shalimar Bagh constituency. She lost those polls and when BJP decided not to renominate sitting councillor in the 2017 municipal polls, Gupta found herself out of electoral politics for a few years. In 2022, she was again elected as a municipal councillor in the re-united MCD from Shalimar Bagh (B) ward. She was pitted against AAP's

Shelly Oberoi in the mayoral poll in 2023 but the numbers were stacked against her, resulting in her defeat. Green and its political exile in Delhi, BJP banked her again, fielding her in the assembly polls. This time Gupta didn't disappoint the party. She avenged her 2015 loss and defeated AAP's sitting MLA and her old rival, Kumari, by a huge margin of over 29,000 votes.

Gupta has been accorded Z category security by Delhi Police. The office of the party's Delhi in-charge has been decorated with flowers with the sound of dhols and shehnai wafting in the air. The MLAs were arriving at 6 pm with the meeting beginning around 7 pm and lasting for an hour. Outside the venue, supporters of senior party functionar-

ies and claimants to the top job, besides media personnel, had gathered in large numbers long before the meeting began. The supporters were shouting slogans in favour of their preferred choice, particularly Rekha Gupta and Parvesh Verma, in a show of strength. Party sources said Delhi BJP Chief Videndra Sachdeva had a private discussion with Verma, Vijender Gupta and Upadhyay. Parvesh defeated AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal. Upadhyay has previously served as the party's state chief, and Vijender Gupta had managed to buck the trend by winning in the assembly polls in 2015 and 2020 in the face of an AAP wave. According to party sources, they are all being considered for important positions, including that of ministers, speaker and other posts.

When Verma came out of the meeting, he was suspected to be being considered for the post of deputy CM but he did not reply. "We are going to the LG's office. It is a matter of happiness that a woman has been made CM," he said. Most MLAs who emerged from the legislative party meet-

MP Manoj Tiwari, who was also present at the meeting, said, "This is a message for women empowerment. It was our party that brought the women's reservation bill in Parliament, and this is another example of that. Delhi will now become the developed and prosperous capital of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's dreams."

NINTH CHIEF MINISTER OF DELHI

REKHA GUPTA | 50 QUALIFICATION Bachelor of Law from Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut POLITICAL JOURNEY Defeated AAP's Bandana Kumari from Shalimar Bagh assembly constituency by 29,551 votes

First-Time MLA > Was elected MCD councillor in 2007, 2012 and 2022 > Was chairperson of education committee in North Delhi Municipal Corporation in 2013 > Elected Delhi University Students' Union president in 1996



CM-to-be Rekha Gupta is greeted by BJP leaders on Wednesday

Total movable and immovable assets ₹5.3 crore Ran 'Sumedha Yojana', a non-govt initiative to help economically weaker female students pursue higher education

FIRST REACTION "I am fully committed to this important opportunity to take Delhi to new heights. I express my heartfelt gratitude to all the top leadership for trusting me and entrusting me with the responsibility of the post of chief minister. This trust and support of yours has given me new energy and inspiration"



WOMAN POWER: BJP supporters celebrate outside the party office in New Delhi on Wednesday

BJP pulls out all stops to make it a grand affair

Abhinav Rajput @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The stage at Ramliya Maidan was erected on Wednesday for the swearing-in ceremony of Delhi's next chief minister Rekha Gupta and her new cabinet on Feb 20. Lieutenant governor VK Saxena will administer the oath to the chief minister-designate and the cabinet around 12.30 pm. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union home minister Amit Shah, other Union ministers and NDA chief ministers and deputy chief ministers will be present.

said that invitations have been sent to people from various sections of society, including singers, authors, Bollywood actors, cricketers, businesspersons, former leaders, distinguished academicians and civil servants. BJP functionary Tarun Chugh, who has been given the role of ensuring that preparations are

on track, said: "A historic event will take place in Delhi. This is the end of misrule and the start of a new era under the vision of PM Modi." There will be substantial participation from slum-dwellers and women, who stand to benefit from BJP's Mahila Samridhhi Yojna, a party functionary said.

He added that Union ministers present in Delhi will come for the event. "We are getting demands from many to attend the function, so we kept it in Ramliya as it has a large space," he said. The party expects about 50,000 people to attend the event. Chugh and former mayor Jai Prakash spent several hours on Wednesday taking

stock of the preparation at Ramliya Maidan and reviewing the arrangements. A party functionary said that senior members of parties in the NDA alliance will attend the ceremony too. The BJP has returned to power in Delhi after almost 27 years, defeating AAP in the Feb 5 Assembly polls.

Diversions and curbs in place for oath-taking

Times News Network

New Delhi: Delhi Traffic Police has issued an advisory, listing potential route diversions and restrictions for the swearing-in of Delhi's new chief minister at Ramliya Maidan on Thursday at 12.30 pm.

Expected diversion points include Subhash Park T-Point, Raj Ghat, Delhi Gate, ITO, Ajmeri Gate, Ranjeet Singh flyover, Bhambhuti Marg, DDU Marg red light, and the roundabout at Jhandewalan. The advisory gives routes for these points, which include Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg (ITO to Delhi Gate), JLN Road (Delhi Gate to Guru Nanak Chowk), Asaf Ali Road, Minto Road to Kamla Market to Hamdard Chowk, Ranjeet Singh flyover to Turkman Gate, and Ajmeri Gate to Kamla Market.

The event is expected to start around 11 am. The chief secretary and additional chief secretary will receive Gupta and those who will join the new cabinet. Around 12.30 pm, the secretary to the LG will seek permission from the LG to commence the oath-taking ceremony. Then, the chief secretary will request the LG to administer the oath of office and secrecy. The LG will administer the oath to the chief minister individually and they will then sign the papers. The event will conclude with the national anthem, played by the police band. The event promises to be grand. Prominent figures of the BJP-led NDA, business leaders, religious heads and other distinguished guests are expected to be there. A senior BJP functionary



A bird's-eye view of preparations at Ramliya Maidan ahead of the chief minister's swearing-in ceremony scheduled for Thursday

Several VVIPs, dignitaries, political functionaries as well as 50,000 people are expected at the venue. DCP traffic, central circle, Saurabh Chandra, said, "Delhi Traffic Police has made elaborate arrangements for the oath-taking ceremony to be held tomorrow. Except for the time during the entry and exit of VVIPs and VPs, the diversions or restrictions would be needed based only. We will try to let the flow of traffic continue otherwise with the help of at least 400 personnel on the ground. Most importantly, commuters at the New Delhi railway station should please take the Paharganj side exit, instead of Ajmeri Gate. We have issued a advisory on our social media handles."

Several key roads around Ramliya Maidan will either be closed or see diversions between 7 am and 4 pm. The diversions will impact commuters mostly around Jawaharal Nehru Marg, close to key places in Old Delhi, NDLS, and offices such as MCD and DJB. It is a few kilometres from

ITO and Mandi House. Commuters are advised to use public transport to avoid congestion, park only in designated areas and adhere to police directions. Satya Vir Katara, additional commissioner of police at traffic headquarters, said, "Our target is to release the traffic from the outskirts. This is why the diversions are implemented, so that people can reach their destinations via this route, then by some other. A map is also shared on social media. Real-time updates will be given on social media too." DCP of the traffic headquarters and VVIP route, Shankar Jaishwal, will work to ensure that the public do not face inconvenience during the movement of dignitaries to and from the location.

His statement underscores BJP's emphasis on internal democracy and merit-based leadership, which has enabled figures like Gupta to emerge from student politics to positions of national significance. Incidentally, the BJP observers for Delhi — Ravi Shankar Prasad and OP Dhanekar — are also from the students outfit. Gupta also fills the gap of a woman taking over as one of BJP CMs since Vasundhara Raje missed the opportunity in Rajasthan in 2023 when Lalit Sharma was chosen to helm the state. Gupta's political journey began in DUSLU, in which she served as secretary in 1995-96, before winning the president's post in 1996-97 as an ABVP candidate. Her trajectory mirrors BJP's strategy of grooming leaders from grassroots movements. Sources said during her DU days, Gupta was mentored by Jaidev, who was also a DUSLU president. ABVP national general secretary Shivangi Kharwal emphasised how the organisation has long been committed to fostering leaders across various domains. He said "has been the tradition and our principled stand to follow the footsteps of Swami Vivekananda, the 'vidyarthi parishad' also tries to give leaders of leaders' be it in the field of art and culture, or bureaucracy and politics." "She is an example of the parishad's work and value of women empowerment in our 'sangathan'. With her grassroots experience, we are hopeful that Rekha ji will fulfil the critical students, education, health, and unemployment issues," Kharwal said.

Excess ticket sales: HC seeks answers

Pulls Up Indian Railways Over NDLS Stampede

Ashwin Garg@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: In the wake of the recent stampede at New Delhi railway station that led to 18 deaths, Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the Indian Railways to address the sale of excess tickets beyond the number of passengers that can be accommodated in a coach.

"If you fix the number of passengers to be accommodated in a coach, then why does the number of tickets sold exceed that number? That's the problem," a bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyay and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela told Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta, representing the Railways.

The court was hearing a PIL over the recent stampede at the New Delhi railway station and asked the authorities to file an affidavit giving details of measures taken on these issues. The plea sought the implementation of existing provisions by Railways that may have helped avoid such incidents and cited sections 57 and 147 of the Railway Act that deal with overcrowding.

"If you could implement a simple thing, such situations could be avoided... but not fixing the strength to be accommodated in a particular coach, this provision appears to have been neglected all along," HC remarked, while referring to Section 57 of the Railway Act, which says every railway administration must fix the maximum number of passengers allowed in



TOO MUCH TO HANDLE

each compartment of every carriage type. "Let the issues raised in the petition be examined, as suggested by the SG, at the highest level at the Railway Board and thereafter an affidavit be filed giving details of the decisions taken by the Railway Board," the court directed, posting the matter for next month.

HC noted that the PIL, filed by Arth Vidhi, an organisation of legal and business professionals, was not confined to the recent incident of the stampede as it sought implementation of the existing legal provisions with respect to the maximum number of passengers in a compartment and the sale of platform tickets. Had the legal provisions perhaps been implemented adequately, incidents such as the stampede could have been avoided, it added.

Each compartment of every carriage type. "Let the issues raised in the petition be examined, as suggested by the SG, at the highest level at the Railway Board and thereafter an affidavit be filed giving details of the decisions taken by the Railway Board," the court directed, posting the matter for next month.

HC noted that the PIL, filed by Arth Vidhi, an organisation of legal and business professionals, was not confined to the recent incident of the stampede as it sought implementation of the existing legal provisions with respect to the maximum number of passengers in a compartment and the sale of platform tickets. Had the legal provisions perhaps been implemented adequately, incidents such as the stampede could have been avoided, it added.

RTES to design holding areas in New Delhi, other stations

Times News Network

New Delhi: The railway ministry on Wednesday tasked RTES to design permanent holding areas in New Delhi, Anand Vihar, Azadnagar, Varanasi and Ayodhya stations. Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw made the announcement after a meeting with Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RTES) officials.

"Once the model is ready, it will be expanded to 60 high density footfall railway stations. All unauthorised access points to these stations will be closed," a top ministry official said.

The initiative aims to prevent overcrowding at key stations, which will help improve passenger security and streamline movement. "The holding areas will be seamlessly integrated into the Amrit Bharat Station Redevelopment Programme, a flagship initiative aimed at modernising key railway stations with better infrastructure, enhanced passenger amenities, and improved safety measures," the railway ministry said.

The decision comes days after a tragic stampede at New Delhi railway station, which claimed 18 lives.

Earlier, Vaishnaw announced a series of crowd management measures at several stations to prevent similar incidents in the future. The permanent or temporary holding areas outside the platforms will be used to regulate the flow of passengers to the stations. These stations include New Delhi, Patna, Varanasi, Surat, Bengaluru and Coimbatore.

Railways will also come out with a separate crowd management manual to handle passenger rush during festivals and special occasions.

Students barred from CBSE Board exams get relief

Anjali.Singh@timesofindia.com

Gurgaon: Two Class 10 students, who were denied admit cards to appear for Board exams, should be allowed to appear and the remaining papers till it decides on their petition, the Delhi high court directed CBSE on Tuesday.

The HC single-judge bench of Justice Kumar Sharma was hearing a petition filed by the two students of Orchid International School in Gurgaon after they missed the Board exam for English held on Feb 15.

CBSE refused to give the students admit cards, as it wasn't certain if the students had appeared for and passed Class 9 exams

The other papers for Class 10 Boards are scheduled for Feb 20.

Hearing the plea, the HC ordered CBSE to file a counter affidavit in four weeks over the matter, but in the "meanwhile", to let the petitioners be allowed to appear in Class 10 examinations.

"However, the results of Board exams held in the meantime, to let the petitioners be allowed to appear in Class 10 examinations."

The dispute stems from two students - Sneha Das and Purvansh Nigam - who took admission into the Gurgaon school mid-term in Class 9.

main if the students had appeared for and passed Class 9 exams.

CBSE, in Oct 2024 and Jan this year, rejected the students' direct pleas to the Board to allow them to sit for the papers.

On Tuesday, CBSE's counsel MA Niyazi told the court that the petitioners had not approached HC "in good faith", and the two students had left their previous schools without completing Class 9 exams.

But the students' counsels Sulaiman Mohammed Khan argued that the teenagers appeared for the Class 9 exams and submitted their mark sheets from Orchid International School to the court.

Khan emphasised that the problem was that the school did not submit the students' academic records to CBSE in time, and that wasn't the fault of the teenagers.

"The two children took admission in this school in Nov 2023 in the middle of 9th standard. They completed Class 9 from this school itself and we have submitted the required documents to prove the same, which is the passing mark sheet," said Paras Nayak, Purvansh's father.

The petitioners had also requested HC to direct CBSE to hold an English re-examination for the two students as they were not allowed to sit for the paper.

CBSE's counsel said the Board cannot hold re-examination, but the students can appear for compartmental exams.

Kejriwal, Atishi among those to congratulate Rekha

Vibha.Sharma@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Several political leaders, including home minister Amit Shah and defence minister Rajnath Singh, on Wednesday congratulated Rekha Gupta on being elected as the Delhi's chief minister designate.

Shah posted on X in Hindi: "I heartily congratulate Rekha Gupta ji on being elected the leader of the BJP legislature party. I have full faith that you will work with dedication in the direction of the resolution taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and you will be like Delhi one of the top capitals of the world. I am confident that BJP govt under your leadership will work day and night to fulfil the hopes and expectations that the mothers and sisters of Delhi have blessed BJP with."

"Many congratulations and best wishes to Rekha Gupta ji on being elected as the leader of the BJP legislative party in Delhi. I firmly believe that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and you will be the developed capital," Singh posted on X.

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, education minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath and his Haryana and Rajasthan counterparts Nayab Singh Saini and Bhanjani Sharma, Delhi MP Bansuri Swaraj and former Union minister Harsh Vardhan were among those other BJP leaders who congratulated Gupta.

In the 2025 assembly election, BJP secured 48 seats, establishing a clear majority in the 70-member assembly. The party's pre-election commitments included the Yamuna river restoration and elimination of three landfills, implementation of Mahila Samridhi Yojana with Rs 2,500 payments to eligible women, and extending Ayushman Bharat Yojana benefits to Delhi residents.

Former chief minister and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal posted on social media: "Many congratulations to Rekha Gupta ji on becoming the chief minister of Delhi. I hope that she will fulfil all the promises made to the people of Delhi. We will support them in every work for the development and welfare of the people of Delhi."



Celebrations erupt outside CM-designate Rekha Gupta's residence

expressed her wishes on social media, stating: "It is a matter of happiness that Delhi will be led by a woman. I hope that the promises made

Anindya Chattopadhyay

BJP's south Delhi MP who played a key role in crafting the Delhi manifesto through stakeholder consultations, expressed confidence that Gupta would serve as Delhi's finest chief minister. "Our party has always been a pioneer in women empowerment and this is another example of that. Delhi will now become the developed and prosperous capital of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dreams," he said.

Congress urged the CM designate to avoid divisive politics and prioritise mass commitments. DPCC chairman Devender Yadav urged her to work towards safeguarding the interests of the people of Delhi.

NDMC vice-chairman Kuljeet Chahal highlighted Gupta's experience, noting, "She has been a councillor thrice and she started her political career from Delhi University Students Union (DUSU) elections. In her long public life, she paid special attention to important issues like education, women empowerment and urban development. Her leadership abilities and commitment to work at the grassroots level made her popular among the public."

After the announcement

of her name, Gupta thanked her leadership for trusting her and giving her the responsibility. "Your trust and support gave me new energy and inspiration. I pledge that I will work with complete honesty, dedication and dedication for the welfare, empowerment and overall development of every citizen of Delhi. I am fully committed to this important opportunity to take Delhi to new heights," she stated on X.

Akhil Bharatiya Vidyalipi Parishad, an RSS-affiliated student organisation, also expressed happiness over her appointment as the chief minister. "On behalf of ABVP, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Rekha Gupta ji on becoming the fourth woman chief minister of Delhi. As a former student activist, she actively championed student issues, including the introduction of university special buses and women's empowerment in her DUSU election manifesto. We are confident that she will continue working on youth-related concerns in Delhi, such as unemployment, health, education, and educational infrastructure," said Shivangi Kharwal, ABVP's national secretary.



Siodia flags law and order issue after minor's rape in Tilak Nagar

New Delhi: Senior AAP leader Manish Siodia on Wednesday slammed BJP over law and order in the capital, citing a recent case of alleged sexual assault on a minor in west Delhi's Tilak Nagar.

Addressing a joint press conference with Tilak Nagar MLA Jarnail Singh, Siodia claimed that crimes against women were on the rise and the perpetrators were not afraid of the law.

"I want to say to BJP that elections are over and now it should pay attention to law and order that has collapsed in Delhi," the former deputy chief minister said. No immediate reaction was available from BJP. A student of Class II was allegedly sexually assaulted in school by a sanitation

worker a few days ago. The police arrested the suspect on Tuesday. "Criminals in Delhi have become fearless, and the law and order situation has collapsed. I am addressing this press conference today to remind BJP that elections are over."

BJP is set to form a govt in Delhi after 27 years. It defeated AAP in the recently concluded assembly polls. The new govt will take oath at Ramila Maidan on Thursday. The law and order in Delhi, however, is directly handled by the Union ministry of home affairs.

BJP functionary's defamation plea against Bharadwaj rejected

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Wednesday dismissed a criminal defamation complaint against AAP functionary Saurabh Bharadwaj, citing delay in filing the case.

The court, taking note that the basic idea behind the principle of condonation of delay is to advance the cause of justice, said this principle emphasises that legal procedure should support the pursuit of justice. It allows for genuine circumstances causing delays to be considered.

The court rejected all the factors cited by Chauhan—the death of the complainant's nephew, the surgery of his wife, and his father going missing—as grounds for delay.

"None of the grounds... is found to be justifiable. Accordingly, the application is dismissed," the court said.

GREAT TASTE. GREAT SAVINGS.

Amul Taaza

1 L: ₹55 | 2 L: ₹108

Offer valid for limited period only. For any clarification/availability, please contact us on: Delhi: 011-28843637, Chandigarh: 7827553177, Gurgaon: 9313259999, Faridkot: 877728447. Rest of Haryana: 9718222906.

AMUL DOODH PEETA HAI INDIA

Security tightened near Ramlila Maidan ahead of swearing-in

Times News Network

New Delhi: Central Delhi will turn into a fortress Thursday to secure the dignitaries at the swearing-in ceremony of the new chief minister and the council of ministers.

About 15,000 security personnel and a web of over 200 CCTV cameras will be used to monitor movements and ensure law and order is not disrupted. A central command room will coordinate the entire apparatus. The police base has briefed boots on the ground to ensure students going for board exams aren't delayed due to the arrangements.

Besides drones, cops will also use a special van equipped with AI-powered facial recognition cameras to keep an eye on suspicious activities. On Wednesday night, Ramlila Maidan was sanitised and SPG sleuths took charge as PM Modi will attend the ceremony along with several ministers and CMs. Many of them are 2 and 2+ category protectees.

"The centre stage and the surrounding areas will be totally out of bounds. We will also place policemen dressed as civilians among the public to ensure no untoward incident happens," said a senior cop.

Police have marked proper entry and exit routes, besides an emergency route. "Every visitor will be properly screened with hand-held and doorframe metal detectors in the stalls at the entry points. They will be a separate entry system for the dignitaries," the cop added.

Several 'machans' have been installed and only authorised people will be allowed near the venue. Snipers and spotters will be stationed on rooftops to keep an eye on suspicious vehicles. There will be several layers of barricades to ensure the dignitaries' safety. Commandos, quick reaction teams, PCR vans and SWAT teams will be deployed at strategic locations. First-aid kiosks and other facilities will also be set up at the venue, they said.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

9th edition

BFSI CIO DIGITAL CONCLAVE 2025

Innovation with Intelligence

7th March, 2025 | Sahara Star, Mumbai

The ETBFSI CIO Digital Conclave is a premium gathering for leaders in the Banking, Financial Services & Insurance sector. Now in its 9th Edition, this conclave will serve as a vital platform for the trendsetters to converge, share insights and explore the transformative power of the technology.

EMINENT SPEAKERS

Parrag Jain Nainatia, IAS Principal Secretary, Directorate of Information & Technology, Government of Maharashtra (GCM)	Manish Bharadwaj Deputy Director General, IAS (UDAI)	Shiv Kumar Bhasin Chief Transformation Officer, Industrial Bank	Balaji Rajagopalan Chief Technology Officer, State Bank of India	Maheesh Ramamoorthy Chief Information Officer, Yes Bank
Kru Paturi CTO, Kotak Life Insurance	Ratan Kumar Chief Technology Officer, Central Bank of India	Rohit Klam Chief Technology Officer, HDFC Life Insurance	Rajesh Ram Chief Digital Officer, Bank of India	Yogesh Garg Group President, Chief Officer, Kotak Mahindra Bank
Mangalam Ganesh Chief Information Officer, Axis Securities	Ravi Pichan Chief Information Officer, RBL Bank	Rajesh Choudhary Chief Technology Officer, CSB Bank	Shelesh Gupta Chief Digital Officer, SFG India Credit	Johnson Jose Group President, Chief Technology Officer, Federal Bank
Pankaj Pandey Chief Information Officer, SBI General Insurance	K M Abdul Salam Chief Information Security Officer, NABFD	Girish Nayak CTO & Health UW & Claims, ICICI Lombard General Insurance	Satyanandam Atyam Chief Risk Officer, TATA AIG General Insurance	Shivani Venkatesh Head-Client Insights, RBL Bank
Pinak Chakraborty Chief Information Officer, Airtel Payments Bank	Ashutosh Mishra Chief Architect, Bank of India	Padmabhushan Bahadure Chief Technology Officer, NUCFD	Dr. Sriniwas Perera Chief Architect, WSO2	Bharani Subramaniam CTO India and the Middle East, Thoughtworks

08+ Hours of Networking | **10+** Knowledge Sessions | **30+** Speakers

200+ Attendees | **20+** Exhibitors

#ETBFSIConclave

To register for the event, Visit www.etbsfi.com/cio-digital-conclave

For more information: Call +91 9833236943 | ashish.verma@timesinternet.in



UTTAR PRADESH DEFENCE INDUSTRIAL CORRIDOR

Invites Applications for

ALLOTMENT OF PLOTS in Aligarh Phase-II, Agra, Jhansi & Chitrakoot for Defence & Aerospace Units

Table with 4 columns: ALGARH PHASE II NODE, AGRA NODE, JHANSI NODE, CHITRAKOOT NODE. Each column lists plot specifications like 'Basic Allotment Rate', 'Adjacent to', and 'Situated on'.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Apply through NIVESH MITRA portal: https://niveshmitra.up.nic.in/

For MoU, Apply through Nivesh Sarathi Portal



BEST IN CLASS INCENTIVE FRAMEWORK

100% exemption on Stamp duty, 25% Rebate on land cost for anchor units, *Up to 10% Back-end capital subsidy, 2% Discount on lumpsum payment

FACILITIES PLANNED

- Wide internal roads
• Internal Street Lights
• 24X7 Power supply arrangement
• Adequate green area
• Dedicated Water supply, Drainage & STP
• Online application & allotment

*Note: 7% Back-end capital subsidy for Agra & Aligarh Phase-II Nodes and 10% Back-end capital subsidy for Jhansi & Chitrakoot Nodes.

UP EXPRESSWAYS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (UPEDA)
2nd Floor, Parayan Bhawan, C-13, Vipin Khand Gomti Nagar, Lucknow - 226010, Ph: +91-8522 400453/27
Website: upeda.up.gov.in, E-mail: upeda2@gmail.com, ce.oida.up@gov.in

West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
Notice Inviting Tender
Online tender is invited by the undersigned for the works: Annual Maintenance of entire Electrical...

West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
Notice Inviting Tender
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdcenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for...

West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
Notice Inviting Tender
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdcenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for...

West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
Notice Inviting Tender
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdcenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for...

West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
Notice Inviting Tender
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdcenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for...

West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
Notice Inviting Tender
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdcenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for...

West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited
WBSEDCL invites e-tenders as follows:
1) NIT No.: BND01/E-TEnder/2024-2025/1800, Date: 12.02.2025 of the Divisional Manager, Bidhanagar Division, Estimated Cost: Rs. 70,45,442/- for the work of Civil and electrical work...

West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited
WBSEDCL invites e-tenders as follows:
2) NIT No.: BM24/PNR/ELC/2024-25/16, Date: 19.02.2025 of the Regional Manager, North 24 Parganas Region, Estimated Cost: Rs. 14,64,700/- for the work of Supply, delivery & installation of 33 KV 02 type HS termination joints...

West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited
WBSEDCL invites e-tenders as follows:
3) NIT No.: BM24/PNR/ELC/2024-25/17, Date: 19.02.2025 of the Regional Manager, North 24 Parganas Region, Estimated Cost: Rs. 14,64,700/- for the work of Supply, delivery & installation of 33 KV 02 type HS termination joints...

West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited
WBSEDCL invites e-tenders as follows:
4) NIT No.: WBSEDCL/BND/010/M/E-TEnder/24-25/271, Date: 12.02.2025 of the Divisional Manager, Bidhanagar Division, Estimated Cost: Rs. 8,42,181/- for the work of Supply, delivery & installation of 11 KV 33 KV 02 type HS termination joints...

West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited
WBSEDCL invites e-tenders as follows:
5) NIT No.: BM24/PNR/ELC/2024-25/18, Date: 19.02.2025 of the Regional Manager, North 24 Parganas Region, Estimated Cost: Rs. 14,64,700/- for the work of Supply, delivery & installation of 33 KV 02 type HS termination joints...

West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited
WBSEDCL invites e-tenders as follows:
6) NIT No.: WBSEDCL/JMG/ELC/TEnder/24-25/1379, Date: 12.02.2025 of the Divisional Manager, Bidhanagar Division, Estimated Cost: Rs. 8,42,181/- for the work of Supply, delivery & installation of 11 KV 33 KV 02 type HS termination joints...

Lawyers from district courts to skip work today
New Delhi: Bar Council of India filed objections on Wednesday to the draft advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2025, with the Union ministry of law and justice. It claimed that the bill would have serious implications for the legal profession. Meanwhile, lawyers from the district courts of Delhi have decided to abstain from work on Thursday as well. The bar council, in the lettered by chairman Manan Kumar Mishra, claimed that two rounds of discussion were earlier held with govt and an apparent consensus was reached over key issues. However, in the draft publication, several amendments have been made by some officials and the ministry of law, BCI alleged. "The very concept of autonomy and independence of the bar is attempted to be demolished by this draft. Lawyers throughout the country are agitated, and strong protest is bound to occur if such deliberate and draconian provisions are not amended or omitted immediately. The lawyers of Delhi district courts have already gone on strike and this protest is likely to spread throughout the country if no positive assurance from the ministry is made soon," BCI claimed. The draft was made public on Feb 13 for comments. TNN

Rai: Give report on role of AAP office-bearers during polls
New Delhi: BJP in the recently concluded state polls, AAP's review report on the role of office bearers in each assembly constituency during the election. In a meeting with state office bearers and functionaries who were assigned responsibilities in the election, AAP state convener Gopal Rai directed the "presidents" of directly elected constituencies to submit the report within 10 days. In a press statement, Rai said the meeting had said the office bearers and other party functionaries gave a detailed description of the role of office bearers in their constituencies verbally. "The experiences of all participants in this election, along with their suggestions for improvement, were discussed. Based on this, it was decided that before initiating the restructuring process of the organisation, a review report on the role and responsibilities of all declared office bearers in the election should be submitted by all assembly presidents to the party's state office within the next 10 days. AAP Delhi convener said the findings would be discussed with the party's national convener Anand Kejriwal, following which top performers would be honoured, while those who played a negative role would be engaged in discussions. AAP state vice-presidents, including Jitender Singh Tomar, Jarnal Singh, Rajesh Gupta and Anand Kumar, were present at the meeting, along with members of the state executive, district secretaries, assembly presiding secretaries, assembly organisation secretaries, among others. TNN

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
The Executive Engineer BMS Division is invited by the undersigned for the works: Annual Maintenance of entire Electrical...

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
Online tender is invited by the undersigned for the works: Annual Maintenance of entire Electrical...

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdcenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for...

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdcenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for...

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdcenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for...

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdcenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for...

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdcenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for...

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
The Executive Engineer BMS Division is invited by the undersigned for the works: Annual Maintenance of entire Electrical...

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
Online tender is invited by the undersigned for the works: Annual Maintenance of entire Electrical...

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdcenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for...

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdcenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for...

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdcenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for...

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdcenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for...

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
The Executive Engineer BMS Division is invited by the undersigned for the works: Annual Maintenance of entire Electrical...

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
Online tender is invited by the undersigned for the works: Annual Maintenance of entire Electrical...

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdcenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for...

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdcenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for...

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdcenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for...

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdcenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for...

West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
Notice Inviting Tender
Online tender is invited by the undersigned for the works: Annual Maintenance of entire Electrical...

West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
Notice Inviting Tender
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdcenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for...

West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
Notice Inviting Tender
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdcenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for...

West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
Notice Inviting Tender
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdcenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for...

West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
Notice Inviting Tender
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdcenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for...

West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
Notice Inviting Tender
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdcenders.gov.in by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for...

Helmetless Bikers: Traffic Problem No. 1

Tops Violations Reported By 'Traffic Praharis'

Ishita Jaiarath@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A new complaint pops up with a beep. "No helmet". It is tagged with location and vehicle details. Seconds later, one on "illegal parking" arrives. The officers click, verify reject or forward the complaint. The queue never stops growing. The numbers keep ticking.

This is inside Delhi Traffic Police's control room, where a giant LED screen beams live feeds from CCTV cameras across the city. Officers sit in rows, eyes glued to their monitors, fingers tapping away as they sift through an endless stream of complaints — not from enforcement cameras but from Delhiites themselves on the Traffic Prahari mobile app.

In the six months between Aug 8, 2024 and Jan 31, this year, over 22,000 traffic rule violations were reported on the app. After verification, around 9,941 were deemed as necessitating action.

It turns out that Delhi's most pressing traffic transgressions for the citizen prahari aren't high-speed chases or reckless signal jumps. The top offences are more mundane.

Nearly three-fourths of the 9,941 accepted complaints are not from helmetless riding and illegal parking. There were 5,274 cases, 53.1% of the complaints, about two-wheeler users not wearing helmets. Close behind were parking violations at

TRAFFIC OFFICER SAYS
The Traffic Prahari app lets citizens file complaints in real-time, with date and time automatically recorded from their devices

2,180 complaints (21.8%), constituted of 1,155 cases of improper parking and 1,014 of vehicles parked on footpaths.

Driving against the traffic flow, a dangerous yet common sight on Delhi roads and commonly called "wrong-side driving", accounted for 924

complaints, while 890 cases were related to defective number plates. Complaints about triple riding on two-wheelers numbered 317. While zig-zag driving and red light jumping are major causes of accidents, only 16 and 5 cases, respectively, of these were reported. Experts believe this is because most red-light violations are caught by enforcement cameras rather than citizen reports.

Surprisingly, only one complaint was registered for overcharging by taxis — a number that seems oddly low for the city.

Filing traffic complaints isn't just about civic duty any longer — it comes with cash incentives. In Sept last year, four citizens were recognised for vigilance on the road, having together filed 15% of the complaints received in six months. The top complainant, who flagged 576 cases, received Rs 50,000 as reward. The second-most active user logged 600 complaints and bagged Rs 25,000. The rewards for the six months after Sept last year will be given out soon.

Satyu Vir Kataria, additional commissioner of police, traffic headquarters, said: "The Traffic Prahari app lets citizens file complaints in real-time, with date and time automatically recorded from their devices. The traffic headquarters then verifies the complaints, issues notices, and decides whether to take action. Traffic police can't be present at every location, so some vigilantes think they can dodge scrutiny and the CCTV cameras. But there are lakhs of Delhiites keeping an eye on such people."

The officer added, "While the top complaints are about helmetless riding and parking, all reports about zig-zag driving or any less common offence are also welcome. There is only one consideration. Sometimes the angle of a photograph can be tricky, so every Prahari is requested to click offences with the proper angle and details."

er. On Feb 10, the branch confiscated 52 phones from a seller of stolen devices. Restoring the devices to their owners was not easy. According to additional commissioner Sanjay Sain, many phones were either locked or completely drained, rendering the task challenging. "There were a large number of recovered devices and linking these phones to the registered FIRs and lost reports required meticulous efforts. But the team did a remarkable job," Sain said.

The process involved using a combination of technical tools and investigative techniques, particularly IMEI analysis, according to sources. A team of police officers spent several hours tracking IMEI numbers, FIRs and new numbers of phone users whose stolen devices they had recovered.

This laborious task required the team to sift through reams of data, cross-checking details and following up on leads to identify the rightful owners of the recovered phones.

Despite the complexity and time-consuming nature of the task, the team managed to reunite the stolen devices with their owners.

Ringing in relief: Crime branch op seizes 305 stolen phones, restores 216 to rightful owners

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: For most people, a stolen phone is gone for good, a loss accepted with a sigh of resignation. But for 216 individuals, the Delhi Police crime branch has defied expectations, pulling off a remarkable feat that has brought relief and joy to those who thought their phones were lost forever.

As part of their 'Operation Track Back', the crime branch recovered 305 stolen phones worth over Rs 3 crore. Of these, they managed to find the owners of 216 phones and returned their devices to them in a special gathering organised in central Delhi on Wednesday.

According to special commissioner Divesh Srivastava, this was one of the initiatives to connect with citizens.

"Recognising the incidents of mobile phone theft in Delhi-NCR and the associated risks to citizens' personal data and security, the crime branch launched the operation with the tag line, 'returning happiness to the citizens.' We have made a significant step towards identifying and recovering stolen and lost phones," Srivastava said.

"The initiative aims to

OPERATION TRACK BACK

Objective
To recover stolen mobile phones and ensure their return to rightful owners. **Result:** 216 mobile phones restored to owners after verification.

About the Op
Op launched keeping in mind incidents of mobile phone theft in Delhi-NCR
Associated risks to citizens' personal data and security prompted an organised system to track back

Source of returned phones
Jan 10 | Crime branch recovered 195 phones worth over ₹2 crore from a receiver of stolen phones
Jan 30 | Crime branch seized



A stolen phone being returned to its owner

58 phones worth over ₹1 crore from a supplier

Feb 10 | 52 phones seized by crime branch from a seller of stolen phones

Challenges
Extracting details was challenging, as most phones were either locked or drained of battery
Linking these phones to registered FIRs and lost reports required meticulous effort
Verification process of more mobile phones still on

Recently, the crime branch carried out several operations against smuggling networks and seized a large number of phones. On Jan 10, they recovered 195 mobile phones worth over Rs 2 crore from a receiver of stolen phones

provide relief to innocent victims who suffer distress due to the loss or theft of their valuable mobile devices. Besides solving heinous cases, these are small steps which can restore happiness to common people," he added.

Recently, the crime branch carried out several operations against smuggling networks and seized a large number of phones. On Jan 10, they recovered 195 mobile phones worth over Rs 2 crore from a receiver of stolen phones. On Jan 30, they seized 58 stolen phones worth over Rs 1 crore from a supplier.

Despite the complexity and time-consuming nature of the task, the team managed to reunite the stolen devices with their owners.

Lane driving enforced on 3 key stretches in Noida, 335 fined on first day

Noida: Traffic police implemented lane driving at three major stretches — Charkha roundabout near Amity University, Gardens Galleria Mall to Film City, and Bird Feeding Point near Dr Prerna Sibal — on Wednesday to address frequent snarls. Those found violating norms will be issued a fine of Rs 2,000.

Around 335 challans were challaned for changing lanes at these stretches till Wednesday evening, traffic cops said.

DCP (traffic) Lakhan Singh Yadav said that banners with information on the new rules have been placed nearly 100m ahead of the stretches, advising commuters to switch to their lanes there only.

"This will be followed to change the lanes in the 'no lane changing zone.' Police teams are also deployed to ensure compliance. We advise commuters to adhere to the traffic rules and traffic signs, or challans will be issued to them," the DCP said.

He went on to explain that vehicles suddenly switching lanes leads to multiple issues at key locations, adding, "In such a situation, the drivers may not have enough time to react, leading to accidents." TNW

Traffic cops help recover two stolen vehicles

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Though their primary role is managing traffic, traffic cops played a crucial role in recovering two stolen scooters in separate incidents this week. The recoveries were made in Kotwali and Bhajanpura.

On Feb 17, ASI Anoop from Kotwali Traffic Circle was on towing duty near Red Fort when he came across an unattended scooter that was improperly parked. The vehicle was towed away as per the protocol. In usual cases, cops would have waited for the vehicle owners to arrive and take it back. But Anoop did not waste even a day and started verifying the vehicle's details immediately. The vehicle was found to be stolen from Gandhi Nagar, Shahdara.

"The officer swung into action and informed the authorities and the authorised ASI Anoop from Kotwali Traffic Circle came across an unattended scooter which later was found to be stolen from Sadar Bazar

the next day, head constable Kuldeep and DCP Rohit caught a vehicle that was stolen from Sadar Bazar

Over 50,000 retail investors hold nearly 61% shares of the company. Some shareholders, representing over 10% of the public holding of the company, expressed their concern regarding the revenue-generating capability of the company and consequently their investment.

"They said the concerns of the ordinary shareholders need to be presented and taken into account by the apex court," an NTBCL statement said.

Shareholders proposed to form a common forum to represent the interest of retail investors in the court proceedings and ensure their written representations are submitted to relevant authorities to safeguard their interests. They also proposed to file petitions in the Supreme Court elaborating their concerns and seeking intervention with regards to their interest.

An estimated 1.5 lakh vehicles used the flyway daily before the toll was scrapped. It had not recouped its investment, citing financial difficulties exacerbated by cessation of toll collection.

NTBCL, however, contended that it had not recouped its investment, citing financial difficulties exacerbated by cessation of toll collection.

In the meeting on Tuesday, some shareholders expressed

DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEVA NYAYA

Defeat Drugs, Choose Life

DRUGS
are that dead end which lead to:

Infectious Disease

HIV/AIDS

Depression

Crime

Loss of Health

Say no to drugs
to protect your life and happiness

For more information call **1933**
National Anti-Drugs Helpline

Email to CP, Delhi at: cp.sanjayarora@delhipolice.gov.in | Write to CP, Delhi at: P.O. Box No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

#Delhipoliceweek2025
DP/976/2025

[@DelhiPoliceOfficial](#) [@DelhiPolice](#) [@delhi.police_official](#) [@DelhiPoliceOfficial](#) [delhipolice.nic.in](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112 TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 14547

DOING YOUR BIT TO MAKE ROADS SAFER

TRAFFIC PRAHARI initiative allows citizens to report traffic violations in Delhi via an app

1. Every second complaint was about riding without a helmet



2. You can become a traffic prahari too



3. All violations that fulfil the essential requirements are prosecuted

> Notice under Section 133 of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, issued by Delhi Traffic Police to registered owners of offending motor vehicles, requiring them to stipulate details of the driver of the vehicle allegedly involved in the violation

> Violator is provided the option to compound the offence within a stipulated time period

> If the violator does not respond, a court challan is issued against the registered owner of the offending motor vehicle and sent to the court for initiating further legal proceedings under relevant provisions of law

Renovated RSS office inaugurated

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat on Wednesday inaugurated the organisation's renovated office — Keshav Kunj — in Jhandewalan here and said it has been transformed to reflect the Sangh's growth and vision.

Union ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, and BJP president J P Nadda were among the dignitaries present, along with RSS functionaries like Dattatraya Hosabale and Pawan Jindal.

Speaking at the 'Pravesh Utsav', Bhagwat emphasized the necessity for RSS volunteers to match the vision of the new facilities with their dedication and purity in their work.

"Keshav Kunj has been transformed to reflect the growth and vision of the Sangh," Bhagwat said and urged volunteers to ensure that their efforts align with RSS's ambitions to position India as a global leader.

The renovation project, completed over eight years at a cost of nearly Rs 150 crore, includes three 13-storey towers named Sadhana, Prerana, and Archana. The complex is equipped with modern amenities like an auditorium, a library, an OPD hospital, and facilities for sustainable energy and waste management.

Religious leader and Governor Giri Ji Maharaj linked the day's celebrations with the birth anniversaries of RSS ideologue MS Golwalkar and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

NTBCL shareholders to move SC against order to scrap DND toll

Shafaque Alam @timesofindia.com

Noida: Nearly 200 shareholders of Noida Toll Bridge Company Limited (NTBCL) on Tuesday discussed the Supreme Court judgment that scrapped the toll on the eight-lane DND Flyway and decided to challenge the order. In Jan, NTBCL also filed a review petition in the Supreme Court, which is sub-judice.

The apex court, in its order on Dec 20, 2024, upheld an Allahabad high court's 2016 decision barring NTBCL from levying toll charges on commuters, citing concerns over "excessive" user fees and directing that the costs of the flyway project be audited.

The toll, originally charged by NTBCL since the flyway's inauguration in 2001, was a subject of contention as residents complained of poor road conditions, including potholes and dysfunctional streetlights, despite ongoing toll collection.

A 2016 petition by Federation of Associations (FONRWA) that led to the high court's decision claimed NTBCL had already recovered its project costs — around Rs 408 crore — multiple times over.

NTBCL, however, contended that it had not recouped its investment, citing financial difficulties exacerbated by cessation of toll collection.

In the meeting on Tuesday, some shareholders expressed

pressed concerns that the court's decision ignored initial financial shortfalls due to low traffic and the Noida Authority's failure to grant developmental rights promised under the concession agreement, a source said.

"Over 50,000 retail investors hold nearly 61% shares of the company. Some shareholders, representing over 10% of the public holding of the company, expressed their concern regarding the revenue-generating capability of the company and consequently their investment."

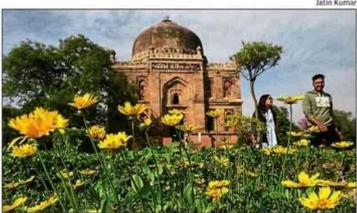
"They said the concerns of the ordinary shareholders need to be presented and taken into account by the apex court," an NTBCL statement said.

Shareholders proposed to form a common forum to represent the interest of retail investors in the court proceedings and ensure their written representations are submitted to relevant authorities to safeguard their interests. They also proposed to file petitions in the Supreme Court elaborating their concerns and seeking intervention with regards to their interest.

An estimated 1.5 lakh vehicles used the flyway daily before the toll was scrapped. It had not recouped its investment, citing financial difficulties exacerbated by cessation of toll collection.

Light rain likely today, western disturbance may lead to drop in temperature over next two days

TIMES NEWS NETWORK
New Delhi: The city is likely to see light rain towards late Wednesday night and Thursday morning under the impact of a western disturbance, IMD has predicted. The air quality on Wednesday improved to moderate levels. According to the weather analysts, the Himalayan region may see light snowfall, which will also impact the city's temperature for a few days. Thus, the maximum temperatures is expected to fall on Thursday and the minimum on Friday. The impact of the western disturbance will remain for 3-4 days. On Wednesday, both the maximum and minimum temperatures saw a slight dip. The city experienced a partly cloudy day with moderate winds reaching up to 6 to 8 kmph from westerly and south-westerly directions in the morning hours, and to 12 kmph of cool north-westerly winds in the



Flowers in full bloom at Lodhi Garden in New Delhi on Wednesday

afternoon, and 8-10 kmph of south-easterly winds in the evening. The maximum temperature at the city's base station, Safdarjung, was 28.4 degrees Celsius, four notches above normal, and close to the 28.8 degrees recorded a day earlier. The minimum was 10.4 degrees Celsius, a notch below normal. On Tuesday, the minimum was 13.2 degrees. The weather department expects temperatures to dip further over the next two days. "There is an induced cyclonic circulation over western Rajasthan and moisture-laden winds coming to the city under the impact of the western disturbance. There are chances of light to ve-

ry light rain on Wednesday night and Thursday morning. There is a chance of snowfall on the hills, due to which maximum temperatures will begin to fall from Thursday onwards, and the minimum temperature will fall on Friday. The temperatures will rise again after 3-4 days," said Mahesh Palawat, vice-chairman of climate change and meteorology at Skymet. According to IITM's early warning system (EWS), Thursday will see a generally cloudy sky with very light rain and drizzle in the morning and afternoon as well as "strong surface winds (speed 20-30 kmph) during the day". "The predominant surface wind is likely to be from the south-east direction with a wind speed of less than 10 kmph during the morning hours," IITM said. Delhi's AQI was 180 in the moderate range. IITM said the AQI will moderate on Thursday.

Six Of Family Injured After Blaze At Nangloi Building

Man Critical, Ensured Wife And Kids Leapt To Safety

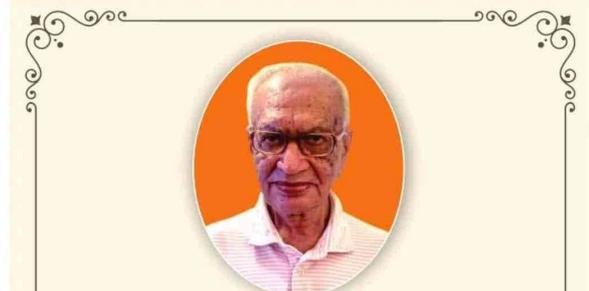
Devanshi Mehta@timesofindia.com
New Delhi: Six members of a family were critically injured after a fire engulfed their home in west Delhi's Nangloi on Monday. Trapped by flames with no escape route, four of them were forced to jump from their second-floor balcony. Pankaj (40), the family's sole breadwinner, ensured his wife Preeti (40), son Vaibhav (13) and daughter Pranjal (18) leapt to safety before saving himself. He suffered 90% burn injuries and is battling for his life in the ICU of a private hospital. Preeti, Vaibhav and Pranjal are critical too. Pankaj's sister-in-law Kailash (47) and her daughter Shweta (20), who live on the first floor, were also critically injured and are admitted to the same hospital. His other daughter and Pranjal's twin Panav (18) was the only one who managed to escape to the terrace. The family's relatives said a short circuit near the electrical board may have led to the fire, although officials said they are still investigating the cause. Delhi Fire Services (DFS) received a distress call at 9:45pm from Y Block in Nangloi's Janta Market and dispatched three fire tenders. It took nearly two hours to control the blaze. The fire spread rapidly on the first and second floors, and thick smoke filled every corner of their home, the family said. "One second, everything was fine and the next, my father was screaming for us to jump. I thought they would follow me up to the terrace, but the smoke cut them off. They had no choice but to jump. Neighbours tried to help with a wooden ladder, but it



TRAPPED BY FLAMES

wasn't tall enough. We were completely on our own," recalled Panav. "My sister was preparing for her exams, and my brother dreams of becoming a vlogger. Now they're all lying on hospital beds," she said. The family was packing for a wedding in Haryana when the fire erupted. "We were looking forward to celebrating my sister's upcoming wedding. Then disaster struck, and we were watching our home burn," said Yogesh (33), a relative. "The family was waiting for Vaibhav's exam to get over so they could leave for our family home in Haryana. The house was filled with excitement, and new clothes and jewellery. And then, in an instant, it was all gone. Instead of celebrating, we are now praying for their lives," he said. Pankaj's father Hargobind Lal (78) said his son didn't hesitate to put his family's life before his own. "He knew he had to save them first. When smoke blocked the stairs and the fire was closing in, he didn't think of himself — he pushed his wife and children to jump. One by one, they made it down. But by the time he tried to save himself, the fire swallowed him. He was in flames when he jumped." With several members of the family in intensive care, relatives said they were struggling financially, with no way to pay the hefty medical bills. "My uncle ran a small chips business from home. Now, they have nothing — no savings, no income and a mountain of hospital bills," said Yogesh. "If he was admitted to a govt hospital, at least we wouldn't be in this position. We don't know how we will afford this."

TIMES TRIBUTE



CHANDAR SAIN MALHOTRA

SEPT. 1931 - FEB 2025
 (FORMER DIRECTOR INDIAN AIRLINES)

WITH A HEAVY HEART WE'D LIKE TO INFORM YOU THAT OUR BELOVED BADE PA BREATHED HIS LAST BREATH ON 18TH FEB. 2025

LAST RITES

5:00 PM | THURSDAY, 20TH FEB. 2025
 LODHI CREMATION GROUND, NEW DELHI

PRAYER MEETING

4:00 PM | FRIDAY, 21ST FEB. 2025
 BRIJMOHAN MUNJAL VEDIC KENDRA AUDITORIUM
 B 31/C KAILASH COLONY, NEW DELHI

IN GRIEF

- SMT. SANTOSH MALHOTRA (WIFE)
- RAKESH & ASHA MALHOTRA (SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW)
- VIVEK & SAPNA MALHOTRA (SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW)
- ANUJA & NAVKIRAN JAIDKA (DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW)
- MEENAKSHI & SANJEEV MALIK (DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW)
- RAJ & MOHINI MALHOTRA (BROTHER & SISTER-IN-LAW)

GRANDCHILDREN

ADITYA, ABHISHEK, SUCHITA, SIDHARTH, AKSHAY, SAIPRIYA, ARNAV & SANAT MALHOTRA, JAIDKA, MALIK & KAPOOR FAMILY

REMEMBRANCE SHARING MEMORIES

In loving memory of **MRS KALYANI MITRA** (13.03.1950 to 20.02.2024)
 Your love and care will always stay with us. Fondly remembered by Indrajit (son), Monideepa (daughter), Nibedita (daughter in law), Bittu (grandson)

In Loving Memory of **Ms. Kavari Chakravarty** Senior Music Teacher (Retd.) Govt. of Delhi 1st Death Anniversary (20 Feb 2024)
 Your affectionate nature and sweet smile still warm our hearts. Will always cherish the beautiful memories. *All near and dear ones*

In the loving memory of **SHRI PREM PRAKASH AGARWAL** (30/11/1917-20/02/2012)
 Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us everyday, unseen, unheard, but always near, still missed.
Dr. Kavita A. Sharma, Shri Vinay Agarwal, Shri Ravindra Govil, Smt. Madhu Chadda, Shri Sanjay Gupta, Smt. Vinitha Singhal, Sudarshan Singhal, Shri Manoj Kumar, Smt. Malini Jain, Smt. Chitra Mehta, Smt. Vandana Gupta, Shri Neeraj Gupta, Shri Kamal Kanwar/Rikhi/Gomti

"HONOUR. COURAGE. BRAVERY." Three words that you taught us. Three words that help us cope with your loss.
 The silent joy of remembering a loved one. The moments you shared together. Little moments that make life beautiful. Share them. With Friends. Relatives. Neighbours. Colleagues. With all those whose lives the departed Soul has touched. Because while life goes on, when you share memories, they stay on forever.
REMEMBRANCE SHARING MEMORIES
 For any information call **Vinod : 9958992088**
Pankaj : 8130604727

Maj Gen Rajesh Kamran (Retd) (14.01.1952 - 16.02.2025)
 DGAfMS and all ranks of AFMS family deeply mourn the sad demise of Maj Gen Rajesh Kamran(Retd) erstwhile Major General (Medical), Headquarters Eastern Command.
 May God grant peace to the departed soul and give strength to the bereaved family.

OBITUARY
REMEMBRANCES
 In Loving Memory Of
 "Your strength, grace, and unwavering love will forever be a part of us."

ANUPAMA
 25.03.1965 - 20.02.2009
 Remembered by D.D. Gurbaxani, Kajal, Chirag, and Kamika

Sincere condolences to our Managing Director
Mr Manoj Kumar Jain
 On the sad demise of his father

Shri. Prem Chand Jain
 (14.11.1939 - 17.02.2025)
 Our prayers are with him and his family in their hour of grief.
UTHAONI will be held on
Thursday, 20th February, 2025, 11AM to 12PM
 at Shri Satya Sai Auditorium, Lodhi Rd, Pragati Vihar, New Delhi.
Deep Blue Xpress Ltd. **Sealair Freighters International Pvt Ltd**

MEMORIAM
 IN LOVING MEMORY OF
MRS. SAVITRI S.N. KAPUR
 20th Feb. 2009

 15 years later
 You ever remain in the silence of our memories.
Vinod Kapur Family
 • Promod Kapur Family • Ashok Kapur Family • Vijay Kapur Family
 • Shashi Kapur Family • Deepak Kapur Family
KEGGFARMS GROUP

TIMES TRIBUTES
 RATE CARD

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

► Placement on specified obit pages only ► This rate benefit is extended up till the size of 320 sq. cm only ► ## Full Run includes Delhi City + NCR (Including Gurgaon + Noida) + Chandigarh + Western U.P. + Uttarakhand ► TOI Capital (Delhi + NCR) Includes TOI Gurgaon & TOI Noida.
 To place an obituary announcement or Remembrance message please call
Vinod: 9958992088
Pankaj : 8130604727

Frauds cheat target of ₹1L
Gurgaon: Two fraudsters were arrested for cheating a private company worker by offering to facilitate a personal loan for him without any documentation. The complainant, who saw a poster offering personal loans on a wall at Udyog Vihar on Dec 24, approached the accused and was called to Sector 11. "Two men met me in Sector 11 and told me that I would get Rs 28,000 after deductions," the victim said. The accused collected his bank account and identity details, applied for a loan on his behalf, and gave him Rs 20,000. It was only on Feb 25, when various banks approached the victim for repayment of the amount, that he realised that the loan issued against his name was of around Rs 1.2 lakh. "The duo gave the victim only Rs 20,000 out of the total loan amount issued against his name and threatened him with dire consequences when he asked for the remaining amount," Gurgaon police said. Based on the complaint of the victim, a case under BNS was registered against the accused — Rohit and Mugeem, TNN

Sex assault case: Kenya has option to recall envoy

Continued from P1

The matter has been looked into. A waiver of the person's diplomatic immunity has been sought, said a govt source, speaking on condition of anonymity. An FIR was lodged under the 2012 Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (PoSO) after the victim's father confronted the school principal and the matter was taken up with the cops.

Kenya has the option of recalling the diplomat. As per Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, the receiving state can't prosecute diplomats, and their families also have immunity from criminal and civil jurisdiction. While diplomats are expected to act in accordance with local laws, in the event of any misconduct, only the sending state can take action by recalling the diplomat or waiving his or her immunity.

Gurgaon Lawyer Held For Noida Boy's Death In Celebratory Firing

Says Was Drunk, Fired Several Rounds In Air To 'Commemorate' Friend's Wedding

Aditya.Bahl@timesofindia.com

Noida: A 24-year-old Gurgaon resident, a lawyer by profession, was arrested on Wednesday for firing shots from a wedding procession in the city that led to the death of a two-year-old boy. Three police teams are still on the lookout for a second accused in the case.

Deepanshu, police said, is the groom's friend and was perched on the main buggy near to him while firing into the air as a mark of celebration as the baraat made its way through Aghapur village in Noida's Sector 41 on Sunday.

DCP (Noida) Rambadan Singh said the accused was arrested near Sector 47 following a tip-off. Cops recovered a pistol from his possession, but it was not immediately clear if the bullet, which had pierced the child's head, was fired by Deepanshu. The pistol will now be sent for forensic analysis, the officer said.

During the interrogation, the accused claimed he didn't remember most of the details of the evening but said he fired many rounds in the air. Police said he claimed to be drunk at the time and had bought a gun to "commemorate" the event and flaunt it as a show of power. He hid at a relative's place in Gurgaon and kept changing locations within the city.

A resident of DLF Phase 3, Deepanshu started practising in the Gurgaon district court after completing his graduation last year from a private university in Greater Noida.

Meanwhile, police are on the lookout for Happy, the other man who was firing from the buggy during the wedding procession.

"Teams are conducting searches in Gurgaon, Delhi, Noida and other possible hideouts for Happy," additional DCP Sumit Shukla said. Happy's police said, is also a resident of DLF Phase 3.

Two-year-old Ansh was on his father's lap on the third-floor balcony of their house overlooking the road in Theok Walli Gali when a bullet fired by the two baraat hit him in the head. The boy was rushed to Prayag Hospital, about 2km away, but died to death. An FIR was filed against Happy colleague Deepanshu under BNS section 105 (Culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and Section 30 (contravention of licence or rule) of the Arms Act, 1959 on a complaint filed by Ansh's father Vikas Sharma.

HID IN KIN'S HOME AFTER CHILD'S DEATH

Cops made first arrest in the celebratory firing case on Wednesday, three days after 2-year-old Ansh died in celebratory firing in Aghapur village

Gurgaon resident and a lawyer, Deepanshu, was arrested near Noida's Sector 47 following a tip-off

He was among the two accused perched on the main



buggy while firing into the air as the baraat made its way through Aghapur village on Sunday

He told interrogators that he was drunk at the time and had bought a gun to "commemorate" the event

Deepanshu hid at a relative's place in Gurgaon and kept changing locations within the city after the child died

India's space missions and astronomy to find star billing at Nehru Planetarium

Anuja.Jaiswal@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A gallery at Nehru Planetarium, currently under renovation, is set to feature new interactive screens on India's space missions and developments in the field of astronomy. It is likely to open between July and August this year.

According to Anurag Arora, the planetarium's assistant administrative officer, the updated exhibition will showcase a detailed scale model of the moon, featuring craters, lunar seas and landing locations of spacecraft, including the touch-down site of Chandrayaan-3 in the moon's south pole. An interactive multimedia kiosk will provide details about historic lunar expeditions, including Apollo and Luna missions and contemporary moon explorations.

Visitors will have access to comprehensive information about the Chandrayaan-3 mission, including its aims, the Vikram lander and discoveries made by the Pragati rover. The exhibition aims to enhance visitors' knowledge of lunar science, space exploration, and India's contributions to Moon exploration.

The gallery will also present information about the moons orbiting other planets, such as Jupiter's volcanic Io, Saturn's ringed Enceladus and Neptune's intriguing Triton.

Arora said that the previous gallery was predominantly static and maintained a conventional approach with information boards and physical models. The new exhibition area will feature virtual reality for a more immersive and interactive experience. Visitors will be able to engage with space exhibits in a whole new way, enhancing their understanding of celestial bodies, cosmic phenomena, and the universe beyond, he said.

The exhibition has an introductory exhibit featuring a holographic display (Peep through technology) with touch interface navigation through space. This section presents the universe's structure from Earth's position in the solar system to galaxies and broader cosmic formations. The solar system and sun section features a backlit display illustrating the sun's distinct regions—photosphere, chromosphere and corona. A dedicated information station presents details about solar composition, sunspots and cyclical patterns.

Planet exploration occurs through spherical 3D models equipped with RFID capabilities, providing visitors access to planetary data. An interactive gravity well installation demonstrates planetary motion in curved space-time.

Other sections include the moon (phases and eclipses), stars (constellations and life cycle of a star), astronomical observations (ancient and medieval observatories, Jantar Mantar, telescopes), universe (evolution, expansion) and scale of the universe), children activity area (a touch-screen simulation allowing visitors to create their own planetary systems, an interactive touch table where users can set a date and location to visualise the night sky and build their own spacecraft), astronomy and space science of India (coverage of Vedanga Jyotisha, Aryabhata II, Varahamihira, Bhaskara II, Nilakantha, Fakhruddin Shirazi, and modern scientists like S. Chandrasekhar and Vainu Bappu) and a multi-player quiz station with electromechanical switches and a digital interface, testing visitors' knowledge of astronomy and space science.

Prerna Chandra, programme manager of the planetarium, said that the astronomy and space science exhibition is a meticulously designed, technology-driven experience that combines interactive models, multimedia displays, VR experiences, and hands-on activities to provide a comprehensive understanding of the cosmos. The exhibition aims at offering a rich, educational and immersive journey through the wonders of the universe.

RENOVATED GALLERY TO OPEN IN JULY-AUG

- Nehru Planetarium was renovated in 2010 during Commonwealth Games
- 3D was introduced in 2023
- Now, its gallery is being upgraded

Upgraded version will have

- More dynamic and interactive exhibits
- Digital touchscreens and multimedia displays
- Integration of virtual and augmented reality
- Modernised design and lighting

The exhibition is structured into multiple sections

- Our Universe
- Sun and Solar System
- Moon
- Starry Night
- Astronomical Observations
- Children Activity Area
- Astronomy and Space Science India
- Quiz Corner



Planet exploration occurs through spherical 3D models equipped with RFID capabilities, providing visitors access to planetary data. An interactive gravity well installation demonstrates planetary motion in curved space-time.

Other sections include the moon (phases and eclipses), stars (constellations and life cycle of a star), astronomical observations (ancient and medieval observatories, Jantar Mantar, telescopes), universe (evolution, expansion) and scale of the universe), children activity area (a touch-screen simulation allowing visitors to create their own planetary systems, an interactive touch table where users can set a date and location to visualise the night sky and build their own spacecraft), astronomy and space science of India (coverage of Vedanga Jyotisha, Aryabhata II, Varahamihira, Bhaskara II, Nilakantha, Fakhruddin Shirazi, and modern scientists like S. Chandrasekhar and Vainu Bappu) and a multi-player quiz station with electromechanical switches and a digital interface, testing visitors' knowledge of astronomy and space science.

Prerna Chandra, programme manager of the planetarium, said that the astronomy and space science exhibition is a meticulously designed, technology-driven experience that combines interactive models, multimedia displays, VR experiences, and hands-on activities to provide a comprehensive understanding of the cosmos. The exhibition aims at offering a rich, educational and immersive journey through the wonders of the universe.

Live-in partner, teenaged contract killer held for murder of 35-yr-old man

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Police has arrested a 19-year-old man from Punjab in connection with the murder of a 35-year-old man at his residence in north Delhi's Gulabi Bagh earlier this month. The victim's live-in partner, aged 35, allegedly hired the suspected contract killer and has been arrested.

The murder took place on the intervening night of Feb 23. Police said the victim's body dangled in a well in a godown in Roop Nagar, was discovered on Feb 3 and sent for post-mortem, which confirmed strangulation as the cause of death.

"The victim was identified through fingerprint records, as his details were available in the criminal dossier due to prior involvement in several cases. His name was falsely filed as a missing person complaint, stating he left with two unknown people. We believe it was an attempt to mislead the investigation," a senior police officer said.

A police team from North District analysed CCTV footage, call detail records and internet protocol detail records. "It revealed that some suspects had travelled from Punjab to Delhi shortly before the murder and were seen near the crime scene," DCP (North) Raja Banthia said.

Meet puppets! Pulling at heart's strings in AI age

Meghna.Dhulia@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: In a world dominated by cutting edge animation, artificial intelligence and computer-generated imagery, the timeless art of puppetry often goes unnoticed. Yet, for many, puppets evoke a certain magic that technology simply cannot replicate. To celebrate this form of storytelling, the 21st edition of Ishara International Puppet Theatre Festival is set to captivate Delhiites with performances over 10 days from Feb 21 to March 2 at India Habitat Centre.

While digital animation may dazzle with its visuals, puppetry offers an organic and tangible connection to the art that resonates deeply with audiences. According to festival director and renowned puppeteer Dadi Pudumjee, "People often say meetings can be done over video calls, but why do they still insist on in-person meetings once a year? The same applies here. While digital media has its place, live theatre is something truly special."

The festival will feature puppeteers from across the globe, including Italy, Mexico, Russia, Spain, Turkey and Poland. Visitors will experience a wide range of puppetry styles, from traditional rod, string, shadow, and glove puppets to contemporary mixed performances that combine dance, theatre and music.

The festival's roots go back to 2001 when it began as a national event with just one international group, said the director. Over time, it expanded into a major international platform, with over 100 countries participating since its inception. Pudumjee recalls, "It started as an idea between me and Sanjay Roy. Now, it's a global celebration of puppetry."

Roy, managing director of Teamwork Arts and producer of the festival, said, "Since its inception, the festival has become a beacon for puppetry arts, fostering cross-cultural understanding and appreciation while celebrating this ancient craft."

One of the highlights this year is "Monkey and the crocodile", a 45-minute performance by Puppet Studio India. This beloved tale from the Panchatantra, brought to life by the puppeteers of the popular TV series Gali Gali Sim Sim, features a clever monkey and a group of quirky crocodiles in a vibrant, colourful show.

Other exciting international performances include Volar Volar (To Fly) by Mexico's Lormiga Titeres, which tells the story of a puppet named Greeta on a journey of perseverance and observation. Italy's celebrated puppet Pulcinella returns in a musical homage to Neapolitan culture, while other international performances include The Rock from Turkey, Sea of Possibilities by Agnieszka Cytacka and IO, Pulcinella by Italy.



TALES FROM AROUND THE WORLD!

21st edition of Ishara International Puppet Theatre Festival

India Habitat Centre

WHERE: Feb 21 to March 2

WHAT'S IN STORE: The festival will feature puppeteers from across the globe, including Italy, Mexico, Russia, Spain, Turkey and Poland

Visitors can experience a wide range of puppetry styles, from traditional rod, string, shadow, and glove puppets to contemporary mixed performances that combine dance, theatre and music

VOLAR VOLAR (TO FLY) | Mexico

MONKEY & THE CROCODILE | India

THEATRE IN THE POCKET | Russia

THE SEA OF POSSIBILITIES | Agnieszka Cytacka

THE ROCK | Turkey

IO, PULCINELLA | Italy

have great stories to tell

Queensland AUSTRALIA

The ultimate playground for your inner adventurer

Paradise Jet Boating

Australia Zoo

Group Holiday with Flights

110 - Australian Extravaganza @ ₹ 3 49 000.00 pp
Visit: Cairns, Gold Coast & More

Holidays without Flights

60 - Brisbane To Sunshine Coast
Visit: Brisbane & Noosa (Self Drive)
@ ₹ 1 49 200.00 pp

90 - Amazing Queensland
Visit: Brisbane, Gold Coast & Cairns
@ ₹ 1 68 600.00 pp

Inclusions: Ex-Delhi Airfare, Hotels, Meals, Insurance, Visa Fees (For Group Holiday) & Sightseeing as per itinerary.

Call your nearest store

Chennai Place: 9619471251
Ct 2 H Block: 9616385180
South Extension Part 2: 887929851
Punjab Bagh: 8291226157
Netaji Subhash Place: 8291458224

Laxmi Nagar: 9167433568
Rohini: 8291283717
Noida - Sec 18: 8291224852
RDC, Ghaziabad: 9619605891
Greater Noida West: 9619628133

82912 83667 Thomas Cook

Put your thinking cap on and get ready to debate! Speak for India is back

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Get ready to sharpen your critical thinking skills and unleash your voice as Speak for India, the country's largest debating platform for college students, is back.

An initiative by Federal Bank Hormis Memorial Foundation, in association with The Times of India and Newshat Times, it aims to inspire young, dynamic and passionate college students from across the country to step up, voice their opinions on issues that matter to them, and embrace their role as change-makers in the society. It serves as a platform to cultivate innovative ideas, bringing together youngsters with a strong sense of social responsibility to stand up for what they believe is right.

The statewide debate competition will begin soon in Delhi-NCR, offering college students a unique opportunity to showcase their oratory skills, compete with the best, and challenge themselves to think on their feet.

Speak for India will be conducted in multiple stages, culminating in a grand finale. The preliminary rounds in each district will feature a one-minute audio round, followed by debate rounds for the selected qualifiers. As the competition progresses, participants will receive co-

FEDERAL BANK

YOUR PERFECT BANKING PARTNER

FOR SPEAK FOR INDIA

DELHI NCR EDITION 2024-25

an initiative by Federal Bank Hormis Memorial Foundation

aching to enhance their skills. Over the years, Speak for India has attracted some of the finest orators from the college circuit.

The winner will receive a cash prize of Rs 2.5 lakh while the runner-up will take home Rs 1.5 lakh. Six other finalists will get Rs 50,000 each.

The participants can choose to debate in either Hindi or English. Students can register online at www.speakforindia.in or scan the attached QR code.



MADHYA PRADESH

The Next Global Investment Hub

INVEST
MADHYA PRADESH
GLOBAL INVESTORS SUMMIT
2025
14 & 15 FEBRUARY 2025, INDIA



Dr. Mohan Yadav
CM, Madhya Pradesh

WEAVING A NEW ERA OF POSSIBILITIES IN THE TEXTILE AND GARMENTS SECTOR

MADHYA PRADESH IS WITNESSING A SURGE IN INVESTMENTS, POSITIONING ITSELF AS A CRITICAL PLAYER IN INDIA'S TEXTILE EXPORTS AND SUPPLY CHAINS



Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Madhya Pradesh is rapidly gaining prominence as India's textile and garment manufacturing hub, leveraging its abundant raw materials, strong industrial framework, and supportive government policies.

THE COTTON CAPITAL OF INDIA

Madhya Pradesh leads in organic cotton production, accounting for 47 per cent of India's and 24 per cent of the world's organic cotton supply. The state is also the sixth-largest cotton producer in the country, boasting a 60 per cent CAGR in cotton production. With extra-long-staple cotton cultivation and a strong silk industry, Madhya Pradesh is a cornerstone of India's textile sector.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Organic cotton leader:** Produces 43 per cent of India's organic cotton.
- Silk production:** Largest producer of mulberry silk in India.
- High export value:** Textile exports exceeded Rs 10,000 crore in FY 2023-24.
- World-class factories:** Home to the world's largest Terry towel and spun-dyed fibre units.
- Rich heritage:** Famous for Chanderi, Maheshwari, and hand-printed textiles.
- Specialised hubs:** Over 50 manufacturers of technical textiles.



INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE
Madhya Pradesh boasts a well-developed industrial landscape, with textile parks in major cities such as Indore, Bhopal, Ujjain, and Jabalpur. The state's advanced warehousing, skilled workforce, and educational institutions ensure a steady supply of talent and innovation.

INDUSTRIAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- PM MITRA Park:** India's largest integrated textile and apparel park in Dhar, MP, spanning 2,100 acres.
- Manufacturing prowess:** 60+ large textile mills, 4,000+ looms and 2.5 million spindles.
- Key production hubs:** Indore, Dhar, Dewas, Gwalior, Chhindwara and Jabalpur.
- Garment clusters:** Major apparel and hosiery production centres in Indore, Gwalior, and Jabalpur.
- PLI scheme advantage:** The highest investment of Rs 3,513 crore is under the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme.

A FAVOURABLE BUSINESS DESTINATION

With its business-friendly environment, Madhya Pradesh offers seamless investment opportunities. The state facilitates quick land allotments, single-window clearances, and financial incentives, making it attractive for textile entrepreneurs and investors.

INVESTMENT BENEFITS:

- Capital subsidies:** Up to 40 per cent for textile units and 200 per cent for garment units.
- Competitive utility costs:** Special tariffs for water and power in PM MITRA Park.
- Ease of business:** Online approvals and streamlined regulatory processes.
- Export growth:** Expanding international markets in the USA, China, Sri Lanka, and Germany.
- Sustainability leadership:** Strong focus on eco-friendly and organic textile production.

THE FUTURE OF TEXTILE MANUFACTURING

The establishment of the PM MITRA Park in Dhar aligns with the government's 5F vision—Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign—ensuring seamless production and export processes. This mega-project is expected to generate over 1 lakh direct and 2 lakh indirect jobs, further boosting the textile industry. With robust infrastructure, a skilled workforce, and strategic government support, Madhya Pradesh is set to become a global leader in textile manufacturing, offering vast opportunities for investors and entrepreneurs alike.

LOGISTICS AND WAREHOUSING

STRENGTHENING INDIA'S SUPPLY CHAIN BACKBONE

MADHYA PRADESH IS RAPIDLY POSITIONING ITSELF AS A KEY PLAYER IN INDIA'S LOGISTICS AND WAREHOUSING SECTOR



With its central location, extensive transportation network, and progressive policies, the state is creating a seamless supply chain ecosystem. Recognised as a 'Fast Mover' in the Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) index, Madhya Pradesh is outperforming national and regional benchmarks in logistics efficiency. Its focus on energy-efficient infrastructure, cutting-edge technology, and investment-friendly policies is driving growth in the sector.

INVESTMENT POTENTIAL IN MADHYA PRADESH'S LOGISTICS SECTOR

Madhya Pradesh offers a dynamic investment landscape, supported by proactive government policies and strong infrastructure development plans. Key reasons to invest include:

- Strategic connectivity:** Centrally located with 46 national highways, six airports, and an expanding railway network for seamless logistics movement.
- High-growth market:** Expanding logistics hubs, multimodal parks, and ICDS to meet rising demand.
- Sustainability focus:** Emphasis on energy-efficient frameworks, attractive tax incentives, and green industrialisation initiatives.
- Investor-friendly policies:** Simplified regulatory frameworks, attractive tax incentives, and infrastructure development assistance to encourage private sector participation.

ENHANCING CONNECTIVITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Logistics corridors and multi-modal hubs:** Development of multi-modal logistics parks (MMLPs) in Indore & Bhopal, with a vision to establish five MMLPs by 2047.
- Expanding inland container depots (ICDs):** Currently home to seven ICDs, with plans to expand to 10 by 2029 and 15 by 2047.
- Integrated Gati Shakti cargo terminals:** 15 cargo terminals under development, targeting a total of 20 by 2047 to boost trade efficiency.
- State-of-the-art cold storage networks:** Enhancing agricultural and allied industries with strategically located cold storage near Pragati Paths, reducing post-harvest losses and improving supply chain efficiency.

THE FUTURE OF LOGISTICS IN INDIA

With its comprehensive infrastructure expansion, technology-driven efficiency, and investor-friendly approach, Madhya Pradesh is poised to become a logistics powerhouse. By strengthening its supply chain capabilities, promoting sustainability, and enhancing global trade connectivity, the state is unlocking immense potential for businesses and investors in India's booming logistics sector.

DRIVING LOGISTICS GROWTH THROUGH PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) play a crucial role in accelerating infrastructure development. The state actively collaborates with private investors to bring funding, technical expertise, and operational efficiency to logistics projects. These partnerships are expediting large-scale projects while ensuring sustainable and efficient resource management.

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS FOR OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

- Smart logistics solutions:** Deployment of RFID tracking at ICDs and real-time monitoring for enhanced operational efficiency.
- Digitised supply chains:** Use of artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), and automated warehouses to streamline logistics operations and reduce turnaround times.
- Sustainable energy practices:** Adoption of green logistics initiatives, including Behind-the-Meter power infrastructure, to reduce the environmental footprint of logistics operations.

- EV market expansion:** Madhya Pradesh's initiatives align with the growing demand for sustainable and eco-friendly vehicles.
- Strategic investment hub:** With a strong focus on infrastructure and policy support, the state attracts both domestic and international investors.

WHY CHOOSE TO INVEST IN MP?

Madhya Pradesh presents a compelling investment opportunity for the automobile and component industry due to its robust infrastructure, skilled workforce, and investor-friendly policies. The state is home to major automotive hubs such as Pithampur, Mandideep, and Dewas, attracting leading manufacturers like Mahindra & Mahindra, Eicher Motors, and John Deere. With seamless connectivity to key markets, Madhya Pradesh ensures smooth supply chain operations and export growth. The growing EV sector, with an 88 per cent increase in registrations, highlights the state's commitment to green mobility. Government incentives, including tax rebates, capital subsidies, and export benefits, make investment highly lucrative.

Madhya Pradesh also offers a stable business environment with easy land acquisition, a single-window clearance system, and incentives for employment generation. Its progressive policies, expanding market demand, and emphasis on innovation position it as a top choice for investors looking to capitalise on India's booming automotive sector.

CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE

A rising hub for pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and healthcare

MADHYA PRADESH IS MAKING SIGNIFICANT STRIDES IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL, MEDICAL DEVICE, AND HEALTHCARE INDUSTRIES, POSITIONING ITSELF AS A MAJOR PLAYER IN INDIA'S MEDICAL LANDSCAPE

With over 300 pharmaceutical manufacturing units, a rapidly expanding medical device sector, and a robust healthcare infrastructure, the state is a lucrative destination for investors and industry leaders. Strategic government initiatives, world-class research facilities, and a skilled workforce further strengthen Madhya Pradesh's role as a leader in healthcare innovation and production.

A POWERHOUSE OF PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING

Madhya Pradesh has established itself as a pharmaceutical manufacturing powerhouse, contributing 20 per cent to the state's total exports and supplying medicines to over 160 global markets. The state houses 30+ API (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient) and bulk drug manufacturers, ensuring a steady supply of essential pharmaceutical ingredients. With the presence of WHO-GMP and USFDA-compliant plants, the industry is well-equipped to meet global demand for generic drugs, life-saving medicines, and herbal products.

MEDICAL DEVICE INDUSTRY: A GROWING OPPORTUNITY

The Vikram Udyogpuri Medical Device Park, spanning 360 acres, is at the heart of Madhya Pradesh's medical device sector. Currently, 60 per cent occupied with 57 operational units, the park offers state-of-the-art scientific laboratories, testing facilities, and plug-and-play manufacturing units. It provides a strategic base for the production of imaging devices, implants, diagnostic equipment, and medical consumables. The presence of Plastic Parks and a Rare Earth Mineral & Titanium Park ensures easy access to raw materials, making it an attractive destination for medical device manufacturers.



EXPLORE THE FUTURE AT GIS 2025

Madhya Pradesh is at the forefront of India's healthcare revolution. Join us at the Global Investors Summit 2025 to discover unparalleled business opportunities, build strategic partnerships, and explore the next wave of growth in pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and healthcare.

spanning 360 acres, is at the heart of Madhya Pradesh's medical device sector. Currently, 60 per cent occupied with 57 operational units, the park offers state-of-the-art scientific laboratories, testing facilities, and plug-and-play manufacturing units. It provides a strategic base for the production of imaging devices, implants, diagnostic equipment, and medical consumables. The presence of Plastic Parks and a Rare Earth Mineral & Titanium Park ensures easy access to raw materials, making it an attractive destination for medical device manufacturers.

A STRONG HEALTHCARE ECOSYSTEM

Madhya Pradesh boasts a comprehensive healthcare network, with over 2,700 private hospitals and 12,100+ government healthcare facilities. The state is also a leader in AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy) healthcare, with 9 AYUSH colleges, 800 wellness centres, and 1,770 dispensaries providing holistic treatment options. With 25+ operational medical colleges and a rising focus on medical tourism, the state is attracting patients from across the country and abroad.

KEY INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Madhya Pradesh offers vast investment potential across multiple sectors:

Pharmaceutical expansions

- Establish WHO-GMP and USFDA-compliant manufacturing units for generic drugs, biopharmaceuticals, and herbal medicines.
- Invest in research and development for nutraceuticals, vaccines, and biotechnology-driven healthcare solutions.

Medical device production

- Set up units in Vikram Udyogpuri Medical Device Park, benefiting from advanced scientific labs and plug-and-play facilities.
- Focus on producing high-demand medical electronics, implants, and diagnostic tools.

Skilling and research innovations

- Collaborate with premier institutes such as IIS and AMPRI to drive innovation in pharmaceuticals and medical technology.
- Establish partnerships with Sant Shiromani Ravdas Global Skill Park for workforce training in the healthcare sector.

WHY MADHYA PRADESH? A STRATEGIC INVESTMENT DESTINATION

Unmatched connectivity & logistics

- Extensive transport network, including 20 major railway stations and 5.1 lakh+ km of roadways.
- 6 Inland Container Depots (ICDs) for global exports and efficient cargo handling.
- 6 Airports providing seamless domestic and international air connectivity.

World-class infrastructure

- Home to multiple WHO-GMP and USFDA-compliant pharma manufacturing units.
- 9 active pharmaceutical clusters fostering industry growth.
- Ranked among the top 8 states in India for API manufacturing.

Skilled workforce & research excellence

- 40 medical colleges, 50+ private universities, 200+ pharmacy colleges, and 140+ engineering institutions.
- A youthful workforce, with 47 per cent of the population engaged in employment and 25 per cent under the age of 30.

Business-friendly policies & incentives

- Deemed approval provisions allow industries to start operations within 30 days.
- Exemption from approvals for three years under the Madhya Pradesh Jan Vishwas Act 2024.
- Strong Ease of Doing Business ranking, with single-window clearance and quick land allotment.

Financial incentives for investors

- Investment promotion assistance covering up to 40 per cent of project costs.
- Capital subsidies ranging from 1.0x to 1.5x for employment generation.
- Stamp duty and registration charge exemptions for pharma and healthcare units.

AUTOMOBILES

Madhya Pradesh rides the automotive revolution wave

WITH INDUSTRIAL HUBS IN PITHAMPUR, MANDIDEEP AND DEWAS, MADHYA PRADESH IS EMERGING AS A DRIVING FORCE IN AUTOMOTIVE EXCELLENCE

Madhya Pradesh is accelerating its presence in India's automotive and electric vehicle (EV) sectors, capitalising on its strategic location, state-of-the-art infrastructure, and business-friendly policies. The state has attracted major manufacturers considering its position as a key player in the industry.

CUTTING-EDGE TESTING AND INNOVATION

The state is home to the National Automotive Test Tracks (NATRX) in Pithampur, one of Asia's most advanced automotive testing facilities. Featuring a high-speed testing track, 14 specialised test tracks, and five auto-specific laboratories, NATRX strengthens the state's reputation as a hub for automotive research and development. This world-class facility enables manufacturers to test vehicles under real-world conditions, fostering innovation and safety in the sector.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND INDUSTRY IMPACT

- Pithampur auto cluster:** One of India's largest, spanning 4,500 hectares.
- High-Tech automotive testing:** NATRX features Asia's longest high-speed testing track.
- Employment growth:** Over 25,000 individuals are employed in the auto sector.
- Global supply chain integration:** Auto components exported to 200+ countries.
- Robust industry presence:** Home to 30+ original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), 200+ auto component manufacturers, and 1,000+ equipment manufacturers.

LEADING THE EV TRANSITION

Madhya Pradesh is at the forefront of India's EV revolution, with an 88 per cent surge in EV registrations as of January 2025, reaching approximately 1.94 lakh electric vehicles. The state is rapidly expanding its EV infrastructure and manufacturing capacity to align with India's national priorities for sustainable mobility. With a projected CAGR of 49 per cent for the Indian EV market between 2022 and 2030, Madhya Pradesh is well-positioned to play a pivotal role in this green transformation.

MADHYA PRADESH'S CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL GROWTH

- Automobile exports:** The state plays a vital role in India's USD 191 million automobile and component exports.



Two rape women in Ggn after befriending her on social media

Gurgaon: A woman was allegedly raped by two men here after befriending her on Instagram, police said on Wednesday.

An FIR has been registered at sector 29 police station based on a complaint lodged by the woman, officials said.

The woman, a resident of Delhi, alleged that she befriended Gajendra and Vikas around 25 days ago on Instagram, she said. During the conversation, the two behaved politely and gained her trust, they added.

The woman's husband died due to COVID-19 and after befriending the accused she used to share her problems with them, police said citing the complaint.

Taking advantage of her situation the two lured her to Gurgaon and raped her. They also threatened to kill the woman if she told anyone about the incident, they said. Following her complaint, she was taken to a hospital for medical examination, which confirmed sexual assault, said a police officer. A probe is underway.

28 jeans dyeing units operating illegally in city, DPCC tells NGT

New Delhi: Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has notified the National Green Tribunal (NGT) about the discovery of 28 unauthorised jeans dyeing facilities across industrial zones in Narela, Bawana, Mayapuri, and Lawrence Road. These units have been issued closure orders and fined for environmental damage.

Following inspections of 61 units since April 2023, as part of an NGT petition calling for action against non-compliant units, the DPCC found 18 operating legally, six had been closed, one location was untraceable, and 28 were found to be operating without proper permits, including lacking valid consent to operate.

DPCC found 18 operating legally, six had been closed, one location was untraceable, and 28 were found to be operating without proper permits.

A Feb 17 report from the DPCC revealed that all three units at Lawrence Road were non-compliant. In Bawana, 16 out of 24 inspected units were closed, while in Narela, five out of 12 units were shut down. In Mayapuri, seven out of 22 units were also closed for violations.

"The fines imposed range from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 9 lakh per unit. All 28 units have been issued closure notices for violations under the Air and Water Acts," the DPCC report stated. The authority referred to its June 2023 directive to urban bodies and the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), which ordered the closure of all illegal dyeing and jeans washing units.

Environmental activist Varun Gulati initiated the matter by filing an NGT petition in 2019. This led to multiple petitions calling for action against such facilities in areas including Narela, Bawana, Khayala, Tri Nagar, Badli, Lhasapur, Nangli Sakrawati, Mayapuri, Sarita Vihar, and Aadi Vihar. Last year, he also sought intervention in Haryana regarding units polluting the Yamuna River.

In October 2023, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) took enforcement action against 52 similar units across Sonapat, Faridabad, Gurgaon, and Jhajjar.

'Many coal-based power plants still flouting emission norms'

New Delhi: Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has submitted a report to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) regarding the status of coal-based thermal power plants, fly ash management, and the impact on the city's air pollution levels.

The report highlighted that the three coal-based power plants in Delhi—located at ITO, Rajghat, and Badarpur—were shut down in 2009, 2015, and 2018, respectively.

"In the National Capital Region (NCR) of Delhi, all three coal-based power plants situated at ITO, Rajghat, and Badarpur were closed in 2009, 2015, and 2018, respectively. Therefore, no coal-based thermal power plants are currently operating in Delhi," stated the DPCC.

The tribunal took cognisance of a study by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), which indicated that coal-based power plants in the National Capital Region (NCR) release a significant 281 kilotons of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) annually—much higher than the 17.8 kilotons released by stubble burning. There are 11 thermal power plants within a 300 km radius of Delhi, most of which have yet to meet compliance standards for controlling SO₂ emissions.

DPCC REPORT SAYS

The matter pertains to Delhi's ongoing air pollution crisis. A recent CREA study revealed that thermal power plants in the region are responsible for emitting 16 times more air pollution than stubble burning.

The matter pertains to Delhi's ongoing air pollution crisis, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) reaching a severe level of 488, categorised as 'severe plus'. A recent CREA study revealed that thermal power plants in the region are responsible for emitting 16 times more air pollution than stubble burning," the DPCC report, submitted on Feb 3, stated.

In November of last year, the tribunal took note of a media report citing the CREA study, which revealed that coal-fired thermal power plants in the NCR emitted an alarming 281 kilotons of SO₂ annually. In comparison, crop burning released 17.8 kilotons of SO₂ from the burning of 8.8 million tons of stubble. Furthermore, the report highlighted that weather conditions in Delhi were exacerbating the pollution problem. Calm winds and falling temperatures were preventing pollutants from dispersing, trapping dust, smoke, and other harmful particles in the air.

These weather conditions, commonly referred to as 'cold air traps', have caused pollutants like stubble smoke to linger over Delhi and the surrounding areas, significantly worsening air quality.

In a separate directive, the NGT had earlier instructed coal-based thermal power plants to adopt scientific methods for the disposal of fly ash, a hazardous by-product of coal combustion.

Gang stealing high-end cars busted, three accused held

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Police arrested three members of a car theft gang that used an advanced key programming machine to steal high-end vehicles. The accused, identified as part of notorious Mehtab-Sameem Pilla gang, were caught by the outer north district's special staff.

The gang operated by taking specific orders for cars based on make and model. Once a request was placed, they used the key programming machine to decode and duplicate car keys, allowing them to bypass security systems effortlessly.



CRACKING THE CODE

According to police, a team tracked the gang for over a month. On Jan 29, officers received intelligence that gang leader Mehtab and his associate, Faizal, were planning to steal a vehicle in the Narela Industrial Area. "A trap was laid, and around 3 am, police apprehended both the suspects. A third accused, Sameem Pilla, was later arrested in Muzaffarnagar, UP after following raids," DCP (outer north) Nidhin Valsan said.

During the probe, it was revealed that Mehtab, the kingpin, was involved in over 35 prior cases of auto-theft and drug-related offences in Delhi and UP. The gang worked by identifying high-value targets and used key programming machines to create duplicate keys. The stolen cars were then delivered to receivers in Meerut, who either dismantled them for parts or resold them as modified models. The gang stole over 50 vehicles in recent months, police said.

"The machine used is a powerful diagnostic tool that can bypass a car's security system. It allows thieves to quickly reprogramme a new key and start the car without triggering alarms," said DCP Valsan.

PATNA SMART CITY LIMITED
Address: 4th floor, ICCB Building, SSP Office Campus, North Gandhi Maidan Patna-800001,
Email: patnasmartcity.psc@patna.gov.in, Website: smartpatna.co.in
SHORT NOTICE OF QUOTATION FOR DETERMINATION OF RATE
Quotation invited by PatnaSmart City Ltd. for non-SOR item, related to "Automation of Street lights and High mast lights of Patna at PAN city area and integration with the ICCB", Latest by 17:00 hours on 13-03-2025. The detailed technical specifications uploaded on PSC website www.patnasmartcity.co.in may be referred for details. **Managing Director** PR-019757 (B & C) 2024-25 Patna Smart City Ltd.

B-1024 GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHORDHA(R&B) CIRCLE, KHORDHA WORKS DEPARTMENT
Tender call Notice
Email: hcc@hccodisha.gov.in
Bid Identification No. CCE-Khordha (R&B) Circle-2024-25 Mem No-466 Dt. 17/02/2025
The Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha on behalf of Government of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in online cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Building works as detailed in the table below:
1. Nature of Work : Building Works
2. No. of Work : 2 Nos.
3. Tender Cost : Rs. 10000.00 (On-Line)
4. Class of Contractor : B & A Class
5. Available of Bid document in the Website : From 10.00 AM of Dt.24.02.2025 up to 05.00 PM of Dt.12.03.2025 up to 5.00 PM
6. Date of opening of Bid : Dt.13.03.2025 at 11.30 AM
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website: <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any Addendum/Corrigendum/ Cancellation of tender can also be seen in this website.
Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha OPR-342511/1903024-25

B-1022 WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, EASTERN CIRCLE (R&B), BALASORE
e-mail - sec_bib@rediffmail.com
Government of Odisha "e"-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. CCEEE-11/2024-25 No. 879 Dt. 18/02/25
Nature of work: Building, Drain and Bridge Works
Number of works: 1 No Drain, 3 Nos Building Work and 01 No Bridge Work.
Amount to be tendered: Rs.118,38,52,000 (Rupees One Hundred and Eighteen Crores Fifty Two Lakhs and Five Thousand Rupees Only)
Class of Contractor: "Special" Class, "A" & "B" Class.
Date & Time of availability of Bid Documents: From 12.02.2025 at 10:00 AM
Last Date/Time of receipt of bid in the portal: Dt.13.03.2025 up to 05:00 PM
Date of opening of bid: Dt.13.03.2025 at 11:00 AM
Name & address of the Office inviting Bid: Chief Construction Engineer, Eastern Circle (R&B), Balasore
The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>. All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE mode only.
Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer Eastern Circle (R&B) Balasore OPR-342511/1903024-25

J&K Agro Industries Development Corporation Ltd.
Gole Pully, Talab Tulu Jammu.
E-mail Id - dmpsjammu@jagro.com
E NIT No. 58 and 59 of 2024-25 JK Agro
NO :- Agro/DM/PSJ/8236-39 DATED :- 17.02.2025
NO :- Agro/DM/PSJ/8240-43 DATED :- 17.02.2025
For and on behalf of J&K Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, bids are invited from firms for (i) Insulation, Refrigeration, Electrical Construction of Common Facility Centre in Delhi -Up-Gradation of Cold Rooms for Market Development of Horticulture - Produce from Jammu & Kashmir at B-13, 14, Lawrence Road, Delhi II Insulation, Refrigeration, Doors, Pallet Racking with Shelving, Mezzanine, Material Handling Equipment, Electricals & Fire Fighting etc (Package 5) - Additional Cold Rooms for Market Development of Horticulture - Produce from Jammu & Kashmir at B-13 & 14, Lawrence Road, Delhi. The last date for applying for the tender online is 07.03.2025. For detailed info kindly visit the website www.tenders.gov.in.
Sd/-
Divisional Manager (P&S) Member Secretary, J&K Agro Ind. Dev. Corpn. Ltd. Talab Tulu, Jammu.

ODISHA STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)
Registered Office: C/2, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751012
Tel No: 0674-2353931, Fax No: 0674-2353291, Website: www.oscsc.in
Request for Proposal (RFP)
RFP Adv. No.2881/OSCC, Date: 19/ 02/ 2025
Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited invites tenders in Double Cover System through ONLINE and OFFLINE Mode for engagement of Transaction Advisor from DEA empanelled list for providing advisory services for development of storage godowns under Private Entrepreneur Guarantee Scheme at various locations of Odisha through PPP mode.
RFP Adv. No.2881/OSCC, Date: 19/ 02/ 2025
Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited invites tenders in Double Cover System through ONLINE and OFFLINE Mode for engagement of Transaction Advisor from DEA empanelled list for providing advisory services for development of storage godowns under Private Entrepreneur Guarantee Scheme at various locations of Odisha through PPP mode. The tender document with all information relating to the tender process may be downloaded from the website www.foododisha.in, www.oscsc.in & www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sl No	Event Description	Date
1	Availability of bid document in the portal	From 20/ 02/ 2025
2	Pre-Bid Meeting	04/ 03/ 2025 at 5.00 PM (Physical/ virtual mode) at Office of OSCSC Ltd., C/2, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751012
3	Last Date and time for submission of Proposals (both online/offline)	19/ 03/ 2025 up to 05.00 PM
4	Opening of Technical Proposal	24/ 03/ 2025 at 04.00 PM at Office of OSCSC Ltd., C/2, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751012
5	Date of Technical presentation	The date and time will be intimated through e-mail
6	Opening of Financial Bid (for technically qualified bidders)	To be announced

Amendments (corrigendum/cancellation/ tenders etc., if any shall be published only in the websites mentioned above. The Technical proposals completed in all respect shall be submitted in online mode through tendersodisha.gov.in as well as offline mode through Speed Post/Registered Post/Courier to Managing Director, Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd, C/2 Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar, PIN-751012, Odisha with stipulated timeline positively. The Financial Proposals shall be submitted through online mode only. The authority reserves the right to cancel bid by the entire selection process without assigning any reason therefor.

Sd/-
Managing Director, OSCSC Ltd OPR-2881/11/08024-25

Bareilly Smart City Limited (BSCL) Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh, India)
Ref No: BSCL/2024-25/109 Date: 18.02.2025
Bareilly Smart City Limited, Bareilly invites a tender for the following projects:

Sr. No.	Name of the Work	Earliest Money Deposit (Rs.)	Tender Fee with GST@18% (Rs.)	Work completion Period	Bid Start Date
01.	"Request for Proposal for Selection of Agency for Operation and Maintenance of Bareilly Shooting Club with Interiors & Equipments in Bareilly for 15(Fifteen) Years"	4,50,00,000	11,800	15 Years	19.02.2025 04:00 PM

- Detailed NIT and Bid Document shall be available at: <https://tenderup.nic.in> and <http://www.bareillysmartcity.in>
- Tender call notice in two bid systems (Part-I: General & Technical Bid and Part-II: Financial Bid Price Bid / BOQ) from intending bidders fulfilling the eligibility criteria mentioned in this Notice and other qualifying requirements mentioned in this RFP.
- Amendment to NIT if any would be published on website only.
- In case of any queries on this RFP, intending bidders may contact the SENIOR GENERAL MANAGER, BAREILLY SMART CITY LIMITED, Bareilly (Tel. No. :- 0561-2551074, 7055519602) or send an email to: seo.bscl@ic@gmail.com

Chief Executive Officer, Bareilly Smart City Limited, Bareilly.

DELHI CANTONMENT BOARD TENDER NOTICE
Delhi Cantonment Board invites tenders from the Govt. approved contractors in appropriate category through e-tendering, for the following work as detailed below:

Date of release of tender through e-procurement	25.02.2025 at 17:00 hrs
Last date & time for download of tender documents	20.03.2025 upto 13:00 hrs
Last date and time submission of e-tenders	20.03.2025 upto 13:00 hrs
Date and time for opening of e-tenders	21.03.2025 at 13:30 hrs

Details of work

Sl. No.	Name of work	Amount of Contract	Earliest Money Deposit Amount
1.	Term Contract for repairs to Hand Standing, Brick Paving, Round abouts, Traffic Islands, Park and Lake in all eight wards, Delhi Cantonment	Rs.3,00,00,000/-	Rs.3,75,000/-
2.	Term Contract for repair/improvements to path/pavements etc with Ready Mix Concrete in Delhi Cantonment	Rs.10,00,00,000/-	Rs.2,25,000/-
3.	Term Contract for Stainless steel working including sheds in Delhi Cantonment area.	Rs.2,00,00,000/-	Rs.2,75,000/-
4.	Term Contract for improvement, repair, construction of Footpath/walking path, jogging tracks in Delhi Cantonment.	Rs.5,00,00,000/-	Rs.5,75,000/-
5.	Term Contract for white wash/diastermer, cement paint etc. to CF properties of Delhi Cantonment Board	Rs.2,50,00,000/-	Rs.3,25,000/-

The bidder may download the "Tender Document" and other terms and conditions as applicable including detailed NIT, terms & conditions, particular specifications, special conditions, signing of Integrity Pact, adherence to GR, 2017 provisions, applicability of Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India), Order 2017 etc as provided in the technical bid from web site of <http://delhicant.gov.in> & www.delhi.cant.gov.in.

Please note that any amendment, clarification, errata to tender documents shall be uploaded on website <http://delhicant.gov.in> & Cant Board website www.delhi.cant.gov.in. All intending bidders are required to visit aforementioned websites to check for amendments, clarifications, errata etc prior to quoting their rates & no compensation whatsoever shall be admissible to the bidders for failure to register the same.

Telephone No.25695450
No. DCB/IC-ITN/2024-25/12
OFFICE OF THE CANTONMENT BOARD
Website : www.delhi.cant.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
Delhi Cantonment

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARAMPUR (AIPO-Procurement, New Income Tax Office, Barampur-180011, Ganjam, Odisha)
E-Mail :- hcc@hccodisha.gov.in, Tel No. :- 9886204287

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. Online Tender/31-2024-25/BPR

Identification No	Name of work	No. of Approx. Estimated Works	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion
Online Tender/ 31-2024-25/BPR	Buildings Works	02	From Rs. 453.71 Lakhs to Rs. 621.82 Lakhs	'A' Class or 'Special' Class as applicable 15 (Fifteen) to 18 (Eighteen) Calendar Month as provided

Procurement Officer: Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Barampur
Bid Identification No: Online Tender/31-2024-25/BPR
From: 25.02.2025
To: 11.03.2025
Further details & Corrigendum if any can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer R.W. Circle, Barampur OPR-2881/11/08024-25

BIJU PATNAK UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, ODISHA ROURKELA
BPUT/KK/EDM/226/2024/1175 Date: 18.02.2025
TENDER CALL NOTICE FOR SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ACTIVE LED WALL FOR NETAJI SUBASH AUDITORIUM AT BPUT CAMPUS
Sealed Tender (two bid system) are invited from the reputed and experienced agencies/ Firms for Supply and Installation of active LED Wall for Netaji Subash auditorium at BPUT campus, BPUT, Rourkela. The detail Tender available in the website i.e www.bput.ac.in. The University reserves right to reject any Tender without assigning any reason thereof. The last date and time of receiving of sealed Tender by Speed Post addressing to the Registrar, Biju Patnaik University of Technology, Chhend, Rourkela -769015 is 24.03.2025 by 5.00 PM. The tender received beyond the due date and time shall be rejected summarily.
Sd/-
REGISTRAR OPR-1159/11/08024-25

SEARCH FOR MISSING
General Public is hereby informed that one Girl Namely: Kashish, DO: Md. Mobin, R/o: F-7/W-48/196 T-Huts Jugg, Sultanpur, Delhi; Sex: Female, Age: 23 Years, Height: 5' Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Face: Round, Wearing: Yellow Pajama Blue Top and Slipper, in feet has been missing since 07.02.2025 from F-7/W-48/196 T-Huts Jugg, Sultanpur, Delhi, from the Jurisdiction of Police Station Raj Park Delhi, In this regard DD No. 50A Dated 08.02.2025 has been registered at P.S. Raj Park Delhi, Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the Missing Girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this Missing Girl Please inform to the following.
Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-Mail Id : cbi@cbi.gov.in
P.S. : Raj Park Delhi DP/2080/OD/2025 SHO
SHO
Mobile: 7065036123, 8010626467

SEARCH FOR MISSING
General public is hereby informed that a Male namely: Parveen@Nitin@Diip, S/o: Raksh Kumar, R/o: 633R/84, Sabji Wali Gali, Satyanagar Mandir, Nabi Karim, Delhi has been missing since 05.02.2025 at about 04:30 PM from his home. In this regard DD No. 39A, Dated 10.02.2025, has been registered at P.S. Nabi Karim, Delhi. The description of missing Male is as under:
Name: Parveen@Nitin@Diip, Age:26 Years, Height:5'3", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Medium, Wearing: Green Colour T-shirt with Blue Colour Lower and White Colour Slipper in Feet. (Mental condition is not good) If anyone have any information about this missing Male please inform P.S. Nabi Karim, Delhi. Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cbi@cbi.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO
Police Station Nabi Karim, Delhi DP/1982/CD/2025 Ph: 011-23621045, 8758070428

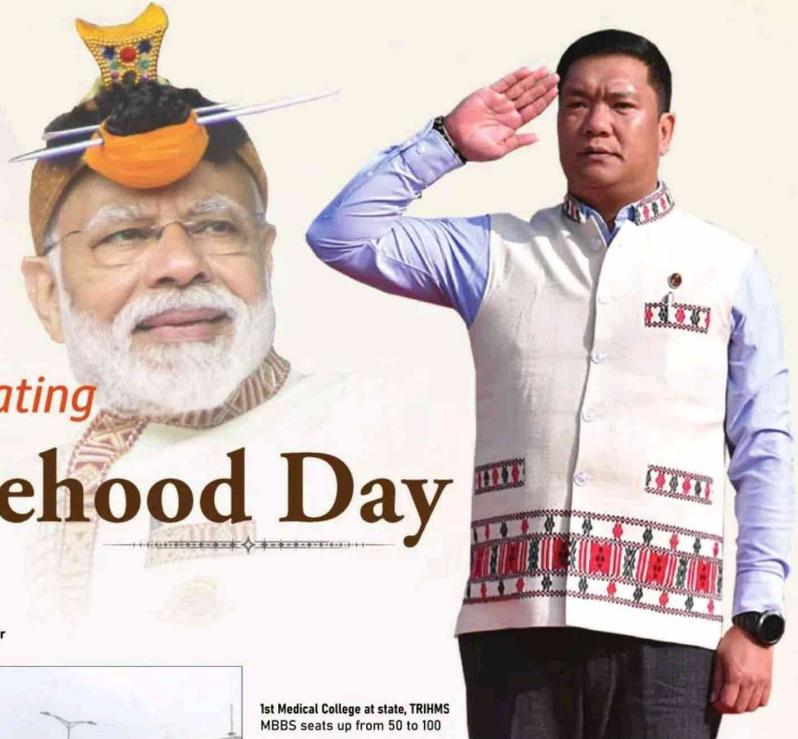
SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED
General Public is hereby informed that one Girl (depicted in the photo) namely Gitanjali Di Rajkumar, R/o: J70, Rajni Gandhi Camp, Sadh Nagar, Part-2, Palam Colony, New Delhi, Age-18+ Yrs, has been reported missing since 03.02.2025 at 8:00AM from her Residence, vide, DD No. 43A, Dated 05.02.2025, registered at Police Station Palam Village, South-West Dist., New Delhi. Her physical description is as under:
Gitanjali
Sex: Female, Height: 5'0", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Hair: Normal Black, Wearing: Black Suit & Salwar and Slipper on her Feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing girl please inform to the following.
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
DP/1933/SW/2025
Police Station Palam Village, South-West Dist., New Delhi Ph: 011-25365979, 9873193002

ई-निविदा सूचना
संसर्गभारत/इच्छक चर्म/व्यक्ति को सूचना दिया जाता है कि निम्नलिखित नाम पर नगर पालिका परिषद, नैनीताल द्वारा जू-वर्ल्ड सेवा ठेका वर्ष 2025-2030 (मार्च 2025 से 31.03.2030) 05 वर्ष लंबे निम्नानुसार ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जा रही है। निविदा में प्रस्तावित करने लंबे www.uktdenders.gov.in पर निम्न प्रकार की सूचना देनी होगी अनिवार्य की जा सकती है।
क्र.सं. को काय का विवरण ई-निविदा संख्या ई-निविदा
01 200 शुट्टल सेवा 2025_NPNTL_1 www.uktdenders.gov.in 80449-1
अन्य: इच्छक चर्म/व्यक्ति/निविदादाता अनिवार्य निविदा आमंत्रित कर सकते हैं, जो कि निविदा करने में उल्लंघन विवरण के अनुसार शासन द्वारा गलत करी के साथ निविदादाताओं को अस्वीकार में छोड़े जायेगा। अनिवार्य: निविदा करी के साथ निविदादाता को निविदा दाखिल करी पारदर्शी प्रक्रिया में शामिल हो सकते हैं। निविदादाताओं को भी निविदा निविदा करी करी करी भी निविदा को इच्छक/अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार अपेक्षापूर्वक/करी करी का साथ सुरक्षित होगा।
अध्यक्ष अधिकारी अधिकारी, नगर पालिका परिषद, नैनीताल नगर पालिका परिषद, नैनीताल



Viksit Arunachal celebrating

39th Statehood Day



Sela Tunnel
Delivered March 2024



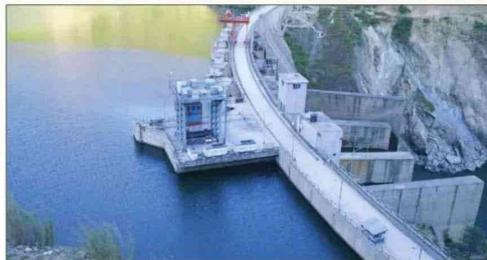
Donyi Polo Airport, Itanagar
Delivered November 2022



1st Medical College at state, TRIHMS
MBBS seats up from 50 to 100



Arunachal Pradesh University
Delivered July 2022



Kameng Hydro Electric Project
Delivered November 2022



Pipsorang, Vijaynagar & Tali
connected by road network for first time since Independence



Governance reaching at people's doorsteps
- 1st Cabinet Aapke Dwar conducted at Nyapin on 17th February 2025
- Key decisions made for overall development of Arunachal Pradesh



Itanagar Underpass
Delivered October 2021

Development... Promised... Delivered...

JAI HIND, JAI ARUNACHAL



PSPCCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited. Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001. Corporate Identity Number: U40190PB2010SC033813. Website: www.pspccl.com

TAMIL NADU MARITIME BOARD (Government of Tamil Nadu). Tender No. 4770/S1/2022. Dated: 18.02.2025. Request For Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Port Operator for Operation, Maintenance & Marketing of Cuddalore Port for a Period of 40 Years.

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, चतुर्थ वृत्त, लोक निर्माण विभाग, रुद्रपुर (ऊम सिंह नगर). (Phone/Fax) : 0594-240921 mail- sepudwsn@gmail.com. राष्ट्रीय प्रतियोगिता ई-निविदा (e-tendering)

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY. Tender No. N/2024/27/2025. Dated: 13-02-2025. The undersigned, on behalf of the Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY. E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE. Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (Traction Distribution) N.C. Railway, Jhansi on behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tender) No. JHS-10/TENDER-2024-21 [Approx Cost (Rs.) : 2855568.28]

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION. General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified female named Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, was found dead due to train accident on 17.02.2025, at KM Pole No. 525, 05/27, Upline, Adashar Nagar, Railway Station, Delhi, in this regard DD No. 19A, Dated: 17.02.2025, U/S 194 BNSs, has been lodged at Police Station Subzi Mandi Railway Station, Delhi-110007.

Table with 7 columns: क्र.सं, कार्य का नाम, शरीर धराशयि (स्नायु मे), निविदा प्रय (रु में), निविदा की वैधता, कार्य पूर्ण की अवधि, ठेकेदार की श्रेणी. Row 1: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

fssai FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS AUTHORITY OF INDIA. Inspiring Trust, Assuring Safe & Nutritious Food. FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110002. TENDER NOTICE. FSSAI has invited bids for procurement of "Microbial Detection System" in FSSAI through GeM portal.

UJVN LIMITED (An Unlisted Govt. Enterprise). Tender No. 130. Date: 19.02.2025. e-Tender Date Extension Notice-09. Due to unavoidable reasons, the dates of submission of tenders invited against

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission. Petition No. 225/T/2024. Dated: 14.2.2025. NOTICE UNDER CLAUSE (a) OF SUB-SECTION (5) OF SECTION 15 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003. An application under Section 14 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (the Act) has been made by Karur Transmission Limited, C 105, Anand Niketan, New Delhi-110021 for the grant of a separate transmission licence for augmentation of 2x500 MVA, 400/230 KV transformation capacity (3rd & 4th ICTs) at Karur PS and implementation of the 1 no. of 230KV line bay at Karur 400/230KV PS for interconnection of REGS of M/s Nannal Solar Park Pvt. Ltd. on RTM route.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY. Tender Notification. CMS/AGRA/NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against No. AGC-MED-LP-2025 Closing Date/Time 11/03/2025 10.30 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL. General public is hereby informed that this girl namely Komal D/o Harish R/o Jhuggi No. N-116/258, J. Camp, Badli, Samaypur Badli, Delhi, Age: 15 years, Height: 5 feet 3 inch, Build: Medium, Face: Round, Complexion: Fairish, wearing black Colour jacket & lower and hawai chappal in feet has been missing from her house since 14.02.2025. In this regard a FIR No. 185/2025 u/s 137(2) BNS dated 14.02.2025 has been registered at P.S. Samaypur Badli, Delhi.

NOTICE INVITING BIDS. BIDDING NOTICE. National Competitive Bidding. Name of the Work: CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR PLANNING & DESIGNING AND PREPARATION OF DETAILED PROJECT REPORT (DPR) FOR RECREATIONAL ZONE OF CORE CAPITAL CITY AT SITE-I, HEA AREA, RANCHI. Mode of submission of bids: Online Bidding (two bid system).

उत्तराखण्ड राज्य विद्युत निगम लि. उत्तराखण्ड राज्य विद्युत निगम लि.

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL. General public is hereby informed that this girl namely Komal D/o Harish R/o Jhuggi No. N-116/258, J. Camp, Badli, Samaypur Badli, Delhi, Age: 15 years, Height: 5 feet 3 inch, Build: Medium, Face: Round, Complexion: Fairish, wearing black Colour jacket & lower and hawai chappal in feet has been missing from her house since 14.02.2025. In this regard a FIR No. 185/2025 u/s 137(2) BNS dated 14.02.2025 has been registered at P.S. Samaypur Badli, Delhi.

NORTHERN RAILWAY. PROCLAMATION REQUIRED. THE APPEARANCE OF PERSON ACCUSED (SEE SECTION 82 Cr.Pc). Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Suraj Suman Etc. S/o-Krishnan Kumar, Age-30 Years, Temporary Address-H No. 516/06, Shiv Laal Chok, Gajinder Park, Kalkaji Delhi-19, Permanent Address-Village-Choti Ali Ganj Pakur (Ward No. 01), Post-Tasna, District-Pakur (Jharkhand), has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No-2094/2023 punishable U/s 143(1) RLY Act and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that said accused Suraj Suman can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Suraj Suman has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said Warrant).

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED (A Government of India Undertaking). INVITATION NOTICE. 1. Name of Work: Erection of OHE works for 2 x 25 KV Traction system between Rathi to Khandaava section (KM 658 to 704) of Bhopal Division under West Central Railway in the state of MP. Notice No: KR/COE/LET-KNWR/19/25 Dtd: 20/02/2025. Completion Period: 6 (Six) Months. Estimated Cost: ₹ 1,53,28,461/- excluding GST. EMD : ₹ 2,26,650/-.

उत्तराखण्ड राज्य विद्युत निगम लि. उत्तराखण्ड राज्य विद्युत निगम लि.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED. General public is hereby informed that a female namely Laxmi W/o: Siddhartha, R/o O-229/230 Mangolpuri, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped from her home In this regard, a DD No 100A DT, 16.02.2025 has been registered at PS: Mangol Puri, Delhi. The description of the missing female as under.

GREATER RANCHI DEVELOPMENT, AGENCY LIMITED. NOTICE INVITING BIDS. NIB No: GRDA/VO/REC_ZONE_05/2024-01, Date: 18.02.2025. National Competitive Bidding.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED. General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Radha W/o Pintu, R/O H No. 37/16, Gajinder Park, Phase-4, Shiv Vihar, Karawal Nagar, Delhi, Age: 18 years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Build: Thin, wearing Yellow Colour Jacket, Blue colour Plazo and Chappal in feet, has been missing/kidnapped from her house in the area of P.S. Karawal Nagar, Delhi since 11.02.2025 at 4:30 PM. In this regard a DD No. 51A, dated 15.02.2025 has been lodged at P.S. Karawal Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the female but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, उत्तराखण्ड राज्य विद्युत निगम लि. उत्तराखण्ड राज्य विद्युत निगम लि.

भारत का राजपत्र The Gazette of India. श्री जी. सी. ए. - 33004 / 99. REGD. No. D-133004/99. EXTRAORDINARY. PART II - Section 3 - Sub-section (ii) PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

GREATER RANCHI DEVELOPMENT, AGENCY LIMITED. NOTICE INVITING BIDS. NIB No: GRDA/VO/REC_ZONE_05/2024-01, Date: 18.02.2025. National Competitive Bidding. 1. Name of the Work: CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR PLANNING & DESIGNING AND PREPARATION OF DETAILED PROJECT REPORT (DPR) FOR RECREATIONAL ZONE OF CORE CAPITAL CITY AT SITE-I, HEA AREA, RANCHI.

SEARCH FOR MISSING. General Public is hereby informed that one girl namely Diksha, D/o: Rajesh, R/O: H No. 2668, Gali Arya Samaj, Sita Ram Bazar, Turkman Gate, Delhi, Sex: Female, Age: 22 years, Height: 4'5", Complexion: Shallow, Build: Strong, Face: Round, Wearing: Yellow Colour Suit, in feet has been missing since 15.02.2025 from H. No. 2668, Gali Arya Samaj, Sita Ram Bazar, Turkman Gate, Delhi, from the Jurisdiction of Police Station Chandni Mahal Delhi, in this regard DD No. 65A Dated 15.02.2025 has been registered at P.S. Chandni Mahal Delhi, Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the Missing Girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about this Missing Girl please inform to the following.

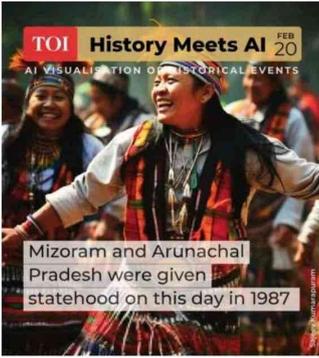
NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY. TENDER NOTICE. Sr. Div. Electrical Engineering (Traction) N.C. Railway, Jhansi on behalf of the President of India, invite the following E-Tender: No. JHS-10/TENDER-2024-21 [Approx Cost (Rs.) : 2855568.28]

PSPCCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited. Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001. Corporate Identity Number: U40190PB2010SC033813. Website: www.pspccl.com. Tender No. 4770/S1/2022. Dated: 18.02.2025. Request For Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Port Operator for Operation, Maintenance & Marketing of Cuddalore Port for a Period of 40 Years.

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, उत्तराखण्ड राज्य विद्युत निगम लि. उत्तराखण्ड राज्य विद्युत निगम लि.

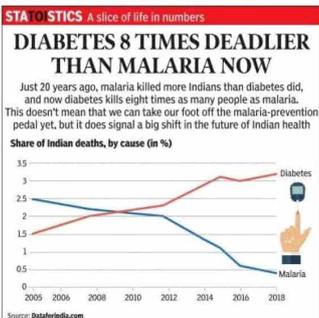
PORTUGUESE DIDN'T RULE ENTIRE GOA FOR 450 YRS, HISTORY DISTORTED: CM SAWANT

ODISHA CM PROMISES 'QUICK JUSTICE', URGES STUDENTS FROM NEPAL TO RETURN TO KIIIT



TOI History Meets AI FEB 20 AI VISUALIZATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS

Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh were given statehood on this day in 1987... Tiger cub killed in U'khand hit-&-run



Share of Indian deaths, by cause (in %)

Couple grows saffron in 400sqft Nagpur room, nets ₹50L/year

Nagpur: In an unassuming 400-square-foot room in their flat, a Nagpur couple is growing the world's most expensive spice—saffron—without soil or water.

Concerned over IS team's visit to B'desh. Army chief

'Armed Forces Shouldn't Be Dragged Into Political Controversies'

New Delhi: India since 2014 has been "assertive" in its communication to Pakistan... General Upendra Dwivedi said India and China are looking at how they both can reduce massive troops deployed along LAC after disengagement in eastern Ladakh last Oct.



General Upendra Dwivedi

Plan to divert Manikaran 'holy water' stirs row

Kullu: A proposal to transfer water from the natural hot water springs at Manikaran—a site of pilgrimage for both Hindus and Sikhs—to the nearby popular tourist destination of Kasol, 4km away, in Parvati Valley of Kullu district has upset the locals.



Locals are upset over proposal to use Manikaran hot spring water for 'commercial purposes' at the nearby popular tourist destination of Kasol

Car crash leads to 3 bodies at home, cops suspect suicide pact

Kolkata: A car crash on Kolkata's EM Bypass left three members of a prominent business family gravely injured early on Wednesday, but soon spiralled into a shocking sequence of events as the bodies of three other members were found lying lifeless in their home, mere kms away in Tangra.



Kolkata cops suspect the Deys were driven to take the extreme step after business losses

'Accidental death' in Guj turns out to be murder by same-sex partner

Surat: What seemed like an accidental death at an embroidery unit in Gujarat's Katargam earlier this month turned out to be a premeditated murder. Cops arrested a 19-year-old man for allegedly strangling his 24-year-old same-sex partner on Feb 8.

Soban Singh Jeena Government Institute of Medical Science & Research Almora. Walk-in interview for various post of Professor, Associate Professor & Assistant Professor.

उपरोक्त लोको सेवा आयोग सशक्ति विज्ञापित. विज्ञान संख्या-A-4/E-1/2023, दिनांक-04.09.2023 के अनंतर...

Maharashtra Airport Development Company Ltd. TENDER NOTICE. MADC invites Request for Proposals (RFP) from eligible consultants for conducting PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF GREENFIELD AIRPORT IN VADHAVAN PORT REGION IN PALGHAR DISTRICT.

INDRAPRASTHA INSTITUTE of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DELHI. VACANCY NOTIFICATION (NON-ACADEMIC POSTS) - ADVERTISEMENT NUMBER 02/2025

अदिति महाविद्यालय (दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय) Aditi Mahavidyalaya (University of Delhi). Advt. No. AM/Adv/LT/2025/01. Online applications are invited in the prescribed Application Form at web link https://dunt.uod.ac.in

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT (Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India). Online Course on Disaster Risk Reduction. National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India is offering online courses on Disaster Risk Reduction.

निविदा सूचना. तिरहुत दूध उत्पादक सहकारी संघ लिमिटेड, मुजफ्फरपुर (बिहार) इच्छुक निविदादाताओं से 200 मीट्रिक टन सुधा सफेद मक्खन (White Butter, As per BIS Standard) एवं 20 मीट्रिक टन घी (As per FSSAI Standard) विक्रय हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित करती है।

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING. E-TENDER NOTICE F16/03/2024/Pub (PW). NCEERT invites applications for enlistment of Offset Printers from the eligible firms/printers in India at NCEERT, Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi - 110 016 for a period of 30 months.

UJVIN LIMITED. H.O.: UJJWAL, Maheshwari Bldg, G-11, Sector-14, Gurgaon, Haryana-240096. Telephone: 9155-2763808, Fax: 9155-2763508. CIN No. U40101UR2001SGG025866. Website: www.ujvin.com

निविदा सूचना. तिरहुत दूध उत्पादक सहकारी संघ लिमिटेड, मुजफ्फरपुर (बिहार) इच्छुक निविदादाताओं से 200 मीट्रिक टन सुधा सफेद मक्खन (White Butter, As per BIS Standard) एवं 20 मीट्रिक टन घी (As per FSSAI Standard) विक्रय हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित करती है।

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING. E-TENDER NOTICE F16/03/2024/Pub (PW). NCEERT invites applications for enlistment of Offset Printers from the eligible firms/printers in India at NCEERT, Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi - 110 016 for a period of 30 months.

India, Malaysia to boost ties in defence production, AI

New Delhi: India and Malaysia on Wednesday decided to enhance cooperation in maritime security, defence production and multilateral engagements as well as in emerging areas like cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence.

The 13th meeting of the Malaysia-India defence cooperation committee at Kuala Lumpur, co-chaired by defence secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and his counterpart Lokman Hakim Bin Ali, held wide-ranging discussions on "effective and practical initiatives" to further expand bilateral defence engagements as well as on regional and global issues.

The two sides also exchanged the finalised "terms of reference" for the establishment of a forum on the Russian-origin Sukhoi-30 fighters that both countries operate. As part of its policy to steadily enhance military ties with Asian countries, India had earlier trained Malaysian pilots to fly the Sukhoi-30 jets.

"The Sukhoi-30 forum will ensure close cooperation between the two air forces in exchanging expertise and best practices in the maintenance of the aircraft," an official said.

"The two sides identified ways to deepen existing defence collaboration, particularly in the industry, maritime security and multilateral engagements. They agreed to form a joint focus group to address non-traditional maritime security threats," the official said.

Chargesheet not filed in 180 days, trio with terror links gets bail

New Delhi: A Delhi court recently granted conditional bail to three men allegedly involved in a terror module linked to al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), observing that accused individuals are entitled to bail if investigation is delayed to file a chargesheet within the mandated 180-day period from the date of arrest, reports Vineet Upadhyay.

"Despite the lapse of the statutory time period of 180 days, the chargesheet in the instant matter has not been filed against them. Learned additional public prosecutor submitted that the investigation regarding them is still pending. In my considered opinion, there is no embargo on the powers of the investigating agency to investigate the matter further, however, after the lapse of statutory time, the accused persons are entitled to statutory bail," said the court of additional sessions judge Hardeep Kaur.

The three accused — Umar Farooq Khan, Anas Anari, and Arshad Khan, all from Ranchi — had been arrested by Delhi Police in a special case on August 22 last year in Rajasthan's Bhiwadi district for allegedly receiving arms training as part of a terror module.

Another accused, Shahbaz Anari, was arrested in the same year and is in judicial custody.

The court granted bail to the three men under various conditions, including furnishing a heavy and surety of Rs 50,000 each with two sureties each in the like amount.

Spared gallows, man rapes & kills 11-year-old, held

Bhopal: A pedophile who was jailed once for raping a child, sentenced to death for raping a second child, and then acquitted by HC, has been arrested by the police.

The suspect, 40-year-old Ramesh Khatu, was caught after a 16-day hunt. Police questioned over 400 suspects, scammed more than 400 hours of CCTV footage, and scoured nine districts and 17 railway stations until they located him in Prayagraj and then tracked him to the MP-Rajasthan border where he was arrested Wednesday.

The child had gone missing on the night of Feb 1 and was found the next morning in the jungles of Sanjay Nagar, covered in blood. Her family did not approach cops and it was an Amgadi worker who alerted police two days later on seeing blood on her clothes. She was brought to Bhopal, and was on ventilator for six days but couldn't be saved.

83% of Laxki Bai recipients married, widows mere 4.7%

At 29%, Most Women Are In 30-39 Yr Group

Priyanka Kakodkar | TNW

Mumbai: Almost 83% of beneficiaries of the Mukhya Mantri Mahila Laxki Bai Yojana are married women, according to an analysis of around 2.5 crore recipients of the scheme. Unmarried women account for 11.8% of beneficiaries while widows account for 4.7%.

Divorced, destitute and deserted women collectively account for less than 1% of beneficiaries, data shows. Divorced women are 0.3% of total beneficiaries, deserted women 0.2%, and destitute women 0.1% of the total.

The 30-39 year age group had the highest number of beneficiaries at 28% of the total. The 21-29 year group followed next with 25.5%, while the 40-49 year group accounted for 23.6% of the beneficiaries. Indeed, 70% of beneficiaries fell between the 21-39 year age group and 22% fell in the 50-65 year group. The 60-65 year age group accounted for almost 5% of beneficiaries.

"Almost 5% of women aged 60-65 years have received the benefit indicating that women who were not receiving any benefit have received much-needed financial support," said women and child welfare secretary Anup Kumar Yadav.

Pune district topped in applications, followed by Nashik and Ahmednagar. The scheme provides a stipend of Rs 1,500 per month to married, divorced, widowed, deserted and destitute women



Divorced, destitute and deserted women collectively account for less than 1% of beneficiaries of the BJP-led Fadnis gov't flagship welfare scheme in Maharashtra, data shows

between ages of 21 and 65 years, whose annual family income is below Rs 2.5 lakh and who are domiciled in the state. One eligible unmarried woman from each family can also be considered. The Mahatma alliance had promised to raise the stipend to Rs 2,000 once voted to office and is under pressure to announce it in the budget next month.

Beneficiaries are being checked to remove those ineligible for the scheme which costs Rs 46,000 crore annually. So far, 5.5 lakh beneficiaries have been dropped. The figure could go up to 15 lakh, CM Fadnis has said.

Blow to Shinde as BMC scraps ₹1.4k cr project

Mumbai: Yet another pet project of former CM Eknath Shinde, now the deputy CM, has hit a dead end, with BMC scrapping its Rs 1,400 crore tender for a four-year period for door-to-door solid waste collection, slum passage cleaning, and drainage and toilet maintenance, reports Richa Pinto.

The tender was invited in Feb last year. Early last year, BMC, upon instructions of Shinde, organised a deep cleaning drive every weekend and was also directed to appoint an agency for regular cleaning of slums across the city.

Trouble began when Federation of Berojar Sansthas, previously involved in such work, moved HC in the 2024 monsoon assembly session. MLC Pravin Darekar sought to know why community-based groups were not included with its ambit. With the matter dragging on, BMC scrapped the tender altogether.

A Unique Birthday Gift: TOI front page from the day you were born

Imagine receiving a newspaper front page from the day you were born. It's not just a collection of headlines; it's a snapshot of the world as it existed on that very day. The stories, advertisements, and photographs on that page offer a glimpse into the culture, technology and events of the time. It's like stepping into a time machine and experiencing history first-hand.

TOI presents a truly unique and thoughtful birthday gift — TOI front page from the day you were born. It combines the allure of history with a personalised touch, creating a present that is both meaningful and educational. It

allows the recipient to connect with the past in a tangible way and serves as a reminder of the richness of our shared history. So, the next time you're searching for that perfect birthday gift, consider giving the gift of history — a newspaper front page from a date that holds special meaning for the person you care about.

A Personalised Connection: What makes this gift idea even more special is the ability to personalise it with the recipient's first name on the front page (Rakul's special day in the file of The Times of India). This personalisation adds a layer of thoughtfulness that makes the gift truly unique.



To order this unique and thoughtful birthday gift, visit www.timesofindia.com. Simply enter date of your choice, preview the front page, select frame/type scroll preference and place your order; please don't forget to mention the "First Name" you want to be printed on the front page, and we will deliver this personalised gift to your physical mailing address. For corporate queries, please write into us at ts@timesofindia.com.

Assam tribunal on foreigners can't overturn own finding: SC

Dhananjay Mahapatra | @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has ruled that once a designated Foreigners Tribunal rejects Assam gov't claim that a person is an illegal Bangladeshi immigrant who entered the state after March 25, 1971, the tribunal cannot review its own order based on the administration's fresh plea and additional documents.

A tribunal had on Feb 15, 2018, after considering oral and documentary evidence in a case filed in 2016, decided that one Rejia Khatun was not a foreigner from Bangladesh who entered India on or after March 25, 1971.

There was another case registered in 2012 alleging the same person to be a foreigner from Bangladesh. This was taken up for hearing on Dec 24, 2019, and the



SUPREME JUDGMENT

tribunal ruled that despite its Feb 15 order: it had the power to scrutinise documents and materials and even its findings in earlier proceedings. This was challenged by Khatun before Gauhati HC, which upheld the power of the tribunal to go into the question afresh notwithstanding the earlier decision declaring Khatun as a foreigner.

Senior advocate Pijush Roy appearing for Khatun,

told a bench of Justices A S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan that the tribunals had no power to review its own orders. Accepting the argument, the bench said state gov't was a party to the 2018 order and neither did it seek recall of the order nor challenge it before the HC.

"The Dec 2019 order indicates that the tribunal wants to sit in an appeal against its own concluded judgment and order. Such power can never be exercised by the tribunal. The remedy of the state gov't or for that matter the central gov't was to challenge the order dated Feb 15, 2018," it said. The bench said the tribunal is powerless to reconsider its own orders and set aside the HC order as well as the Dec 24, 2019, decision of the tribunal. In addition, the bench shut out the Centre of Assam gov't from challenging the tribunal's 2018 order.

VALLEY TENSE OVER PARCHED JHELMUM



A dried-up portion of the Jhelum on Wednesday. J&K is staring at water crisis due to a massive deficit in rainfall. Kashmir has witnessed a dry winter this season with an overall 80% rainfall deficit, raising the possibility of a drought in the Valley. CM Omar Abdullah on Thursday called for a more proactive water management to overcome the crisis

UP gov't faces HC ire for 11-year aid delay to acid attack survivor

Meerut: Allahabad HC Wednesday slammed the district magistrate of Meerut and an UP gov't for the "apathetic handling" of a compensation case involving an acid attack survivor, who has been waiting for relief under the PM's National Relief Fund for 11 years, reports Sandeep Rai.

A division bench said, "The lackadaisical approach of the district magistrate, Meerut, clearly indicates incompetence and negligence on the part of the authorities. Authorities are required to fulfil their primary duty to serve the people, especially those disabled by egregious acts of violence." In Dec 2013, an order from Meerut, 18 at the time, had suffered severe burns in an acid attack following a dispute over road construction. The victim, who had 100% disability, affecting her eyes, chest, neck, and face. While state gov't granted her Rs 5 lakh compensation in 2016, she is yet to receive an additional Rs 1 lakh from the PM Relief Fund.

Gunshot kills 5-year-old boy at MP wedding

Bhopal: A five-year-old boy succumbed to gunshot injuries sustained while attending a wedding in Madhya Pradesh's Morena district Tuesday night.

His family was initially reluctant to file a complaint, but cops convinced them to do so. Sources said, a case of murder was registered against accused Abhishek Shukla (23), a neighbour of the groom. Shukla is part of a money-laundering ring. He had come with his family to attend his aunt's wedding. While playing with other children, a gunshot rang out, and Gappu could not react in time, hitting him in the chest. He died on way to hospital. Probe was under way to determine if the shooting was an accident or an act of vengeance, police said.

HC seeks U'khand reply as UCC form asks for live-in couples' past info

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Dehradun: Uttarakhand high court has directed the state gov't to respond to a petition challenging the registration format for live-in relationships under the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), which seeks details of past relationships, including divorces and widows. The next hearing is scheduled for Friday.

The bench of chief justice G Narendran and justice Ashish Kashyap heard the petition filed by a man from Ranikhet, originally from Mumbai, who resides in the state as a tenant. The counsel representing the live-in couple — an IIT Bombay alumnus and a fashion designer — argued that the registration form under UCC requires them to provide details about past events, including marital history, which they claim is unfair.

"The form asks for unnecessary details about di-

A couple's counsel argued the registration form under UCC needs them to provide details about events, including marital history, which they claim is unfair

voresses, widows, etc. This is not required for live-in registration," the couple's counsel said, adding that only documents related to residence, date of birth, Aadhaar, and tenancy should be necessary. Failure to do so could result in penalties, including imprisonment for up to six months or a fine of up to Rs 25,000. The law has sparked debates over privacy, with concerns that registrars have the authority to summon partners and record statements, raising fears of intrusion.

2 PFI men held over 'anti-India' activities get conditional bail

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: Bombay HC has granted conditional bail to two former office-bearers of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI), arrested by Maharashtra anti-terrorism squad (ATS) in 2022 for allegedly mobilising youth for "anti-India" activities, reports Mohammed Akhif.

HC's Aurangabad bench ordered Mohammad Nisar and Mohammed Abdul Karim — former district treasurer and former district secretary of PFI's Parbhani unit, respectively — to present themselves to the court between 9pm and 10pm at Parbhani's Nanalpet Police Station till the trial concludes, except on court hearing days.

HC also directed them to surrender their passports, remain in their homes and Parbhani districts unless permitted by the trial court, and cooperate with court proceedings. The bail was granted against a personal bond of Rs 15,000 each with one surety of the same amount. Nisar and Karim were among 20 suspects arrested statewide in Sept 2022 during a nationwide crackdown on PFI.

EAM to attend G20 meet in SA, may hold talks with China's Wang

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: External affairs minister S Jaishankar will participate in the G20 meeting of foreign ministers in Johannesburg on Feb 20-21, said gov't on Wednesday. Jaishankar's US counterpart Marco Rubio will skip the event, but China's Wang Yi and Russia's Sergey Lavrov will attend the meeting.

While Jaishankar is likely to informally meet Wang and Lavrov, a formal bilateral meeting is also not ruled out, according to gov't sources, and will depend on the schedule of the leaders.

Jaishankar had last met Wang at the G20 Rio summit in Nov 2024 during which they discussed ways to take the relationship forward, following the border disengagement agreement.

"EAM's participation in the G20 FMM will strengthen India's engagement with G20 countries and bolster the voice of the Global South in this important forum," said the gov't, adding that the minister will also have a few bilateral meetings on the margins of the event. South Africa holds the G20 presidency this year and will host the summit in Nov. Its presidency though has run into a



Jaishankar had last met Wang at the G20 Rio summit in Nov, during which they discussed ways to take the relationship forward, following the border disengagement agreement

controversy, with the US secretary of state Marco Rubio boycotting the foreign ministers' meeting because South Africa is seeking to promote diversity, equality and inclusion. "In other words: DEI and climate change. My job is to advance America's national interests, not waste taxpayer money or coddle anti-Americanism," he had said earlier this month.

All other member-states, including India, China, Russia and EU, have backed South Africa's presidency. India has used the G20 platform to highlight the need for global governance reform and solidarity with the Global South, repeatedly called for collective efforts to address food, fuel, and fertilizer shortages. "Multilateralism is a money-laundering ring. We also need to use this opportunity to develop the international system further to be more inclusive for all countries in the world," said EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas in South Africa.

2 more GBS deaths take Pune toll to 11; India count hits 23

Steffly Thevar | @timesofindia.com

Pune: Two young people being treated for Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) in different Pune hospitals died over the past 48 hours, taking casualties linked to the outbreak in Maharashtra to 19. Pune has had the maximum number of fatal cases with 11.

Overall, 23 GBS patients have died in India — Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Tamil Nadu and Bengal have reported a death each, since the Pune cluster attributed to water contamination was detected on Jan 9. A 26-year-old woman from Nanded City township and a 37-year-old man from Daund, about 80km from Pune, were the latest casualties. The latter succumbed to the rare but treatable in-

fection at Sassoon General Hospital late Monday.

The woman, who died Tuesday, had been first admitted to a private hospital on Jan 22 but was moved to Sassoon Pune hospitals after the doctor discharged her, she was on ventilator support at Navale Hospital for around 25 days.

The preliminary cause of death was septicemic shock with multi-organ dysfunction syndrome and fulminant GBS. Of the 36 people in Pune in intensive care with symptoms of GBS, 16 were on ventilator support until Wednesday evening. The health department didn't report any new cases, which stand at 211, with most patients being from Pune and its nearby areas.

HEALTH ALARM

Bitcoin scam: ED seizes ₹10.6cr assets in Dubai

Mumbai: ED has temporarily attached commercial properties worth Rs 10.6 crore in Dubai owned by the late bitcoin fraud suspect Amit Bhardwaj, reports Vikram Dhillon.

The woman, who died Tuesday, had been first admitted to a private hospital on Jan 22 but was moved to Sassoon Pune hospitals after the doctor discharged her, she was on ventilator support at Navale Hospital for around 25 days.

The preliminary cause of death was septicemic shock with multi-organ dysfunction syndrome and fulminant GBS. Of the 36 people in Pune in intensive care with symptoms of GBS, 16 were on ventilator support until Wednesday evening. The health department didn't report any new cases, which stand at 211, with most patients being from Pune and its nearby areas.

As oven deadline looms, Maha neta seeks heritage tag for Irani bakeries

Chaitanya Marpakkar | @timesofindia.com

Mumbai: The pav-makers must be spared, former BJP corporator Makarand Narwekar has demanded. With the July deadline looming for restaurants to make the switch from charcoal and wood-fired tandoors to cleaner alternatives, Narwekar has urged CM Devendra Fadnis to exempt the city's iconic Irani cafes and bakeries from the ban and accord them heritage status to preserve their cultural identity.

Twined with Mumbai's history, Narwekar made the demand after receiving a letter from Irani Bakers Association, which said implementing the ban would threaten the use of wood and charcoal in commercial eateries as part of measures to tackle Mumbai's worsening air quality would adversely disrupt the supply



Pointing out that Irani cafes and bakeries use wood-fired ovens to make pav, BJP's Makarand Narwekar sought an exemption for them from the ban on the use of wood and charcoal in commercial eateries

of pav required for vada pav. Narwekar said the cafes have long been a cornerstone of the city's food culture and history. "These cafes have been in existence for over a century, and the wood-fired ovens they use are an integral part of their legacy. The distinct taste and aroma of the baked goods that these cafes are known for are the direct

result of the wood and charcoal-based ovens. The non-wood or coal ovens will change the taste of the cuisine, which patrons have cherished for generations. Narwekar said the cafes trace their origins to 19th century, when Zoroastrian immigrants brought their culinary traditions to the city. "To preserve this integral part of our

heritage, I request that gov't consider granting heritage status to these cafes, with exemption from the prohibition on wood and charcoal use."

He said in New York, historic restaurants are exempt from regulations to protect traditional cooking methods, while in the Netherlands, centuries-old windmills, in the middle of cities, are preserved as national heritage. Meanwhile, a section of bakery owners has said switching over to piped gas isn't easy for all. Samajwadi Party MLA Rais Shikoh, who led a delegation of bakery owners to the additional municipal commissioner, said, "There is no piped gas within city limits, where a large number of bakeries are located. How does one then expect these bakery owners who are willing to make the switch from solid fuels to cleaner fuel in the next six months?"

J&K student alleges ragging at K'taka med college, 5 arrested

College Plays It Down As 'Minor Altercation'

Sangamesh Menaskikayil | TN
Vijayapura: A 22-year-old from Kashmir studying at Al-Ameen Medical College in Vijayapura in Karnataka was allegedly ragged by seniors during a cricket match and later in the college hostel on Tuesday. Vijayapura SP Lakshmi Nimbargi confirmed to TOI that Hamim, a second-year student from J&K's Anantnag district, was assaulted, and five seniors allegedly involved in the case had been arrested under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Karnataka Education Act, 1983. The college, however, downplayed the matter as a "minor altercation".

6 students assault junior in Kerala for not removing sunglasses, booked for ragging

Police booked six third-year students at Holy Cross Institute of Management and Technology on Wednesday for allegedly ragging and assaulting first-year BBA student on the campus in Nadakavu of Kerala's Kozhikode on Friday evening. The seniors assaulted the junior for refusing to remove his sunglasses. Two of them kicked him, while others helped them commit the assault. Institute principal Shini George said the accused have been suspended. Police have booked the accused under BNS sections 126(2) (wrongful restraint), 115(2) (voluntary causing hurt), 315 and Kerala Prohibition of Ragging Act 1998. The accused arrested, all Karnataka natives and from the 2019 batch, were identified as Mohammed Zainul (23), Sameer (24), Shaik Sawood (23), Mansoor Bhasha (24) and Muzaffar alias Mubejeb Jamadar (25). The alleged ragging-and-assault took place on Tuesday evening during a match between the 2019 and 2022-23 batches. According to Nasir Khuehami, national convener of Jammu Kashmir Students' Association, Hamim was subjected to "months of harassment due to a power struggle" in the college, as he captains the 2023-batch cricket team. "While standing near the boundary line, a senior asked him to stand outside. He promptly moved away, but the verbal intimidation escalated. The seniors humiliated him, ordered him to perform

an 'Al-Ameen salute', sing songs, and dance. They even attempted to force him into their car," Khuehami alleged. When Hamim refused, tensions escalated. "Sensing danger, he took out his phone to record what was happening, hoping it would deter the seniors. Instead, this enraged them and in the evening, 6 of them stormed into his hostel room and assaulted him. They also forced him to record a video apologising, issued death threats, and warned that he would not be allowed to play cricket for the next four years," Khuehami added. Following a social-media post tagging PM Narendra Modi, Union home minister Amit Shah, J&K CM Omar Abdullah, Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah and deputy CMD R Shivakumar, Vijayapura (rural) police officers visited the college and conducted a preliminary inquiry.

DYFI invites Tharoor to Kerala startup fest amid row over article

New Delhi: Thiruvananthapuram: Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI), youth wing of CPM on Wednesday invited Congress's Shashi Tharoor to Kerala's startup festival amid row over article. Tharoor to attend its upcoming youth startup festival, scheduled to be held in Kerala's capital next month. The Left outfit extended the invitation to the Thiruvananthapuram MP amidst a major political row over a recent article he wrote, in which he praised Kerala's entrepreneurial growth under the Left gov. DYFI national president and CPM Rajya Sabha MP A A Rahim, state secretary V K Sanoj, and central committee member M Shajhar met Tharoor in New Delhi and personally invited him to the two-day event, set to take place on March 1 and 2. "He told us that the startup festival is a good initiative and that he never views politics through the lens of development," Sanoj said. Following reports of DYFI's invitation to Tharoor, Youth Congress general secretary Abin Varkey dismissed it as "insignificant", claiming that the invitation was extended with a "political agenda". Although Tharoor declined the Left outfit's invitation, DYFI's gesture carried political significance, especially since Tharoor has faced criticism within Congress for his positive remarks in an English article on Kerala's entrepreneurial growth under the Pinarayi Vijayan-led gov. pn

Woman gang-raped by migrant workers in front of hubby in TN

Tirupur: A 27-year-old woman from Odisha was gang-raped at knife-point in front of her husband on Monday allegedly by three guest workers from Bihar, police said on Wednesday. The Tirupur North all-women police arrested the three suspects on Tuesday. According to an investigation officer, the woman, along with her husband and three-year-old child, visited Tirupur on Monday (Feb 17) in search of job. "While standing at Pushpa Junction near Tirupur railway station, unsure of their destination, they were approached by Mohammad Nadim (24), Mohamad Danish (25), and Mohammed Murshith (20). The trio promised them jobs and took them to their rental room at Lakshmi Nagar area, where the family was offered accommodation for the night," the officer said. After dinner, everyone went to sleep. "Later that night, the three men assaulted the husband and tied him with a rope. They threatened the couple with a knife and raped the woman. They also threatened to murder the couple if they were to report the incident to police," the officer said. The couple, however, reported the incident on Tuesday. twk

GUJARAT INDUSTRIES POWER CO. LTD.
TENDER FOR PROCUREMENT OF IMPROVED COAL FOR SURAT LIGNITE POWER PLANT
Interested Vendors may submit their Bids on two part basis through (N) Procure (Tender ID: 157568). It can also be viewed from Company's website www.gipcl.com. Last date of submission of bid through (n) procure is 04.03.2025 up to 17:30 hrs. General Manager (Materials & Contracts)

North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health & Medical Sciences, Director's Block, Mawdingiangdi, Shillong
F.No. EST-R/RAC/SEL/1/2024-EST/1
ADVERTISEMENT TO ROLLING ADVERTISEMENT FOR FACULTY POSTS
MO. EST-I. RFA/COF/SEL/1/2024-EST/1 DATED 21.11.2024
In continuation to Institute's Rolling Advertisement for recruitment of faculty dated 21.11.2024, the following faculty posts has been added as vacancy:

No.	Departments	Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor
1	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	1	-	-
2	Pharmacology	-	1 UR	-
3	General Surgery	-	-	1 UR

Mode of Recruitment:
Sl. No. Post
1 Professor, Obstetrics & Gynaecology Deputation/labouration basis
2 Associate Professor, Pharmacology Direct recruitment falling which by Deputation/labouration basis
3 Assistant Professor, General Surgery

बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग
15, नेहरू पथ (बेली रोड), पटना-800001
आवश्यक सूचना
एकीकृत 70वीं संयुक्त मुख्य (लिखित) प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा
एकीकृत 70वीं संयुक्त मुख्य (लिखित) प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा हेतु विज्ञापन का प्रकाशन आयोग द्वारा किया गया है, जिसे आयोग के वेबसाइट www.bpsc.bihar.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। ऑनलाइन आवेदन पर भरने से संबंधित विधि एवं अन्य निर्देश निम्नवत् हैं:-
1. ऑनलाइन आवेदन प्रारम्भ करने की तिथि दिनांक-21.02.2025
2. ऑनलाइन आवेदन भरने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक-17.03.2025
संपूर्ण विज्ञापन के संबंध में विस्तृत सूचना / विवरण / जानकारी एवं परीक्षा कार्यक्रम तथा ऑनलाइन आवेदन भरने हेतु निर्देश आयोग के वेबसाइट www.bpsc.bihar.gov.in पर प्रकाशित हैं।
अर्थात् ऑनलाइन आवेदन भरने की प्रक्रिया प्रारम्भ करने के पूर्व वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित विस्तृत विज्ञापन एवं ऑनलाइन आवेदन भरने हेतु आवश्यक एवं विस्तृत निर्देश का भली-भांति अध्ययन कर लें।
स्वा./
परीक्षा निबन्धक,
बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग, पटना

RAJIV GANDHI HOUSING CORPORATION LTD.
Caurya Bhavan, 9th Floor, E&A Block, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560009. Phone: 080-23116888
Short Term Tender Notification (Through KPPF portal) Dated: 18.02.2025
Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited invites Short Term tenders for the following works through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from the eligible contractors.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Rs. (In Lakhs)
1.	Construction of Staff Quarters at 5 Locations (1-BHK Block & 2-BHK Block at Each Location in G+2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) at Minorites Morari Desai Residential School Campuses in Different Talukas of Bagalkote District - Package - 1, (Bilagi-1, Hunagund-1, Jammahand-1, Tendi-1, Bagalkote-1) (Fixed Price No Variation) Ident No: RGRHCL/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT10	2465.75	24.65
2.	Construction of Staff Quarters at 5 Locations (1-BHK Block & 2-BHK Block at Each Location in G+2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) at Minorites Morari Desai Residential School Campuses in Different Talukas of Chitradurga and Davanagere District - Package - 2, (Chalakeri-1, Chitradurga-1, Honnali-1, Davanagere-2) (Fixed Price No Variation) Ident No: RGRHCL/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT10	2480.38	24.80
3.	Construction of Staff Quarters at 6 Locations (1-BHK Block & 2-BHK Block at Each Location in G+2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) at Minorites Morari Desai Residential School Campuses in Different Talukas of Haveri District - Package - 3 (Ranebennur-2, Hanagat-2, Byadagi-1, Haveri-1) (Fixed Price No Variation) Ident No: RGRHCL/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT11	2957.43	29.57
4.	Construction of Staff Quarters at 5 Locations (1-BHK Block & 2-BHK Block at Each Location in G+2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) at Minorites Morari Desai Residential School Campuses in Different Talukas of Kalaburgi District - Package - 4 (Kalaburgi-1, Chittapur-2, Aland-1, Sedam-1) (Fixed Price No Variation) Ident No: RGRHCL/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT12	2495.02	24.95
5.	Construction of Staff Quarters at 6 Locations (1-BHK Block & 2-BHK Block at Each Location in G+2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) at Minorites Morari Desai Residential School Campuses in Different Talukas of Kalaburgi and Yadgi District - Package - 5 (Jewargi-1, Atzalpur-1, Chincholi-1, Kalaburgi-1, Shahapur-1, Yadgi-1) (Fixed Price No Variation) Ident No: RGRHCL/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT13	2994.02	29.94
6.	Construction of Staff Quarters at 6 Locations (1-BHK Block & 2-BHK Block at Each Location in G+2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) at Minorites Morari Desai Residential School Campuses in Different Talukas of Koppal and Bellary District - Package - 6 (Koppal-2, Gangavahli-2, Kuanor-1, Bellary-1) (Fixed Price No Variation) Ident No: RGRHCL/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT14	2994.02	29.94
7.	Construction of Staff Quarters at 3 Locations (1-BHK Block & 2-BHK Block at Each Location in G+2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) at Minorites Morari Desai Residential School Campuses in Different Talukas of Vijayanagara District - Package - 7 (Harsanahalli-1, Hospepet-2) (Fixed Price No Variation) Ident No: RGRHCL/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT15	1497.01	14.97
8.	Construction of Staff Quarters at 7 Locations (1-BHK Block & 2-BHK Block at Each Location in G+2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) at Minorites Morari Desai Residential School Campuses in Different Talukas of Raichur District - Package - 8 (Lingsuguru-1, Manvi-1, Raichur-3, Sindhanur-2) (Fixed Price No Variation) Ident No: RGRHCL/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT16	3493.02	34.93
9.	Construction of Staff Quarters at 3 Locations (1-BHK Block & 2-BHK Block at Each Location in G+2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) at Minorites Morari Desai Residential School Campuses in Different Talukas of Dhawad and Gadag Districts - Package - 9 (Dhawad-1, Mundaragi-2) (Fixed Price No Variation) Ident No: RGRHCL/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT17	1482.37	14.82
10.	Construction of Staff Quarters at 4 Locations (1-BHK Block & 2-BHK Block at Each Location in G+2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) at Minorites Morari Desai Residential School Campuses in Different Talukas of Uttara Kannada, Shimoga and Dakshina Kannada Districts - Package - 10 (Dandeli-1, Shikaripura-1, Uliala-2) (Fixed Price No Variation) Ident No: RGRHCL/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT18	2095.91	20.95
11.	Construction of Staff Quarters at 5 Locations (1-BHK Block & 2-BHK Block at Each Location in G+2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) at Minorites Morari Desai Residential School Campuses in Different Talukas of alukas of Hassan, Tumkur and Mysore Districts - Package - 11 (Channarayana-1, Madhugiri-1, Tippur-1, Tumkur-1, Periyappattana-1) (Fixed Price No Variation) Ident No: RGRHCL/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT19	2465.75	24.65
12.	Construction of Staff Quarters at 4 Locations (1-BHK Block & 2-BHK Block at Each Location in G+2 Floors and Other Infrastructure Works) at Minorites Morari Desai Residential School Campuses in Different Talukas of Vijayanagara District - Package - 12 (Indri-1, Muddehal-2, Vijayapura-1) (Fixed Price No Variation) Ident No: RGRHCL/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT20	1974.06	19.74

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
NABARD & Rural Roads Circle, Salem-7.
Tender Notice No. 31/2024-2025/DO/DATE: 10.02.2025
For and on behalf of the Government of Tamilnadu Two Cover System of Item Rate tender through online only will be received upto 02.04.2025 15:00 hours (as per item server clock) by the Superintending Engineer (H) NABARD & Rural Roads, Salem Circle under the scheme Rural Works Progress-2024-25. Construction of Road Over Bridge in lieu of existing G.C.No.5 bridge in Sarg - Pleslamdu Railway Stations at Railway Km 3/21-23 on Neelankampalmyai SHS colony road at Km 16 near SHS colony (Phase-I Km 100-100) in Coimbatore (H) NABARD & Rural Roads Division.
Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 26.02.2025 onwards in the Government website <http://www.tenders.gov.in>. If any changes / Corrections arise in the tender, it will be published on the above website only.
Superintending Engineer (H), NABARD & Rural Roads Circle, Salem-7
DIR/RS&T/TENDER/2025

Office of Superintendent Engineer, Moradabad Circle, P.W.D. Moradabad
SHORT TERM E-Procurement Notice Inviting Tenders
No. 1137/Nvda-Moradabad/24-25 Date: 13.02.2025
1. On behalf of the Government of UP tenders for following work are invited by the Superintending Engineer, Moradabad Circle, P.W.D. Moradabad online on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from registered contractors from 21.02.2025 at 10:00 am to 28.02.2025 at 12:00 pm. Technical bid /Prequalification of tenders shall be opened on 28.02.2025 at 12:30 pm in office of undersigned by tender committee in presence of authorised representatives/bidders who wish to be present. Financial bid of the tenders who qualify in technical bid shall be opened on date and time as specified by a notice in the office of undersigned. In case of Government holiday the required process shall be carried out on next working day.
2. Rules/conditions & details of the tender are available at website <http://etender.up.nic.in>.
(Gaurav Ranjan) (S.P. Singh)
Executive Engineer Provincial Division P.W.D. Superintending Engineer Moradabad Circle, P.W.D. Moradabad
UPID-229293/18.02.2025 www.upgov.nic.in Ph. -0591-2414619

3-1495 PANCHAYAT RAJ & DRINKING WATER DEPARTMENT GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWSS & DIVISION, NABARANGPUR
Tel. (06858) 226643, E-Mail: evssngp@gmail.com
INVITATION FOR BIDS
No. RWSS_NGP_ONLINE_07/2024-25 DATED: 15.02.2025
The Executive Engineer RWSS Division Nabarangpur on behalf of Additional Chief Engineer, RWSS Circle, Koppal north of E-Procurement system on-line mode.
1. Name of Works: As mentioned in Table 'A' which includes construction of different capacity ESR/OOR, laying of different dia. HDPE/GI Pipe line, FHT and its ancillary work in connection with the pipe water supply scheme in different Block under Nabarangpur District.
2. No. of Works: 06 (Six No.) (Detailed in Tender Notice available in the website)
3. Estimated cost: As mentioned in Table 'A'.
4. Tender Paper Cost: As mentioned in Table 'A'.
5. Class of Contractor: As mentioned in Table 'A'.
6. Period of Completion: As mentioned in Table 'A'.
7. Critical Dates: * Further details can be seen in the bidding documents, which is available in the e-procurement portal.
* Publication of this tender can be seen in the web portal: <https://odisha.gov.in>
* state-tenders-advertisement
* Subsequent correspondence if required shall be appeared in the website.
* Applicant reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason therefor.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for Bidding	Last Date of Bid Opening	Last date of tender confirmation letter to be issued	Date of opening of Bid
Executive Engineer, RWSS Division, Nabarangpur	RWSS_NGP_ONLINE_07/2024-25	25.02.2025 at 11:00 AM	07.03.2025 at 05:00 PM	07.03.2025 at 05:00 PM	11.03.2025 at 11:00 AM

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
मवन निर्माण विभाग, मवन प्रमंडल, मोतिहारी
(E-mail id-ee.mohthari.bcd@gmail.com)
शुद्धि पत्र
एक पत्र द्वारा आप सभी संवेद्यकों को सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक-1518 (संयुक्त) दिनांक-16.11.2024 द्वारा आमंत्रित ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-30/2024-25 को विभिन्न दिनांक समझाए गए पत्रों में प्रकाशित हुआ है जिसका भी आदेश - 01/2025 (BCD) 2024-25 है। उक्त निविदा में अधिकतम 100 करोड़ रुपये का अनुमानित कार्य का विवरण प्रदान किया गया है। उक्त निविदा में अंतिम तिथि को उचित सुधार पत्र - 126 (अंश) दिनांक - 05.02.2025 द्वारा अधिसूचित करणका शिष्टाचार संशोधित किया गया था, जो विभिन्न दिनांक चयनकर्ता को प्रकाशित हुआ है। विस्तार को आप संख्या - 18840 (BCD) 2024-25 है।
उक्त निविदा हेतु शिष्टाचार संशोधित विधि के अनुसार निविदा को e-Proc 2.0 पर अनिवार्य करने की तिथि 13.02.2025 से है, वरुं अधिसूचित करणका निविदा को विनांक - 15.02.2025 से 21 दिनांक पर कर 19 दिन ही अवकाश दिया।
आर. अरर सहाय, मवन निर्माण विभाग, बिहार पटना के पत्रांक- 1480 (अंश) दिनांक-13.02.2025 से अनिवार्य निविदा की जाती है। 21 दिनांक के लिए निम्नलिखित विवरण दिया जाता है:-
क्र.सं. तिथि विवरण
01 02 दिनांक- 08/03/2025 तक।
02 निविदा कगनाता जांच/सुधार करने की अंतिम तिथि- 03/03/2025 तक।
03 निविदा कगनाता अनिवार्य करने की अंतिम तिथि- 10/03/2025 को 03:00 बजे अनिवार्य तक।
04 तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक- 11/03/2025 को 03:30 बजे अनिवार्य तक।
05 शिष्टाचार बिड खोलने की तिथि- तकनीकी बिड मुद्रांकन के पश्चात।
06 निविदा शिष्टाचार की तिथि समय एवं स्थान :- दिनांक - 24/02/2025 को 03:00 बजे अनिवार्य अंतिम अभियंता, मवन अरर, मोतिहारी का कार्यालय।
नोट - रोड शर्त समझाए रहेंगे।
उक्त सूचना www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
मवन निर्माण विभाग, मवन प्रमंडल, मोतिहारी
PR.No.1962 (BCD) 2024-25
नयायुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियंता (उत्तर), उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान
32 उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान
जल संयंत्र-औद्योगिक संयंत्र
Email: enorth-uk@nic.in पृष्ठांक/फोन नं०-0135-2746137
पत्रांक: 3116/अभिस (संयुक्त)/ई-निविदा/2024-25 दिनांक: 18/02/2025
ई-निविदा सूचना
मुख्य महाप्रबन्धक उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान की ओर से अधिशासी अभियंता (उत्तर), देहरादून द्वारा निम्न कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा, टू-बिड सिस्टम (तकनीकी बिड एवं कार्यालय बिड) के आधार पर निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।
अधिशासी अभियंता (उत्तर)

Bid No.	Name of Work	Bid Security (Earnest Money)	Cost of Bid Document (In Rs)	Period of Completion of works
1	24x7 Operation and Maintenance of water supply scheme at TP Park Zone Under North Division Dehradun.	Rs. 56,200.00 + 18% GST	* ₹2000.00	1 Year

The tender time schedule (Key-Dates) is as follows:-
S.No. Description Time Schedule (Key Dates)
1 Date of Online Publication 21.02.2025 at 11:00 Hrs
2 Document download / Start Date 22.02.2025 at 11:00 Hrs
3 Pre-Bid Meeting / Date 26.03.2025 at 11:00 Hrs
4 Bid Submission / Start date 27.02.2025 at 11:00 Hrs
5 Bid Submission / End date 06.03.2025 upto 17:00 Hrs
6 Offline Submission of Documents (Cost of bidding Document, Bid Security, Original affidavit and all supporting Document in support of qualification). At office of Executive Engineer (North), 32 Rajpur Road, Dehradun. 07.03.2025 upto 17:00 Hrs
7 Date of Technical Bid Opening 08.03.2025 at 11:00 Hrs
ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारी का वहाँ उत्तराखण्ड की वेबसाइट www.uktenders.gov.in पर ऑन लाइन देखी/ जाय की जा सकती है।
अधिशासी अभियंता (उत्तर)

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियंता (उत्तर), उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान
32 उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान
जल संयंत्र-औद्योगिक संयंत्र
Email: enorth-uk@nic.in पृष्ठांक/फोन नं०-0135-2746137
पत्रांक: 3116/अभिस (संयुक्त)/ई-निविदा/2024-25 दिनांक: 18/02/2025
ई-निविदा सूचना
मुख्य महाप्रबन्धक उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान की ओर से अधिशासी अभियंता (उत्तर), देहरादून द्वारा निम्न कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा, टू-बिड सिस्टम (तकनीकी बिड एवं कार्यालय बिड) के आधार पर निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।
अधिशासी अभियंता (उत्तर)

Bid No.	Name of Work	Bid Security (Earnest Money)	Cost of Bid Document (In Rs)	Period of Completion of works
01	Replacement of Old Pipe Line With New Pipe Line From Nahar Chowk to Charkhi Gate in Ward No-31 Under Kaulgiri Zone	Rs. 1,55,100.00	₹5000.00	03-Months
02	Laying Of Sewer Line in Kumar Mandi at Kaulgiri Zone Under North Division Dehradun.	Rs. 1,03,600.00	₹4000.00	03-Months
03	Laying Of Sewer Line in Syed Mohalla and Kaulgiri Road at Kaulgiri Zone Under North Division, Dehradun.	Rs. 1,77,900.00	₹6000.00	+ 03-Months

The tender time schedule (Key Dates) is as follows:-
S.No. Description Time Schedule (Key Dates)
1 Date of Online Publication 24.02.2025 at 11:00 Hrs
2 Document download / Start Date 25.02.2025 at 11:00 Hrs
3 Pre-Bid Meeting / Date 03.03.2025 at 11:00 Hrs
4 Bid Submission / Start date 05.03.2025 at 11:00 Hrs
5 Bid Submission / End date 12.03.2025 upto 17:00 Hrs
6 Offline Submission of Documents (Cost of bidding Document, Bid Security, Original affidavit and all supporting Document in support of qualification). At office of Executive Engineer (North), 32 Rajpur Road, Dehradun. 15.03.2025 upto 17:00 Hrs
7 Date of Technical Bid Opening 17.03.2025 at 11:00 Hrs
ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारी का वहाँ उत्तराखण्ड की वेबसाइट www.uktenders.gov.in पर ऑन लाइन देखी/ जाय की जा सकती है।
अधिशासी अभियंता (उत्तर)

WALK THE GHOONGHAT, WALK THE TASK

Catalysing Change From Within, This NGO Is Charting A New Course In Self-help And Women Empowerment

Sharmila.Ganesan@timesofindia.com

Married at 16, Ashalata Pandey of Ambajogai — a temple town known as the “maternal home of education” in Maharashtra’s Beed — had to hide her face after her husband left for a religious trip one fine day, from which he never returned.

“Aren’t you sad about the fact that he left you?” “How can you simply move on?”

These were just some of the questions that the young mother of two was bombarded with on her way to work at an NGO that fetched a meagre monthly pay of Rs 800, to raise awareness on a range of issues from women’s rights to reproductive health.

Stunned by such adverse comments, Ashalata quit her job. With no property of her own and no support from her in-laws, she took up the job of an ASHA worker. Covering her head, like a shroud, with the edge of her sari, she too deserted roads on her way to work to ensure she kept those inquisitive glares at bay.

It was during one of those solitary walks to work that Ashalata had a chance encounter with Chitratra.

Married off at 12 by an alcoholic father to a man desperately looking for dowry, Chitratra aka Chitra Patil was not just a cheerful health worker, but also a newly-minted ‘saheli’ who had freed several villagers from greedy money lenders by creating 14 savings groups that charged a 2% fixed interest rate.

Encouraged by Chitratra, Ashalata enrolled herself for the grassroots leadership development programme (GLDP) and on the very third day of the course, she realised she was entitled to certain rights, including the right to her husband’s property.

“My father-in-law owned a large house. I wanted to co-own it, rightfully. Now, I own it,” says Ashalata, sharing her experience.



STRENGTH IN SOLIDARITY: Empowered through grassroots leadership training, these women, once marginalised and isolated, have become powerful advocates for their rights. From combating social stigma to challenging gender-based violence, they are at the forefront of a movement that is changing the way they lead their lives.

change should come from within,” says Dr Sujata Khandekar, founder of the 34-year-old holistic community development NGO.

Formed in 1989 by people from privileged backgrounds, CORO later evolved into “a people’s organisation, with people not as mere beneficiaries but as leaders of the organisation”, as Mahendra Rokade, the director of CORO, puts it.

In the last three decades, its efforts in rural and urban Maharashtra and Rajasthan have created more than 1,688

“grassroots leaders”, of which, 69% are women — including transwomen.

Majority of these earthy change-makers hail from notified and denotified tribes, backward classes, minorities and other marginalised communities. These leaders — aged between 20 and 50 — now address issues ranging from gender rights to forest rights.

“Since women are constantly and consistently denied permission to do things since childhood and punished for transgressing those boundaries, later in their lives, they themselves start believing that they are lesser humans” — Dr Sujata Khandekar | FOUNDER OF CORO

one of more than 500 organisations across Maharashtra and Rajasthan that have been facilitated by non-profit CORO India. “CORO stands for ‘Jyaneche prastha tyaneche netrutva’ (the question is the same as the answer). The drive to initiate

CHANGE Begins Here

boundaries, later in their lives, women themselves start believing that they are lesser humans,” explains Khandekar. Culled over two decades, such insights paved the way for the Grassroots Leadership Training Programme (GLDP) — a syllabus spanning skills such as advocacy and constitutional rights that were inspired by Brazilian educator Paulo Freire’s philosophy of “conscientisation”. Meanwhile, EMS, which began

working on ensuring safety and access to govt schemes for single women in areas where they were seen as “commodities up for grabs”, has now relocated to remote Rajasthan where Teena Rawat, who survived two suicide attempts after her husband abandoned her, now beams proudly inside a courtroom

“If you hadn’t abandoned her, this woman would have spent her whole life following you around in a ghonghat. Instead, she’s a lawyer now” — Judge TO THE EX-HUSBAND OF CORO VOLUNTEER TEENA RAWAT

money to build cattle sheds. “None of the people even know that their applications had been approved,” recalls Durga, who downloaded the receipts and armed with those printouts, the villagers then pressured the sarpanch into giving them their rightful share. That’s change. That’s power...

deputy sarpanch) and 217 men from various CORO-facilitated campaigns have been elected in recent local self-government elections

22 GLDP leaders in Maharashtra working on community forest rights claimed and acquired 1.73 lakh acres of forest land in 121 villages in Vidharba

The Right to Pee campaign—which lobbies for hygienic urinals for women has now touched 9 lakh lives across Maharashtra

1.617 villages covered in Rajasthan

The campaign on ‘equal property rights for women’ is underway in the Konkani region and is spreading across Maharashtra. 84 women and 29 organisations are working on the campaign in 96 villages across 17 districts of Maharashtra

500 grassroots organisations that CORO has worked with in Maharashtra and Rajasthan

248 out of 358 tehsils that CORO has reached in Maharashtra

122 out of 390 talukas that CORO has reached in Rajasthan

In the last 15 years, GLDP has spawned 1,688 community leaders across Maharashtra and Rajasthan

3,224 villages covered in Maharashtra

Over time, initiatives evolved from leadership programmes and became independent processes

268 women (83 sarpanch and 38 deputy sarpanch) and 217 men from various CORO-facilitated campaigns have been elected in recent local self-government elections

22 GLDP leaders in Maharashtra working on community forest rights claimed and acquired 1.73 lakh acres of forest land in 121 villages in Vidharba

The Right to Pee campaign—which lobbies for hygienic urinals for women has now touched 9 lakh lives across Maharashtra

1.617 villages covered in Rajasthan

The campaign on ‘equal property rights for women’ is underway in the Konkani region and is spreading across Maharashtra. 84 women and 29 organisations are working on the campaign in 96 villages across 17 districts of Maharashtra

500 grassroots organisations that CORO has worked with in Maharashtra and Rajasthan

248 out of 358 tehsils that CORO has reached in Maharashtra

122 out of 390 talukas that CORO has reached in Rajasthan

In the last 15 years, GLDP has spawned 1,688 community leaders across Maharashtra and Rajasthan



Ashalata Pandey, whose husband went on a religious trip & never returned, is one of the early beneficiaries

“wasteful” spending of US taxpayer’s money by USAID including Iran, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan, China and others. The US has difficulty deporting directly to some of those countries so Panama is being used as a stopover. Costa Rica was expected to receive a similar flight of third-country deportees on Wednesday. AP

India and their Prime Minister, but giving \$21 million for voter turnout? In India? What about voter turnout here?” Trump bristled in criticism aimed more at the Biden-era USAID — which the president’s department of government efficiency has gutted almost entirely — than at India.

Currently, non-residents can buy up to 250 sq metres of land outside municipal areas for residential purposes. Sources say this provision will likely continue, but “hoarding of agricultural and horticultural lands in the hills will be banned”.

Restrictions on non-residents buying land date back to the Congress govt (2002-2007), which limited residential land purchases to 500 sq metres outside municipal limits. The subsequent BJP govt reduced the cap to 250 sq metres. However, in 2017, the Rawat-led BJP govt lifted all restrictions on such land purchases. Officials say the proposed law aims to prevent land misuse. CM Pushkar

Singh Dhani told TOI, “In the past, there have been instances where people from other states hoarded vast lands under the pretext of economic and growth activities but failed to fulfill their commitments. This has been a long-standing public demand, and respecting their sentiments, the state cabinet has passed the draft law.”

Notably, Uttarakhand govt had intensified its efforts to enforce stringent land-use regulations in 2023 by targeting agricultural lands acquired by prominent individuals but left unused for farming. In Oct, authorities seized over half a hectare of land in Nainital, registered in the name of Bhavani Singh, wife of UP MLA Raghuraj Pratap Singh alias Raja Bhैया. The land, purchased 17 years ago in Siltona village, remained fallow, prompting action under Section 167 of UP Zoning Abolition and Land Reforms (Amendment) Act.

Similarly, in Nov, the state scrutinised Bollywood actor Manoj Bajpayee’s acquisition of approximately 15 nalis (about 300sqm) in Kapkot village, Almorava. Intended for a meditation and yoga centre, the land remained undeveloped. DM Alok Kumar Pandey confirmed ongoing investigations into this and similar cases.

Over the past year, protests demanding stricter land laws have also intensified across the state. Commenting on the draft law, Dhani wrote on X, “This historic step will protect the state’s resources, cultural heritage, and citizens’ rights while preserving its original identity.”

Leader of opposition Yashpal Arya said, “It has been learned through media that govt is retracting the changes made in 2018, which Congress had opposed at the time. Since then, thousands of acres of land have been sold to outsiders. Govt must issue a white paper detailing how much land has been sold, to whom, and what benefits the state has gained.”

‘Planned drama’: Muda scam case petitioner on Sidda clean chit

Continued from P 1

Lokayukta’s inquiry report will be submitted Thursday to the special MP/MLAs’ court in Bengaluru, where a hearing is scheduled for Feb 24.

Mysuru Lokayukta SP and investigation officer TJ Udesha said a notice had been issued to petitioner Krishna, giving him a week to file objections. The notice, whose contents Krishna shared with the media, states that the investigation didn’t throw up any evidence to implicate CM Siddaramaiah, his wife and others named in the case.

The activist dismissed the probe report as “pre-planned”, saying Lokayukta never bothered to cross-check any of its findings with him. “I visited Lokayukta office only to hand over the documents I had collected. My light went out. I will file objections,” he said.

According to the Sept 27 FIR registered under IPC, Prevention of Corruption Act, Prohibition of Benami Property Transaction Act and Karnataka Land-Grabbing Prohibition Act, Parvathi received 14 prime plots in Mysuru’s Vijayanagar under the 2020 Muda scheme. She returned the 14 plots to Muda after the case was filed.

CM Siddaramaiah was accused of conspiring to get ownership of the 14 plots in the name of Mysuru in his wife’s heart in exchange for 3 acres, 16 guntas of land at Kesara on the city’s outskirts. The FIR named the CM, his wife, brother-in-law DM Mallikarjuna Swamy and land owner J. Devanaraju. After an investigation spanning 138 days, Lokayukta compiled a nearly 1,000-page report containing statements of more than 100 witnesses and retired MUDA officers, politicians, Muda commissioner and tahsildar, among others.

Lokayukta Police clarified that further investigation into Muda’s compensatory plot allocations between 2016 and 2024 was underway. A report under Section 173(b) of CrPc will be submitted to Karnataka HC.

Trump statement significant in light of ex-CEC’s ruling denial

Indians among 300 US deportees held in Panama as officials plan return journey

Panama is detaining in a hotel nearly 300 people from various countries deported under US President Donald Trump, not allowing them to leave while waiting for international authorities to organise a return to their countries.

More than 40% of the migrants, authorities say, won’t voluntarily return to their homeland. Migrants in hotel rooms held messages to the windows reading “Help” and “We are not safe in our country.”

The migrants hailed from 10 mostly Asian countries, including Iran, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan, China and others. The US has difficulty deporting directly to some of those countries so Panama is being used as a stopover. Costa Rica was expected to receive a similar flight of third-country deportees on Wednesday. AP

India and their Prime Minister, but giving \$21 million for voter turnout? In India? What about voter turnout here?” Trump bristled in criticism aimed more at the Biden-era USAID — which the president’s department of government efficiency has gutted almost entirely — than at India.

Currently, non-residents can buy up to 250 sq metres of land outside municipal areas for residential purposes. Sources say this provision will likely continue, but “hoarding of agricultural and horticultural lands in the hills will be banned”.

Restrictions on non-residents buying land date back to the Congress govt (2002-2007), which limited residential land purchases to 500 sq metres outside municipal limits. The subsequent BJP govt reduced the cap to 250 sq metres. However, in 2017, the Rawat-led BJP govt lifted all restrictions on such land purchases. Officials say the proposed law aims to prevent land misuse. CM Pushkar

Trivendra govt had lifted all land-buy curbs

Continued from P 1

Violations would result in the land being vested in the govt. The bill also recommends land consolidation and settlement in hilly areas to ensure proper land use and prevent encroachment.

If passed, it will repeal amendments made in 2017 by the Trivendra Singh Rawat govt to Uttarakhand (Uttar Pradesh) Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1956. The 2017 changes had raised the land purchase limit in the hills from 12.5 acres to 30 acres for tourism, energy, industry, agriculture, and horticulture projects, with exemptions allowing purchases above 30 acres in some cases. The amendments also transferred approval authority from the state govt to district magistrates.

The new law will revoke these powers from magistrates and introduce a dedicated portal to record land transactions by outsiders. Non-residents seeking to

buy land must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council and non-residents must submit an affidavit to “prevent fraud and irregularities”, with final approval resting with the state administration. The previous 12.5-acre land cap will be reinstated, and district officials must regularly report land purchases to Revenue Council

THINKING: THE TALKING OF THE SOUL WITH ITSELF - PLATO



ASAP ROCKY LEAPS OVER COURT BARRIER TO HUG RIHANNA AFTER RAPPER ACQUITTED IN SHOOTING CASE

'GROW UP': KEVIN SPACEY RESPONDS TO GUY PEARCE'S CLAIM THAT HE 'TARGETED' HIM DURING FILMING OF 1997 FILM 'LA CONFIDENTIAL'

Clean slate for Khaleda as she is acquitted in her last graft case

Trump casts Zelensky 'dictator' who took US cash to 'start' war

US Prez: 'Zelensky Better Move Fast Or Won't Have A Country Left' | Ukraine Prez: Trump Is Living In A Russian 'Disinformation Space'

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday denounced Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky as "a dictator without elections" and said he had better move fast to secure a peace or he would have no country left.



WAR OF WORDS: The Trump-Zelensky showdown shows a reversal of the United States' stance to isolate Russia over its invasion of Ukraine

Trump spoke hours after Zelensky hit back at this suggestion that Ukraine was responsible for Russia's 2022 full-scale invasion, saying the US president was trapped in a Russian disinformation bubble.

Europe goes into emergency huddle, again

President Emmanuel Macron of France called a second emergency meeting of European allies Wednesday seeking to recalibrate relations with the US as President Trump upends international politics by rapidly changing US alliances.

Trump said on Tuesday that he intends to impose auto tariffs "in the neighbourhood of 25%" and similar duties on semiconductors and pharmaceutical imports, the latest in a series of measures threatening to upend international trade.

On Friday, Trump said levies on automobiles would come as soon as April 2, the day after members of his cabinet are due to deliver reports to him outlining options for a range of import duties as he seeks to reshape trade policy.

Lashing out at Zelensky in a social media post, Trump called him "a modestly successful comedian" who "talked the US into spending \$150 billion Dollars, to go into a War that could not be won, that never had to start, but a War that he, without the US and 'TRUMP' would be able to settle."

Swedish PM Ulf Kristersson said while there was no complete agreement in EU on how to move forward, countries had accomplished a lot. "We need to keep a cool head, support Ukraine," he said.

Putin: Not excluding Ukraine... no need for hysteria

Moscow: Russian President Putin said on Wednesday that Ukraine would not be excluded from negotiations to end the war, but success would depend on raising the level of trust between Moscow and Washington.

EU announces new curbs against Russia European Union envoys have agreed on a new raft of sanctions against Russia, a top EU official and diplomats confirmed on Wednesday.

Russia had never rejected talks with the Europeans or with Kyiv, and it was they who had refused to talk to Moscow. "If they want, please, let these negotiations take place. And we will be ready to return to the table for negotiations. No one is excluding Ukraine," he said.

Nato members carried out largest drills of 2025 on Wednesday in Romania as a Europe grapples with a new US course under Trump

Ukraine and European governments were not invited to the talks in the Saudi capital, which heightened their concern that Russia and the US might cut a deal that ignores their vital security interests. But Putin said

Trump signed Tuesday gives the president more power to shape the oversight of the financial system and lay out criteria for transportation safety, basic consumer protections and wireless, broadcast satellite and other communications. It is part of a broader push by the Trump administration to assert greater authority over the gov't, possibly limiting the spending of congressionally approved funds in ways that could set up lawsuits and lead courts to weigh in.

TRACKING TRUMP

Trump says will introduce 25% tariffs on autos, pharma & chips

US President Trump said on Tuesday that he intends to impose auto tariffs "in the neighbourhood of 25%" and similar duties on semiconductors and pharmaceutical imports, the latest in a series of measures threatening to upend international trade.

On Friday, Trump said levies on automobiles would come as soon as April 2, the day after members of his cabinet are due to deliver reports to him outlining options for a range of import duties as he seeks to reshape trade policy.

Global stock markets mostly fell after Trump broadened his tariff threats, as investors reacted to the news that the president would raise duties on a range of goods.

B'desh students no more united? Campus clash leaves 150 hurt

Dhaka: More than 150 students were injured in Bangladesh during clashes at a university campus on Tuesday, a sign of serious discord between groups instrumental in fomenting a change in government last year.



Students protests last Aug had toppled the Bangladesh gov't and forced PM Hasina into exile

Students protests last Aug had toppled the Bangladesh gov't and forced PM Hasina into exile. The situation is now under control, and an extra contingent of police has been deployed, he said.

Continuing the stream of relief granted to Khaleda Zia since the govt change in Bangladesh, a Dhaka court on Wednesday acquitted the BNP chairperson, along with seven others, in the Niko graft case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) in 2007.

With this verdict, Khaleda has now been acquitted of all corruption cases filed against her, including those related to the Orange Revolution Trust and Zia Charitable Trust, during the caretaker gov't in 2007 and the subsequent Awami League-led gov't. Notably, all the acquittals were made after Muhammad Yunus took charge of the interim gov't after Sheikh Hasina's gov't was overthrown by violent student-led protests.

The verdict also clears her path for future elections, likely in Dec, with her name in London for medical treatment. Judge Md Rabul Alam delivered the ruling, stating that the prosecution failed to prove the charges against Khaleda and the other accused; hence, all were acquitted.

Now, independent agencies under WH

President Donald Trump is moving to give the White House direct control of independent federal regulators such as the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Trade Commission and the Federal Communications Commission.

The executive order Trump signed Tuesday gives the president more power to shape the oversight of the financial system and lay out criteria for transportation safety, basic consumer protections and wireless, broadcast satellite and other communications. It is part of a broader push by the Trump administration to assert greater authority over the gov't, possibly limiting the spending of congressionally approved funds in ways that could set up lawsuits and lead courts to weigh in.

Gunmen kill 7 Pak Punjab passengers in Balochistan after singling them out

Islamabad: At least seven passengers belonging to Pakistan's Punjab province were shot dead late on Tuesday night in Barkhan district, in volatile southwestern Balochistan.

The attack was carried out in 10 mins and the attackers escaped into the mountains. No group claimed responsibility

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but ethnic Baloch separatists, who have carried out similar attacks in the past, are the most likely suspects. The Balochistan Liberation Army is the most active organisation in the region and it usually targets security forces as well as Pakistanis from other provinces.

people on board, on the Balochistan-Punjab highway and off-boarded seven Punjab passengers after checking identification cards of those on board the bus. Khadim Hussain, Barkhan's assistant commissioner, said, "The commuters were lined up and shot dead," Hussain said, adding the attack was carried out within 10 minutes and the attackers escaped into the Koh-e-Sulaiman mountains.

Brazil charges Bolsonaro with attempting coup after '22 poll loss

Rio de Janeiro: Jair Bolsonaro, Brazil's former president, was charged Tuesday with overseeing a vast scheme to hold on to power by losing the 2022 election, including one plot to annul the vote, disband courts and empower the military; and another to assassinate the president-elect. The accusations, laid out in a 272-page indictment, suggest Brazil came strikingly close to plunging back into, in effect, a military dictatorship nearly four decades into its modern democracy.

Trump co sues judge weighing ex-prez's case

President Trump's media company sued a Brazilian Supreme Court justice on Wednesday, accusing him of illegally blocking the president's case. The lawsuit was made all the more extraordinary by its timing: Just hours earlier, the Brazilian justice had received an indictment that would force him to decide whether to order the arrest of Jair Bolsonaro. The justice is overseeing multiple criminal investigations into the former president. The Trump Media & Technology Group - which is majority owned by Trump and runs his Truth Social site - sued the Brazilian justice, Alexandre de Moraes, in US federal court in Tampa on Wednesday morning. It accused Moraes of censoring political discourse in the US and infringing upon the First Amendment by ordering Rumble to remove the accounts of certain right-wing Brazilian pundits. Justice Moraes has argued that his actions are necessary to protect Brazil from the anti-democratic acts of Bolsonaro and his supporters.

Pope, 88, battling double pneumonia, Italy PM says he's alert and cheerful

Rome: The Vatican said Wednesday Pope Francis has shown "slight improvement" in results from recent blood tests as he battles double pneumonia in hospital. "The clinical conditions of the Holy Father are stable," said a brief Vatican statement. "Blood tests... show a slight improvement, particularly in the inflammatory markers."



Candles and wishes for the Pope are placed outside Gemelli hospital in Rome. Meloni's visit seemed aimed at sending a reassuring message.

especially to Italians who have never seen even a photograph of Francis since Friday. Francis also received a get-well wish from J.D. Vance, whom Francis recently targeted in criticising the Trump administration's plans for deportations of migrants. "Let's all say a prayer for Pope Francis, who appears to have some serious health issues," Vance, a Catholic, said. Francis was admitted to Gemelli hospital Friday after a week-long bout of bronchitis worsened. On Monday doctors determined he was suffering from a polymicrobial respiratory tract infection, meaning a mix of viruses, bacteria and possibly other pathogens had caused his respiratory tract. Late Tuesday the Vatican said a chest CT scan showed the onset of bilateral pneumonia on top of asthmatic bronchitis, which is being treated with corticosteroids and antibiotics. The Vatican has given no indication of how long he may stay hospitalised.

of the justice system" and compared himself to President Trump, a political ally he often emulates. Tuesday's indictment marks the first time Bolsonaro has been charged with a crime, though he has faced several legal challenges as his conduct as president since he lost his reelection bid.

Italy's prime minister, Giorgia Meloni, visited Francis in hospital Wednesday and reported he was "alert and responsive" and full of good humour. Despite his diagnosis of pneumonia and a complicated bronchial infection that has sidelined the pontiff for six days, Meloni said she wanted to bring get well wishes to the pope on behalf of the entire nation. "We joked around as always. He has not lost his proverbial sense of humour," she said in a statement.

Francis also received a get-well wish from J.D. Vance, whom Francis recently targeted in criticising the Trump administration's plans for deportations of migrants. "Let's all say a prayer for Pope Francis, who appears to have some serious health issues," Vance, a Catholic, said. Francis was admitted to Gemelli hospital Friday after a week-long bout of bronchitis worsened. On Monday doctors determined he was suffering from a polymicrobial respiratory tract infection, meaning a mix of viruses, bacteria and possibly other pathogens had caused his respiratory tract. Late Tuesday the Vatican said a chest CT scan showed the onset of bilateral pneumonia on top of asthmatic bronchitis, which is being treated with corticosteroids and antibiotics. The Vatican has given no indication of how long he may stay hospitalised.

Kamala scrambles California governor's race without even entering it

In a different scenario, the governor's race in California would already have taken shape. Aspiring candidates would have been making appearances. Donors would have been bankrolling their favourites, and organisations would have started to announce endorsements. Instead, Kamala Harris came home. The former vice president, after a stinging defeat in the presidential race last year, has shaken up the 2026 governor's race by her mere presence in California. Speculation has

grown each week since her return from Washington. Will she or won't she enter the race? After flying back to Los Angeles last month, Harris has stood with firefighters in Altadena, greeted evacuees at a Red Cross shelter and toured fire damage in Pacific Palisades. "I am here, and will be here, regardless of the office hold, because it's the right thing to do," Harris said when asked if she was running for governor. "The possibility has made it difficult for most other Democrats to move forward, realising that any calculations they make now would be upended

if Harris entered the race. The 2026 contest to replace Gov. Gavin Newsom, who can't run again because of term limits, is currently populated by lesser-known aspirants, many of whom likely would step aside if Harris decided to run. "She hasn't frozen the field but definitely made it icy enough to force everyone to slow down and watch their step," said Democratic strategist Dan Bowman. Harris is weighing whether to run for governor next year, run for president in 2028 or pursue a role out of elected office, according to a person with knowledge

of her deliberations. She has put together an advisory team that includes former White House staff, veteran Democratic strategists, policy experts, a speechwriter and fund-raiser. Running for governor might seem to be a step down for someone who served four years as the VP and was the Democratic nominee for president. But by doing so, Harris would avoid the competitive slog of a presidential primary and have a strong chance to lead the nation's most populous state with the help of fellow Democrats who control the legislature. Harris has won in Califor-

nia every time she's been on the statewide ballot - as the candidate for president, US senator and attorney general. The prospect of her entry seems to have energised Republicans, who believe competing against Harris, especially if she came as the presidential nominee, would energise their supporters and attract donations. If Harris does run, it would be a rare move for someone who came so close to the presidency. Only four VPs have run for governor, and one dropped out to support another candidate, according to Joel Goldstein, a law professor.

DAILY PLANET



Marine experts have given up hope of rescuing 157 false killer whales that stranded on a remote beach on Australia's island state of Tasmania. A team of experts at the site said complex weather conditions have made it impossible to save them. Marine biologists said 90 survivors, who are under extreme stress, would be euthanised

Philippine village announces bounties for mosquitoes - dead or alive

A village in the Philippines launched a battle against dengue Wednesday by offering a token bounty to residents for captured mosquitoes - dead or alive. The unusual strategy adopted in Mandaluyong City reflects growing concern after the nearby city of Quezon declared an outbreak of the mosquito-borne illness over the weekend. At least 28,234 dengue cases have been recorded in the Philippines this year up to Feb. 1, a 40% increase compared to the same period last year. Quezon City declared a dengue outbreak Saturday after deaths this year reached 10 people, mostly children, out of 1,769 residents infected. Residents will get a reward of one peso (just over 1 cent) for every five mosquitoes or mosquito larva they turn in.

announced stricter rules for online retailers selling knives, along with tougher penalties for failing to enforce them, as part of a new crackdown named in memory of an Indian-origin boy killed in a stabbing attack. Retailers' Law will require retailers to report suspicious and bulk purchases of knives, with tougher sentences for selling knives to under-18s. Ronan Kanda, 16, was attacked near his home in Weymouth on July 2022 in what emerged as a case of mistaken identity.

AROUND THE WORLD. In 2014, two scientists in Antarctica made one of the most remote Tinder matches ever! A researcher at McMurdo station matched with a woman scientist camping 45 miles away by helicopter - proving that even in the most isolated places, swiping right can work. The Times of India is the world's largest-selling English daily.

DROP IN CREDIT GROWTH IS DUE TO SLOW DEPOSIT EXPANSION: SBI CHIEF C S SETTY

PICK-UP IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY LIKELY IN H2 FY26: SANJAY MALHOTRA-LED RBI'S REPORT

Tesla likely to import cars from Germany, skip China

Maha, Guj, TN Frontrunners To Approach Co For Factory

Pankaj Deval
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Tesla is likely to import cars from its German factory and skip shipping them from China in view of concerns raised by govt.

As it prepares to begin sales in India — initially through the import route and thereafter through local manufacturing — the electric carmaker is now being approached by a host of state govts for setting up its manufacturing unit, with Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Telangana being the frontrunners.

Sources said the Elon Musk-run company will "in all likelihood" apply for benefits under the new EV policy that govt had announced in March 2024. This will allow the company to import 8,000 cars annually at a highly-subsidised 15% customs duty (against 110% now), only after it commits to invest Rs 4,150 crore (little less than) \$500 million

MAJOR APPEAL

Tesla is likely to apply for benefits under the new EV policy

This will allow the company to import 8,000 cars annually at 15% customs duty (against 110% now), after it commits to invest \$500mn for a local factory, with value addition



Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu have the advantage of providing easier access to ports, seen as a must for Tesla's India factory, which will also be an export hub

The company has decided to skip import from China after govt raised objection

for a local factory, with additional domestic value addition (DVA) mandated.

"There is excitement and nervousness in investment departments of key states as they scurry to attract the Tesla investments. The plan is to approach the company management as soon as possible and begin negotiations, including giving out any special benefits," a source said.

Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra are already key automotive manufacturing hubs, and so is Gujarat where many companies have invested over the past decade. All three have an edge as they provide easier access to the port, seen as a must for Tesla's India factory, which will also be an export hub.

In its initial plan to govt, the company had said that it plans to set up a 5 lakh capacity plant where it would invest between \$2 billion and \$3 billion. The company plans to make an all-new budget car for India, which is likely to be offered at Rs 20-25 lakh.

The prospects of a mega investment from a high-technology company is a big attraction for various govts. "Some of the states are already in discussions with the company's management, having initiated the talks last year, when the company looked close to entering India. The talks will now happen at a more advanced level as things have progressed much ahead from the previous levels. There is also an effort to understand demands of the company management, including issues around local connectivity to the port," another source said.

Asked about the govt's demand to not import from China, one source said Tesla "appears to be in sync" with the request, considering the Indo-China diplomatic issues. "German factory in Berlin, which produces Tesla Model Y, will now be used to manufacture right-hand drive cars, which will come to India."

vestment from a high-technology company is a big attraction for various govts. "Some of the states are already in discussions with the company's management, having initiated the talks last year, when the company looked close to entering India. The talks will now happen at a more advanced level as things have progressed much ahead from the previous levels. There is also an effort to understand demands of the company management, including issues around local connectivity to the port," another source said.

Asked about the govt's demand to not import from China, one source said Tesla "appears to be in sync" with the request, considering the Indo-China diplomatic issues. "German factory in Berlin, which produces Tesla Model Y, will now be used to manufacture right-hand drive cars, which will come to India."

► Related report, P21

Irdai forms committee to review Insurance Act

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Irdai) has set up a high-powered committee led by former SBI chairman Dinesh Khara to review key aspects of Insurance Act, 1938. The committee, which includes top industry experts, is expected to submit its report in three months.

Based on recommendations of the Khara committee, Irdai will propose changes to the Union finance ministry, after which the department of financial services will issue a new draft bill for stakeholder feedback.

The committee includes Dinesh Khara, former SBI chairman; N Kannan, former CEO of ICICI Pru Life; Sanjay Sinha, former ED at RBI; Girish Radhakrishnan, former CMD of UIIC; Alok Mishra, MD and CEO of MFIL; Rakesh Joshi, former WTM at IRDAI; and legal expert L. Vishwanathan.

Industry sources said the formation of the committee suggests that insurance reforms may take longer than expected. The regulator appears to be laying the groundwork to facilitate the proposed changes in insurance laws announced by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

In the Budget, Sitharaman said govt would amend the Insurance Act to allow 100% foreign direct investment in the sector. She also said safeguards would be implemented to ensure that revenue from insurance sales remains within India.

At a post-budget press conference in Mumbai, financial services secretary M Nagara said that apart from permitting 100% FDI, govt would also allow composite insurance companies to operate. These firms provide life, non-life, and health insurance under a single entity.

GenNext less focused on building cos: Kotak

Says India's Animal Spirits May Be Fading As Kids Of Biz Families Keener On Managing Investments

Mayur Shetty
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Veteran banker Uday Kotak has warned that India's economic 'animal spirits' are fading as the next generation of business families focuses more on managing investments than building and running companies.

Kotak also called for a cohesive strategy from policymakers to counter the "vacuum cleaner" effect of US policies, which are pulling foreign capital away, straining the current account, and affecting the exchange rate and liquidity.

Speaking at the group's flagship investor event, Chasing Growth 2025, he said, "What concerns me is that many in this generation are taking the easy way out, especially in the post-Covid world. They claim to be managing family offices and investments, trading in the stock market, allocating funds to mutual funds, and treating it as a full-time job."

He added, "If someone has sold a business, they should be thinking about starting, buying, or building another business. Instead, I see many young people saying, 'I'm running my family office.' They should be creating real-world businesses. Why not start from scratch?" he said.

While acknowledging the importance of startup funding, Kotak questioned why individuals at 35 or 40 were not contributing directly. "I would love to see this generation be hungry for success and build operational businesses. Even today, I firmly believe that the next generation must work hard and create businesses rather than becoming financial investors too early in life."

Kotak also highlighted the risks of relatively high stock valuations in India. "Should we continue encouraging retail investors to keep buying? Retail investors in India are funneling money into equities daily, contributing to domestic institutional flows. Money from individuals from Lucknow to Coimbatore is flowing to Boston and Tokyo," he said.

“The US dollar is acting like a vacuum pump, sucking capital out of emerging markets”

“This \$2.5 trillion has the potential to leave. Of course, not all of it will, but could 5% exit? Could \$100 billion flow out in a year? We have seen that happen before. In such a scenario, two things could happen — RBI depletes its reserves, or the rupee weakens. I believe we could see a mix of both outcomes.”



“What concerns me is that many in this generation are taking the easy way out, especially in the post-Covid world. They claim to be managing family offices and investments, trading in the stock market, allocating funds to mutual funds, and treating it as a full-time job.”

—UDAY KOTAK | VETERAN BANKER

noting that foreign companies were taking advantage of high valuations to book profits and repatriate funds.

"The US dollar is acting like a vacuum pump, sucking capital out of emerging markets," Kotak said, pointing to the impact of a strengthening dollar and rising US Treasury yields above 4.5%, which are drawing capital from global markets. Indian stock valuations remain significantly higher than those in most other global markets.

India's external account has three key components: foreign portfolio investment (FPI) at \$800 billion, foreign direct investment (FDI), including both listed and unlisted capital, at close to \$1 trillion, and \$700 billion in external commercial borrowings. This brings the total

external ICICI AMC through an offer for sale.

"This \$2.5 trillion has the potential to leave. Of course, not all of it will, but could 5% exit? Could \$100 billion flow out in a year? We have seen that happen before. In such a scenario, two things could happen — RBI depletes its reserves, or the rupee weakens. I believe we could see a mix of both outcomes."

Kotak stressed the need for a strategic response. "The decision lies between tightening domestic liquidity or allowing the rupee to depreciate. What should our national strategy be? How should we approach this challenge? Our policymakers — including the finance ministry, RBI, and Sebi — must develop a cohesive strategy to counter this 'vacuum cleaner' effect."

Auto on govt's list for trade talks with US

Sidhartha@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Automobiles are among the list of items identified by the commerce department for consultations with other departments and ministries ahead of negotiations for the proposed bilateral trade agreement with the US — an indication that govt is seeking feedback for a possible duty cut for bikes and cars such as Harley Davidson and Tesla.

Sources told TOI that the commerce department is looking at the list of sectors where it can offer duty cuts following consultations and auto figures prominently.

The discussions are being held at the level of commerce secretary Sunil Barthwal to identify India's offensive interests, meaning areas where it would seek a reduction in import duty from the US, as well as its defensive interests — where it may have to offer concessions.

Ministries and departments, in turn, have been told to come back with feedback from industry so that a final view on the sector can be taken in a comprehensive manner.

Given Trump's outbursts in recent weeks — as well as the move to impose up to 25% tariffs on auto imports into

US — cars and bikes are seen as an area of defensive interest for India, especially as Americans see steel and automobiles among sectors where the world's largest economy should regain its dominant position that it has had to concede to China in recent years.

Trump has repeatedly flagged high tariffs in India as a concern, including on Tuesday, and said that companies such as Harley Davidson and Tesla are left with little choice but to set up factories in India.

This is despite govt slashing import duty on Harley Davidson and other bikes in the Budget, while lowering

the basic customs duty on cars to 70%, although the effective levy, including cess, has been retained at 110%.

For Trump, the other area of interest is easier access for American agricultural goods, such as pecan nuts and fruits, despite cornering a dominant share of almonds and pistachios.

For India, sectors such as textiles and footwear, as also some of its farm products, will be areas of offensive interest with non-tariff barriers too expected to figure prominently in the discussions as the two sides seek to expand trade from less than \$200 billion to \$500 billion by 2030.



UNLOCK DEPRECIATION BENEFITS.

EMI STARTING AT ₹ 99,999*

THE

X7



THE

X5



Starting at ₹ 97.80 Lakh*

Additional Depreciation Benefits up to ₹ 9.85 Lakh*

Corporate and Trade-In Benefits

Guaranteed buyback value up to 55%*

Includes 4-year Service Charges*

BMW Deutsche Motoren
Delhi/NCR, Faridabad and Noida
Tel.: +91 99901 88866
www.bmw-deutschemotoren.in

BMW Bird Automotive
Delhi/NCR and Dehradun, Uttarakhand
Tel.: +91 82228 22201
www.bmw-birdautomotive.in

BMW Infinity Cars
Delhi/NCR
Tel.: +91 82982 98290
www.bmw-infinitycars-delhi.in



KNOW MORE.

*For detailed terms and conditions scan the QR code. Starting EMI and Price advertised is specific to the BMW X5 xDrive40i xLine. The model, equipment, and possible vehicle configurations illustrated in this advertisement may differ from the vehicles supplied in the Indian market.



A thought for today
The best car safety device is a rearview mirror with a cop in it
DUDLEY MOORE

Elon Riders

Trump thinks Tesla factory here's 'unfair'. But Musk's car company needs to be here

On a day when Tesla fans cheered the brand's likely entry in India, Trump made it clear he's not thrilled by a Tesla factory here. "That's unfair to us. It's very unfair," he said, circling back to his pet peeve about India's high tariffs. He needn't have bothered. With just 13 jobs advertised on a portal for Delhi and Mumbai, Elon Musk clearly does not have a manufacturing or assembly plan yet. Why would he, with plenty of spare capacity abroad? So, all he's looking for now is to import-market-sell.

Besides, with Chinese showroom prices of the cheapest Tesla, Model 3, starting around \$32,000 (€28L), the brand can only aim for a niche in India - rich people with green sensibilities. And those are Shanghai-made cars. Even if Musk gets Tesla from Germany, with Indian import duties, the cars will be costlier. Regardless, Tesla needs to be in India. Unlike 2022, when it announced intent and then backed off because India did not relent on tariffs without a commitment to manufacture locally. Or 2014, when then Tesla CEO Jayaprakash Vijayan mentioned a 2015 plan that didn't materialise. Modi visited Tesla's California factory in Sep '15; Musk announced his China manufacturing plan a month later.



So, why now? Because this is not 2022 when Tesla's gross profit margin was 30%. It slipped below 15% in the last three months of 2024. The average sale price of its cars has fallen by a third to almost \$40,000. All-brand EV sales in Germany, where Tesla has a Gigafactory, fell 40% last Dec. Yes, it broke its own record in China with 657,000 cars sold last year, but faced stiff competition from local brands like BYD and Xiaomi. It did sell 1.79m cars worldwide - a dip of 1.1% - BYD sold 1.76m, recording 12.1% growth. Meanwhile, Mercedes and BMW, premium brands Tesla will be up against in India, have started EV assembly here.

The car industry is in a flux. Legacy carmakers can't sit on their laurels anymore, nor can Tesla. It was seen as cutting-edge, but others have jumped into the autonomous car race. BYD will soon roll out driver assistance with DeepSeek. Meanwhile, Musk's impatience is showing in US - he wants crash investigations related to his cars, and a dept of justice probe about whether he overstated his cars' capabilities, scrapped. What he also needs is a new and growing market.

When the last ICC Champions Trophy took place in 2017, Gautam Gambhir was yet to join, let alone walk out of active politics; Virat Kohli was making cover drives look easier than batting. The ODI championship isn't even close to entering ICC's mind.

Aqua Ain't Purus

NGT data on Kumbh river water quality frames a larger national question on cleaning up rivers

How many Indian rivers are polluted? A Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) assessment of 603 rivers, has identified 311 polluted stretches on 279 rivers, based on the organic Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) indicator. So, the same river can be clean in some parts, but not in others. Given the huge gatherings at Kumbh, the confluence of rivers at Prayagraj presented an extraordinary cleanliness challenge for UP authorities. Their preparations have been at scale too. But now, with only a week left for the 45-day event to wrap up, the National Green Tribunal has drawn attention to worrying water quality data.

It quotes a CPCB report dated Feb 3. The report raises red flags, less on the BOD measure, more on Fecal Coliform. It also says sewage treatment plants were found operational, and all but one complies with stipulated norms. So, if the increase in fecal concentration was caused by the sheer number of people taking the holy dip, were the countermeasures inadequate? A thorough transparent investigation is critical. It's acutely evident to the over 55cr that UP govt claims have already taken the holy dip. The risks of patchy disease surveillance are staring us in the face, after the Guillain-Barre Syndrome outbreak in Maharashtra has been linked to E coli contamination in water. More broadly, doing dependable monitoring and following it up with scientific fixes is the only way for India to clean up its rivers.

For all the remedial measures India has taken in recent decades, it still continues to discharge intolerable amounts of untreated industrial, agricultural and domestic runoffs into its water bodies. Even 25% of our municipal solid waste remains unprocessed. For the world's most populous country, every shortfall in waste management has painfully multiplied social and economic costs. River systems are dynamic and self-healing, but only if we let them breathe.



Ald-de-camp

Long before Artificial Intelligence, diverse devices have done our thinking for us

Jug Suraiya



In 1637 a Frenchman penned three words which would prompt future generations to proclaim him to be the Father of Modern Western Philosophy.

The man was Rene Descartes and the three words were Cogito, ergo sum: I think, therefore I am. Had he been around today, would his historic proposition be pre-empted by a chatbot: AI think, therefore I am?

AI, or Artificial Intelligence, is a genie that has emerged out of the bottle of digital technology, and no one knows how to put it back, or even if we should try to do so, because we don't know if the genie is a boon or a bane for humankind!

The unbridled genie of AI has got the world Twitter, for fear that it will not only think for us, but will out-think us and make millions unemployed. From call centre employees made redundant by chatbots, to writers of columns such as this, who will be replaced by LLMs, Large Language Models, which can replicate spoken and written words in endless permutations and combinations.

second opinion But for all the hullabaloo raised about it, AI is the inevitable outcome of a long process by which we have outsourced our ability to think to various devices. Perhaps the first of these was the abacus, which did the chore of addition and subtraction for us by moving beads on a framework, and was the pre-digital forerunner of the pocket calculator which did away with the need for us to do mental calculations or to mug up multiplication tables.

Calculators, which were mini portable computers, gave way to smart-phones which, apart from fulfilling their main function of taking selfies, are the Khajia SIM SIM to treasure trove of information, never mind if some of it is misinformation or fake news, but which relieves us of the chore of learning history, or geography, or acquiring any form of knowledge. Thinking? Let Wikipedia do it for us.

The cumulative result of this mental abdication is AI. Descartes? Wasn't the the dude who said, AI thinks, therefore I Ain't...?

WON'T BE F-35ed

Does India need these super-pricey, 5th gen US fighter jets? It's got buyers' clout because IAF needs 100-plus planes. Shop for 4.5 gen fighters & push HAL to deliver sooner

Manmohan Bahadur



There's a quick formula that helps keep feet firmly on the ground when a Westerner praises you. Slash the praise by half, evaluate remaining 50% for kernels of correct takes - the outcome is a reality check. That means keep aside compliments India received in Washington, and realistically evaluate Trump's offer of an arms sale - F-35 fighters - to New Delhi.

US pundits have several questions about F-35 fighters. But more important are geopolitical and strategic reasons to have a long think on Trump's offer.

Wars are not going to be fought only with high-end expensive trinkets. Missiles & unmanned aerial vehicles are revolutionising warfare. India is doing reasonably well in these sectors

There's a persistent belief among many Indians that US cannot be trusted as an all-weather friend, given the historical baggage of India-US relations. But that's not the point. No nation-state can be blindly trusted in geopolitical power plays. At the bargaining table, it's always each nation guarding its own interests, and turf.

Take Russia, for instance, India's 'accepted' bad-weather friend. The then USSR promptly looked the other way in 1962 when the Chinese attacked India because Moscow wanted Beijing on its side during the Cuban missile crisis. It's a different matter that Moscow came around later as our 'trusted' friend with the Indo-Soviet Friendship Treaty that

stood us in good stead in the 1971 war. Thereafter, it has been a dependable ally for India's armament requirements. The only catch was that, although reliable, Russian products were technologically inferior to Western ones. As a quid pro quo, India retained its neutrality, sidestepping repeated attempts to make us lean West.

French goods have been extraordinary merchants. With their independent stance vis-a-vis Americans and Nato, and no geopolitical ambitions in our part of the world, they sold their wares to anyone who had the money. However, New Delhi has never received any niche technology from Paris - and they've been selling us defence

ware since the 1950s. The British have been no saints - ever since we bought their military hardware in the 1950s and 1960s. They teamed up with the Americans during the 1965 war by delaying wheat imports in those food scarcity years, in a bid to coerce New

Delhi into arriving at an agreement with Pakistan on Kashmir.

America was a 'great friend' with economic aid in the early years following Independence. However, it twinned this with measures to 'balance' India by propping up Pakistan with aid and armory. Islamabad was 'used' as long as it suited Washington's geopolitical need. It needed Pakistan as a buffer against Moscow's expansion into Afghanistan - only to be thrown out in a teacup on USSR's withdrawal.

After Pokhran II, US was the first country to impose wide-ranging sanctions on India. Restrictions on some select entities remain in force to this day.

So, as op-ed columns reverentially note Trump's offer to sell F-35s, Stryker armoured vehicles etc, think, first, not of India's interests, but America's, because that's where US govt's coming from.

Why F-35? Might the delay attributed to 'supply chain issues' in the delivery of GE-F404 aero engines for India's vital Tejas programme - that caused Air Chief's outburst in Aerolandia - be as innocent as it is made out to be? Further, given that Americans take contractual agreements seriously, even the nine-month-and-counting wait for the supply of Apache attack helicopters for the army becomes suspect.

So, what should India do to safeguard its interests? As always, New Delhi is on its own even as the China-Pakistan nexus strengthens. Yes, Beijing has operationalised its fifth generation fighter and flown the next generation prototype. But wars are not going to be fought only with high-end, super-costly trinkets. Missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles are revolutionising warfare. India is doing reasonably well in these sectors.



50-Over Cricket's Midlife Crisis, With India Twist

Champions Trophy, an ODI tourney, will get real buzzy only with an Indo-Pak final. Indian selectors, however, have batted for the past and interrupted the future

Ajvitt.Ghosh@timesofindia.com



When the last ICC Champions Trophy took place in 2017, Gautam Gambhir was yet to join, let alone walk out of active politics; Virat Kohli was making cover drives look easier than batting. The ODI championship isn't even close to entering ICC's mind.

The predicament isn't specific to Champions Trophy. Over the decades, ODI has developed an identity crisis; it neither enjoys Tests' elite status, nor T20s' new-money brawn. In 16 months since the 2023 ODI World Cup final, top cricket boards scheduled far fewer ODIs than T20s. India played only 9 ODIs, the lowest among Test playing nations, in these months. In comparison, it played 26 T20Is in 2024.

Despite the reduced value of ODIs and ICC's casual attitude towards Champions Trophy, the eight-nation tournament, which began with primary host and defending champion Pakistan battling New Zealand on Wednesday, has its lure. With no associate nations in the fray - India is grouped with Bangladesh, New Zealand and Pakistan in Group A - there are no easy games. Group B is even tighter: Australia, England, S Africa and the ever-improving Afghanistan.

Champions Trophy is the first major ICC tournament being hosted by Pakistan in nearly three decades. For a country grappling with major political, economic and social issues, much more is at stake than cricket. Organising the tournament well would certainly induce a sense of achievement to the beleaguered nation, but also act as a testimonial of being a normal, functioning state.

India, though, is playing its matches in neutral Dubai. The reason is political and well-known. Nonetheless, the Sunday face-off between the two, promoted on TV as a revenge game for India's 2017 loss, will be a

showstopper. Only an Indo-Pak final can be a bigger blockbuster. Only Pushpa 2 can be better and bigger than Pushpa 1.

Ideally India should have used the Champions Trophy to test the skills and temperament of its young and brightest for the 2027 ODI World Cup. But displaying long-term vision isn't easy in a country where the team is expected to win every match in every tournament. Yashvir Jaiswal, the 22-year-old aggressive southpaw opener and India's standout batter on the dismal tour Down Under, couldn't make the 15.

Appearances, it seems, have batted for the past and interrupted the future. Eight of those who played in the depressing 2023 ODI WC final against Australia are likely to turn up in India's opening game against Bangladesh on Thursday. You can add Haritik Pandya to that list. Rohit, Shubman, Virat, Shreyas, Rahul - it is a Fab 5 line-up on paper. But appearances can be deceptive. Rohit and Virat, two superstars who BCCI often allows to create the iron-narratives, are way past their best - a recent ton and a half-ton aside. How India performs is closely linked to how they play.

If they fail to rise to perform, Rohit's in-form partner (Shubman Gill) as well as the middle order (Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul) will come under pressure. Rahul, especially, has constantly failed in major knock-out matches in the past. Even in waiting Rishabh Pant's batting record in key white-ball games in 2019 ODI WC and 2024 T20 is underwhelming. What makes India impressive is its lower middle order: The versatile of the one and only Hardik Pandya, and Ravindra Jadeja, who on a roll with the ball again, are the team's batting insurance. Of late, Axar has been India's unheralded X-factor in white-ball cricket. His 47 off 31 balls was key to India's triumph in the 2024 T20 WC final. Hardik, whose fitness and form are heartening, Axar doesn't have performance anxiety in high-octane games, which cannot be said of several regular middle-order batters.

But there are other worries. The pace attack without Bumrah, to misquote Gay Talese's immortal lines, is like "Ferrari without fuel". But at least the squad has two promising newcomers, Arshdeep Singh and Harshit Rana, and Mohd Shami, the strike pacer hoping to classify peak form again. That apart, if the think tank is bold enough to try the spin trip (Ravi Chandra Kuldeep Yadav and Varun Chakravarthy), India can have a more incisive bowling line-up. Overall, teams that relish pressure in key moments and fight back when cornered will be benefited.

Tailpiece: The 2025 IPL, which begins a fortnight after CT, will be played for the next 65 days. The first IPL was held over 45 days in 2008. Simply put, 20 more days have been added to its calendar. Any doubts which way the world of cricket is heading?



Calvin & Hobbes



External Circumstances Cannot Dictate Inner Peace

Ananda Tirtha Dasa

Individuals often encounter persons whose behaviour challenges patience and principles. These individuals may slander, belittle efforts, or bask in the glow of pomp. These moments test one not only resolve but also a sense of purpose.

What do you think should be done in such situations? It is tempting to react emotionally; to fight back against every insult or injustice. Yet this approach often leads to exhaustion, pulling one into a vortex of negativity. However, another way requires a deeper understanding of oneself and a shift in perspective.

When confronted with unreasonable people, the first instinct is often to confront or compete. This 'fight mode' seems like a natural response: focusing on their every word and action, crafting rebuttals, and defending oneself. But such a path, while momentarily satisfying, can become an obsession. It drains energy, clouds judgment, and shifts life's focus to something external and temporary.

The Bhagwad Gita offers an alternative perspective rooted in faith and inner transformation. Krishna speaks of the power of conscious alignment with the Divine, assuring that his grace can overcome obstacles. The challenge is not to control external circumstances but to redirect energy inward towards growth, purpose, and trust in the higher plan.

When viewed as a tool for self-improvement rather than a hindrance, adversity transforms into an opportunity for growth. The unreasonable person, however tricky, becomes like a weight at the gym. Lifting that weight strengthens resilience and faith. Faith, like a muscle, requires exercise to grow. Without trials, faith remains untested.

The unreasonable behaviours of others serve as a unique test, pushing one to rely not on the shifting sands of circumstances' but on a steady foundation of spiritual connection.

Human nature often gravitates toward negativity. When wronged, it is easy to fall into cycles of blame and self-pity. These thoughts, repeated over time, create chemical responses in the brain, forming habits that can be hard to break. This addiction to playing the victim, constantly replaying scenarios of being wronged, perpetuates negativity.

To break this cycle, the Gita teaches the recognition of true identity as eternal souls connected to the Supreme. When anchored in this understanding, thoughts shift. The same situation that once evoked despair now becomes manageable, even meaningful. Faith in

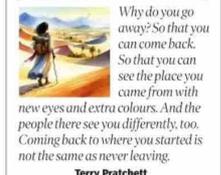
this higher Truth rewrites thinking, breaking the addiction to negativity.

Choosing faith and integrity over conflict is not about passivity. It is an act of quiet strength, a declaration that external circumstances will not dictate inner peace. This path is not without effort, but leads to a freedom rooted in knowledge of support from something more significant.

Krishna assures in the Gita: "To those who are constantly devoted and worship Me with love, I give the understanding by which they can come to Me." This assurance invites focus not on solving every problem but on remaining steadfast in trust and efforts. When the need to control outcomes is relinquished, and faith is aligned, a peace that surpasses all challenges is found. Unreasonable people may still exist, and obstacles will arise, but they no longer hold sway over the heart or mind.

The writer is a trustee, ISKCON

Sacredspace



Why do you go away? So that you can come back. So that you can see the place you came from with new eyes and extra colours. And the people there see you differently, too. Coming back to where you started is not the same as never leaving.

Terry Pratchett



second opinion

Perhaps the first of these was the abacus, which did the chore of addition and subtraction for us by moving beads on a framework, and was the pre-digital forerunner of the pocket calculator which did away with the need for us to do mental calculations or to mug up multiplication tables. Calculators, which were mini portable computers, gave way to smart-phones which, apart from fulfilling their main function of taking selfies, are the Khajia SIM SIM to treasure trove of information, never mind if some of it is misinformation or fake news, but which relieves us of the chore of learning history, or geography, or acquiring any form of knowledge. Thinking? Let Wikipedia do it for us.

GOLDMAN SACHS BUYS BSE'S SHARES FOR ₹401CR THROUGH OPEN MKT TRANSACTION

E-RECYCLING SECTOR PROJECTED TO REACH NEARLY \$200 MILLION BY 2032: REPORT



US reciprocal tariffs on India to have limited impact: S&P

New Delhi: India will be less impacted by the proposed US reciprocal tariff as the country's economy is mainly driven by domestic demand, and has substantial services exports, which is not going to be targeted by the Trump administration, S&P Global Ratings said on Wednesday. S&P Global Ratings, economist Asia-Pacific, Vishrut Rana, said the reciprocal tariff will hurt countries like Vietnam, South Korea, Taiwan more as they have high trade surplus with the US. AGENCIES

RBI net sold over \$15bn forex in Dec

Move Aimed At Checking Rupee Volatility

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) intervention in the foreign exchange market to stabilise the rupee resulted in net sales of \$15.2 billion in Dec 2024, latest data released by RBI on Wednesday showed. This was a drop of \$5 billion from \$20.2 billion in Nov 2024 when then President-elect Donald Trump stockpiled fears of a tariff war, resulting in significant gains in the US dollar.

DIPPING INTO ITS KITTY



Source: RBI

ducts such as crude and edible oil. RBI governor, who had recently reiterated the central bank's policy on exchange rate management, had said that a 3% depreciation in the rupee resulted in a 30-35 basis point inflation in the domestic market.

While the intervention resulted in the rupee appreciating against a basket of 40 currencies, in Jan, the trade weighted real effective exchange rate, which measures the real competitiveness of the currency, was pegged at 104.82 against 107.13, indicating weakening. A weaker currency is seen to be good for exports. RBI governor Sanjay Malhotra recently said that RBI is sticking to its policy on exchange rate management.

While data is yet to be released, forex sales by the central bank had continued in Jan following record sales by foreign institutional investors. FIIs recorded significant outflows in Jan 2025, amounting to \$2,875 crore. This figure represents one of the highest monthly sell-offs in recent years.

Forex reserves had depleted by nearly \$63 billion to \$338 billion as of Feb 7, down from a peak of \$701 billion in Oct 2024.

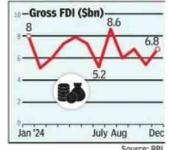
At \$18.5bn, FDI declines marginally in April-Dec

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Direct overseas investment into India dipped marginally to \$18.5 billion during April-Dec 2024, compared with \$18.8 billion during the first nine months of the previous fiscal year, as overseas companies significantly stepped up repatriation from the country.

Latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) showed that during April-Dec, repatriations or disinvestment from India shot up by \$10.9 billion, or by a third, to \$44 billion. In contrast, gross

MONTHLY SWINGS



Source: RBI

foreign direct investment flows were \$10.7 billion, or 20.5% to \$22.5 billion.

Within this, equity inflows were pegged at \$41.4 billion, 8.3% higher than April-Dec 2023, with reinvested earnings rising 17.4% to \$16.9 billion.

A part of the repatriation could be on account of some of the investors, including the likes of Hyundai and investors in startups, selling their stake in Indian companies at the time of initial public offers and posting hefty gains in the process.

RBI is even focusing on stepping up gross inflows into the country, positioning India as an attractive investment destination at a time when overseas investors are looking at diversifying their manufacturing bases to reduce dependence on China.

In Dec 2024, gross FDI inflows were estimated to have soared 46% to \$6.8 billion, data released in the RBI Bulletin showed.

Based on the current run rate, analysts expect the gross FDI inflows to be higher than last year. India saw record inflows of nearly \$85 billion in 2021-22 when there was a rush of investment in startups and telecom sector, led by Reliance Jio.

EV policy: Cos require ₹2.5k cr sales in 2nd yr

Rules Will Be Notified Within Few Weeks, Car Makers Will Have To Apply In 120 Days

Sidhartha@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: As govt reads to notify the rules for the new EV policy in next few weeks, allowing lower duty imports by the likes of Tesla, it is all set to stipulate a minimum turnover of Rs 2,500 crore in the second year for companies applying for benefits under the scheme.

It also expected to allow them to set up assembly lines with the current factory set-up. However, past investments will not be considered and companies will also not be allowed to consider land and building costs as part of the mandated Rs 4,150 crore (a little less than \$500 million) investments that need to be made to avail of highly subsidised import duty of 15% against the over 10% effective tariff currently.

The final guidelines, which have been prepared following extensive consultation with the industry will be notified as soon as they are cleared by heavy industries minister H D Kumaraswamy, sources told TOI. "The ministry is hoping to notify them in the next one or two weeks and after that the window for applications will be open."

The application window will be kept open for 120 days, allowing companies to import up to 8,000 annually units of high-end EVs (import price of \$35,000 or more), said a source.

The application window will be kept open for 120 days, allowing companies to import up to 8,000 annually units of high-end EVs (import price of \$35,000 or more), said a source.

PAST INVESTMENTS RULED OUT

► Cos need to show ₹ 5,000 crore turnover in the fourth and 7,500 crore in fifth year from date of manufacturing under EV policy

► They may be allowed to set up assembly lines within current factory set-up

► Past investments will not be considered

► Companies will also not be allowed to consider land and building costs as part of mandated ₹4,150 crore investments

► of subsidised import duty of 15% against over 10% effective tariff at present

re) at concessional duty in return for investing in a manufacturing facility that has to be operational within three years, with at least 25% domestic value addition. Companies opting for this route will be required to achieve 50% domestic value addition within five years of ministry of heavy industry issuing an approval letter.

In addition to other norms, the regulations will provide for minimum turnover of Rs 2,500 crore in the second year, Rs 5,000 crore in the fourth and 7,500 crore in

the fifth year from the date of manufacturing.

If the deadline is followed, approval letters could be issued by July-Aug and imports can start in a few months. During their discussions

with govt, auto majors, such as Hyundai and Volkswagen group, have indicated their interest but whether they finally go ahead with the proposed investments or rely on imports will only be known in the coming months.

The govt has, however, not heard from Tesla, which was seen to be the main focus of the policy that was announced last March, days before general elections were announced and weeks before Elon Musk was to come to India, a plan which was later shelved.



Kothari plans \$1bn investment in 3 yrs

Chennai: Kothari Industrial Corporation (KICL) is expanding its fertilizer and footwear facilities and setting up an industrial park, which entails a cumulative investment of about \$1 billion over the next three years. TNS

Hyundai India aims to be export hub

New Delhi: Hyundai Motor India is looking to position itself as a manufacturing hub for exports for emerging markets like Africa and neighbouring nations, MO Unsoo Kim said. It continues to face challenges with shipments to the Middle East. AGENCIES

Probus raises \$5mm to expand tech

New Delhi: Deeptech startup Probus Smart Things has raised \$5 million in a funding round led by Unicorn India Ventures. It will allocate the capital to expand its communication technology to smart grid and renewable energy projects. AGENCIES

iPhone parts maker Murata eyes India base

Chennai: Japanese iPhone component maker Murata Manufacturing has started test production in India and is exploring to shift certain part of its production here to cater to the growing demand in the country. "This will gain experience in factory operations in India, and prepare for future manufacturing activities in the country," the company said. It aims to start full-scale operation in FY26. Murata plans \$6.6 million investments for five-year lease to test long-term demand, a report said. TNS

High frequency indicators point to eco recovery: RBI

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The RBI's State of the Economy report said high-frequency indicators point to a sequential pick-up in economic activity in second half (Oct-March) of 2024-25, with momentum expected to continue. However, financial markets remain uncertain due to slowing pace of disinflation, potential tariff impacts, and selling pressures on emerging market economies from foreign portfolio investors, amid currency depreciation driven by a strong US dollar.

The report highlights India's economic recovery and resilience amid global uncertainties, including US trade policy. "The US trade policy uncertainty has spiked to le-

HANG IN THERE

- Purchasing Managers' Index shows improvement in industrial activity, says RBI's State of the Economy Report
- Higher tractor sales and fuel consumption signal to rising demand
- Increased air passenger traffic and growth in FMCG sales further support the recovery, the report adds

vels last seen during the 2019 US-China trade war. Restrictive trade policies and fragmentation could lead to a long-term shift in global trade patterns rather than a short-term disruption, pushing up consumer and business costs," it said.

The Purchasing Managers' Index shows improvement in industrial activity, while higher tractor sales and fuel consumption indicate rising demand. Increased air passenger traffic and growth in FMCG sales further support the recovery. RBI's enterprise surveys and the performance of listed non-govt-financial companies, with accelerating sales and improving profit margins, reinforce the positive trend.

The report suggests India will remain the fastest growing major economy in 2025-26, with high-frequency indicators pointing to a sustained recovery in the second half of 2024-25. Retail inflation moderated to a five-month low in Jan 2025, mainly due to lower vegetable prices.

gers' Index shows improvement in industrial activity, while higher tractor sales and fuel consumption indicate rising demand. Increased air passenger traffic and growth in FMCG sales further support the recovery. RBI's enterprise surveys and the performance of listed non-govt-financial companies, with accelerating sales and improving profit margins, reinforce the positive trend.

Credit growth hit by slower deposit expansion: SBI chief

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: State Bank of India (SBI) chairman C S Setty has attributed the slowdown in credit growth to slow deposit expansion, dismissing any systemic lending aversion. He sees little scope for deposit rate cuts in Q4, noting that a shallow rate-cut cycle would bring only marginal reductions.

The banking sector, benefiting from a strong asset-quality cycle, remains robust. Setty forecasts 7% GDP growth in FY25, stressing

the need for 7-8% growth to sustain economic momentum. SBI, which holds 22% of India's deposits and 19% of loans, serves as a key economic barometer.

LIQUIDITY STAYS TIGHT

Setty was speaking at Kothari group's flagship conference Chasing Growth 2025. Kothari Institutional Equities has prepared a Strategy Report containing speech excerpts.

According to the SBI chairman, liquidity remains

tight, though RBI interventions have eased the liquidity deficit from around 3.5%. He has pointed to persisting volatility due to GST and tax payments periodically draining the system, making liquidity management critical. Fiscal measures, such as tax rebates, may spur savings and investment, with consumption expected to rise significantly, he added.

Although Dec data showed some stabilisation at 10%, credit growth hovers in low double digits, with SBI targeting 14-16%.

Poor response to Burmans' open offer for Religare

New Delhi: Burmans' open offer of ₹2,025 crore for the acquisition of additional 36% stake in Religare Enterprises has received tepid response.

As per the data of open offer, against 90,042,541 shares, only 20,025 shares (0.1%) were tendered.

The open offer closed on Feb 13 and the date of payment of consideration was Feb 17, the data showed.

The tender price for open offer was fixed at Rs 235 per share. Following the open offer, the shareholding of four entities would rise to 24%. AGENCIES

ICAI: Disciplinary action against 241 CAs, a new record

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on Wednesday said a record number of disciplinary actions were taken against 241 CAs, including removal from membership for up to five years, as against 119 last year.

ICAI president Charanjot Singh Nanda said the institute will seek to maintain highest ethical standards and vowed to ensure a robust and fast disciplinary mechanism. Asked about steps against errant firms, Nanda lobbed the ball in the court of the ministry of corporate affairs, saying that govt is yet to notify the amended provisions under the law.

Unlike the National Financial Reporting Authority, which has been acting against firms whose engagement partners have been caught indulging in irregularities, ICAI can only act against its members till govt notifies the new provisions.

The new ICAI president also asserted that audit was the forte of CAs, a statement that was meant to counter demand from company secretaries and cost accountants seeking accountant status for their members under the new In-

Salary hikes to be flat at 9.2%: Survey

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Salary increments in India are expected to remain flat at 9.2% this year compared to a 9.3% increase last year amidst global uncertainty and softening growth, according to Aon's Annual Salary Increases and Turnover Survey 2024-25 India.

The survey is based on data from more than 1,400 firms across 45 industry sectors. The report showed a consistent decline in salary increments since 2022, when many companies rolled out 10.6% hikes during the Great Resignation period as they attempted to retain staff amidst mass exodus and skills scarcity.

Wage increases are anticipated to differ among sectors, with engineering design services and automotive manufacturing leading at 10.2% hikes. Global capability centres (GCCs) and engineering manufacturing are expected to roll out 9.7% hikes this year.

Above-average pay rises are expected in non-banking financial firms, retail, GCCs, and life sciences. In contrast, banking and technology consulting services are forecast to be more restrained, with expected increases of 8.8% and 7.7%, respectively.

The survey said three in five firms expected to give equal to or more than a 9% increase this year.

The latest projection suggests that businesses are adjusting compensation strategies in response to evolving market conditions.

M.P. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.

CII
Confederation of Indian Industry

Infinite Possibilities

Madhya Pradesh Logistics Policy 2025

Boosting Investment & Job Creation

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Dr. Mohan Yadav, Chief Minister

INVEST MADHYA PRADESH

GLOBAL INVESTORS SUMMIT

24 & 25 FEBRUARY 2025, BHOPAL

- Aims to reduce logistics cost as per global benchmarks by 2030 and establish data driven ecosystem
- Up to 30% investment support for Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal, Container Freight Station, Air Freight Station and Air Cargo Complex
- Up to 30% financial support for Logistics Park
- Financial support up to 50% for Green Certification and External Infrastructure Development

Released by The Department of Public Relations, M.P.

www.investmp.in

Designed by / M.P. Madhyam/2025

D-11186/24

HITMANS HITS BACK AT ALL QUARTERS

Skipper Rohit Defends Spin-Heavy Attack, Says Squad Picked on Strength



THE TIMES OF INDIA IN DUBAI
Gaurav.Gupta@timesofindia.com

Dubai: He arrived 40 minutes late and coughed incessantly. However, once he spoke, Indian captain Rohit Sharma didn't take time to hit back at suggestions that picking as many as five spinners for their Champions Trophy squad for their campaign on what is likely to be a flat wicket at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium could be a luxury.

Talking to the media on the eve of his team's tournament opener against Bangladesh on Thursday, Rohit asserted that three of the five spinners in India's arsenal were all-rounders, and his team was playing to its strength, which was spin.

"There are two spinners, the other three are all-rounders. I am not looking at them as five spinners. These three guys can bat and bowl. The other teams have fast bowlers and all-rounders. They say that they have six fast bowlers, which is good. But we work on our strength and try to run the team on that. Those three guys, Jadeja, Axar, Washi, give us a different dimension to the game, to our combination and our squad. And they add a lot to this team and give us a lot of depth. That is why we wanted to try and get the players who can have two skills rather than one-skill," Rohit said on Wednesday.

Mystery spinner Varun Chakaravarty and Chinaman bowler Kuldeep Yadav are the two specialist spinners, while Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel and Washington Sundar are genuine all-rounders.

'Gill a very classy player'
Naturally, Rohit was pleased as punch with

"WITH GILL, WE KNOW THE NUMBERS ARE CRAZY, HE'S BEEN SUPERB FOR US IN THE LAST THREE, FOUR YEARS, AND OBVIOUSLY, THERE IS A REASON THAT HE'S BEEN ELEVATED TO BE THE WICE-CAPTAIN OF THE TEAM AS WELL. HOPEFULLY, HE HAS A GREAT TOURNAMENT."

—ROHIT SHARMA | ON SHUBMAN GILL

the sublime form of his deputy, Shubman Gill, considering how he struggled a bit in Australia in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Having cracked scores of 87, 60 & 112 against England in the recently held ODI series at home. Showcaring praise on the 25-year-old opener, Rohit said, "Look, Gill is a very classy player. There was never a doubt about his ability in this squad. We tend to mix formats. That's not the right way to judge any player. Certain players have their strength in

certain formats. And if one format doesn't go well, it doesn't mean that the other format will also go the same way.

Citing Gill's ODI record—he has scored 2587 runs in 50 matches@60.16, with seven hundreds and 15 fifties—Rohit said, "With Gill, we know the numbers are crazy. He's been superb for us in the last three, four years. And obviously, there is a reason that he's been elevated to be the vice-captain of the team as well. Hopefully, he has a great tournament. That will eventually help us achieve the things that we are looking to achieve."

On the importance of the Champions Trophy, which is taking place after eight years, Rohit said: "Every time, or ICC trophy that you play is so important. And not just this Champions Trophy, but the previous World Cup that we played were all important for us. And it's no different here."

'Can't keep thinking about dew factor'
The Indian captain didn't seem too fussed about the usually dreaded 'dew factor' which can hurt teams while defending at night, as he felt that it in any case tough to predict whether dew would be there during the match or not. "Dew is an unknown factor to all of us. And it is unpredictable. When we played in Nagpur the previous day before the game there was so much dew, but during the game there was no dew. You can't think too much about that and prepare," Rohit said.

Praise for Pakistan net bowlers
Meanwhile, Rohit praised two young net bowlers who hail from Pakistan—left-arm pacer Wasim Akram (named after Pakistan great Wasim Akram by his father) and Owais Ahmed, whom the Indian batters faced in the last few days. "Both were good bowlers. I got a lot of feedback from our batters that they were good. And we had a little bit of time to chat with them as well. They live here. Other than that, I don't know much. They were both quality bowlers," Rohit complimented.

PLANNING STAGE: India skipper Rohit Sharma (R) has a word with Ravindra Jadeja (L) as coach Gautam Gambhir looks on

SCOREBOARD
NEW ZEALAND: Will Young c sub (Asraf) b Naseem 107, Devon Conway b Ahmed 10, Kane Williamson c Rizwan b Naseem 10, Daryl Mitchell c Afridi b Rauf 10, Tom Latham not out 118, Glenn Phillips c Zaman b Rauf 61, Michael Bracewell not out 0
Extras: (LB-4, W-9) 13; Total: (For five wickets in 50 overs) 320; Fall of Wickets: 1-39, 2-40, 3-73, 4-191, 5-316; Bowling: Shaheen Shah Afridi 10-28-0, Naseem Shah 10-63-2, Abrar Ahmed 10-47-1, Harris Rauf 10-83-2, Khushdil Shah 7-40-0, Salman Agha 3-15-0.

PAKISTAN: Saud Shakeel c Henry b O'Rourke 6, Babar Azam c Williamson b Santner 64

Power-packed effort sees NZ trample Pak

Karachi: Will Young and Tom Latham struck fine hundreds as New Zealand maintained their recent dominance over hosts Pakistan with an emphatic 60-run win in the Champions Trophy opener on Wednesday.

Young compiled an important innings of 107 off 113 balls, while Latham remained unbeaten on 118 off 104 balls to steer the Black Caps to 320 for five after Pakistan put them in to bat.

Glenn Phillips' 39-ball 61 also went a long way in the Kiwis getting past the 300-run mark as New Zealand overcame a shaky start.

The Pakistan top-order comprising Babar Azam (64 off 90), Mohammed Rizwan (3 off 14) and Saud Shakeel (6 off 19) were a tad too conservative in their approach. That ultimately cost the home team as they were bowled out for 280 in 47.2 overs.

Fakhar Zaman (24 off 41) batted at number four after being off the field for a major part of the New Zealand innings due to an injury scare.

It was New Zealand's third win over Pakistan in less than two weeks, the Kiwis having beaten the Rizwan-led side twice in the preceding tri-series. The sole positive for defending champions Pakistan ahead of the upcoming Asia Cup in India was the performance of the lower-order with Khushdil Shah salmaning 69 off 49 balls. Salman Agha also scored plenty of intent in



5 Will Young (R) and Tom Latham became the first New Zealand batters, and fifth overall, to score hundreds in the same innings in the Champions Trophy. The first four instances are: India vs England in Colombo on Sept 22, 2002; West Indies vs England in Ahmedabad on Oct 28, 2006; Australia vs England in Centurion on Oct 2, 2009 and Bangladesh vs New Zealand in Cardiff on June 9, 2017.

his 42 off 28 balls but that urgency was missing in the approach of the top-order.

New Zealand pacers as well as spinners bowled with accuracy, not allowing the opposition batters to get away. The efforts of William O'Rourke (3/47) and Mitchell Santner (6/68) stood out.

GILL REPLACES BABAR AS NO. 1 ODI BATTER

Dubai: India vice-captain Shubman Gill on Wednesday replaces Babar Azam of Pakistan from the No. 1 spot in the ICC ODI Rankings for batters on the back of his strong show against England in the recent series.

Gill, who scored two fifties and a century against England, jumped one place to the No. 1 spot. He now has 786 rating points compared to Babar's 773.

India skipper Rohit Sharma is placed at the third spot with 761 points followed by South Africa's Heinrich Klaasen and New

GILL vs BABAR IN ODIs SINCE 2022

Player	M	Runs	HS	Ave	100s/50s
Shubman Gill	47	2538	208	63.45	7/15
Babar Azam	43	2034	151	53.52	5/17

Zelanda's Daryl Mitchell at fourth and fifth respectively.

Sri Lanka's Maheesh Theekshana, meanwhile, has taken the first position in the ODI rankings for bowlers as he replaced Afghanistan captain Rashid Khan. The Sri Lankan spinner has 680 rating points.

HAVE ALWAYS LIKED CT AS A TOURNAMENT: KOHLI

Dubai: Virat Kohli has always liked the format of Champions Trophy as it demands the eight participating teams to be at their best from the get go.

The Champions Trophy is taking place for the first time since 2017.

"The tournament is happening after a long time. I have always liked this tournament. It represents consistency as you have to be in the top 8 of the rankings (to qualify). The level of competition is always good," Kohli told Star Sports.

Kohli, who has played three editions of the 50-over event in 2009, 2013 (when India won) and 2017, likened the

KOHLI IN CHAMPIONS TROPHY

MATCHES 13 **RUNS** 529 **HS** 96 **AVG** 88.16

Kohli is the most runs scored in the tournament to date. He has scored 529 runs in 13 matches at an average of 88.16. He has scored 96 runs in his last match against New Zealand.

GALLERY

Former Mumbai captain Rege passes away

Dubai: The Mumbai cricket fraternity went into mourning on Wednesday as news of former Mumbai captain, noted administrator, and one of the closest friends of cricket legend Sunil Gavaskar, Milind Rege passed away in Mumbai after suffering a cardiac arrest and renal failure. He was 76. He is survived by wife Raj and two sons.

Djokovic loses to Berrettini in Doha: Novak Djokovic was upset by Matteo Berrettini 7-6 (4), 6-2 on Tuesday at the Qatar Open in the Serb's first match since exiting the Australian Open with a hamstring injury. The 37-year-old Djokovic, ranked No. 7, lost to the Italian for the first time in five career matches.

Defending champions Gopi, Ashwini return to New Delhi Marathon: Defending men's and women's champions Gopi Thonakal and Ashwini Madan Jadhav will headline in the 10th edition of Apollo Tyres New Delhi Marathon scheduled to take place on Feb 23. Runners will complete a full marathon, half-marathon, 10K and 5K.

Hyderabad FC hold Mumbai to draw: Hyderabad FC's backbone, led by goalkeeper Arshdeep Singh, stood firm and forced a wasteful Mumbai City FC to settle for a goalless draw in an ISL clash at the GMC Balayogi Stadium, AGENCIES

ACTION TODAY

CRICKET: Champions Trophy, Bangladesh vs India, 2.30 pm (Star); Ranji Trophy Semifinals, Gujarat vs Kerala, Vidarbha vs Mumbai, 9.30 am (JioHotstar); **FOOTBALL:** ISL, Mohammedan vs Jamshedpur, 7.30 pm (Star); Europa League Playoffs, 11.15 pm & 1.30 am Friday (Sony); **TENNIS:** Doha Open, 5 pm (Eurosport)

GLURE OF THE PRO RING

There is a growing trend of elite Indian boxers making a transition from amateur to professional circuit. **TOI** looks at the reasons behind this

Sabi Hussain
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A story which first unfolded three decades ago, is getting written again in Indian boxing.

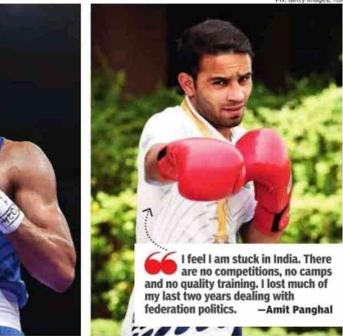
The year 1995 witnessed an exodus of several distinguished boxers—Dharmender Yadav, V Devarajan, Rajkumar Sangwan and Gurcharan Singh—from the nation's amateur boxing circuit to the professional ring.

Fast forward to 2025, and India's medal winners in Asian Games, World Championships and CWG, boxers Nishant Dev and Amit Panghal, have followed in the footsteps of their predecessors to join the cash-rich world of professional boxing.

Nishant has signed with Edin Hoxha and Dharmender Boxing and will be making his professional debut at "The Cosmopolitan" in Las Vegas soon. Panghal has teamed up with US-based talent management company Critical Sports and Entertainment. He hasn't been allocated a fight yet.

They aren't the only ones who have quit the amateur circuit to quit amateur circuit at the age of 24 came as a big surprise to many ardent followers of amateur boxing. The pugilist from Haryana's Karnal district had emerged as one of India's most promising boxers in the light middleweight (71kg) category.

His father Pawan Dev explained his son's decision: "He didn't see his future in the



amateur circuit. The money that comes in the professional world was tempting. He wants to become India's first-ever world professional boxing champion."

Reasons behind turning pro
Each boxer has own reasons—advancing age, the uncertainty over boxing's future at the Olympic Games, limited opportunities in the national set-up, financial security and greater fame in the pro world. Additionally, for some, the Boxing Federation of India's (BFI) internal politics, insufficient support from the federation, constant chopping and changing of foreign and Indian coaches, unconventional coaching methodology of foreign experts, no precise training and competition blueprint ahead of important events such as Olympics and Asian Games, dearth of quality sparring partners at the national camps and insistence on training in foreign locations which leads to dietary and acclimatisation constraints, have impacted their decisions.

'YOU EARN GOOD MONEY'

"Until you become part of the national boxing set-up, no one is concerned about you. Boxers toil arduously to win that elusive Olympics or Asian Games medal in their entire career. If you succeed, you receive cash awards. If you don't, you end up struggling financially. In the professional realm, you can earn anywhere between Rs 5 lakh to Rs 1 crore per fight. Everyone aspires to emulate Neeraj Goyat (one of the most successful and affluent Indian boxers in the pro circuit)."

—V Devarajan, 1994 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS BRONZE MEDALLIST WHO TURNED PRO IN APRIL 1996

"I appreciate Nishant, Amit or, for that matter, any other Indian boxers' decision to switch to pro boxing. You earn good money; there's no age limit and you can fight against some of the world's top boxers. Amateur boxing has its shelf life. Beyond a point, you can't explore much."

—Vijender Singh, 2008 OLYMPIC BRONZE MEDALLIST WHO TURNED PRO IN JUNE 2015

"Indian boxers have been making the right choice to turn pro. The fault lies with the BFI for not doing enough for our pugilists. First, there is constant change in the coaching department. You have to learn new techniques whenever a foreign expert comes. It affects your training and mindset. Also, the selection policies where a boxer has to go through evaluation tests before every important tournament. This is not good."

—Vikas Krishan, 2010 ASIAN GAMES AND 2018 CWG GOLD MEDALLIST WHO TURNED PRO IN JAN 2019

Vidarbha on top vs Mumbai

Hosts Extend Lead To 260 After Bowling Out Defending Champs For 270

Sandeep Dabhekar
@timesofindia.com

Nagpur: A 10-over segment in the second session at Jamtha Stadium yielded just 16 runs at the cost of three key Vidarbha wickets, including Karun Nair and Dhruv Shorey. After conceding a 113-run lead earlier on Day 3, Mumbai seemed poised for a

RANJI SEMIS

comeback, reminiscent of their performances this Ranji Trophy season.

Vidarbha found themselves struggling at 56 for 41 in 20 overs, as Mumbai spinners Shams Mulani and Tanush Kotian extracted enough wickets from the pitch to keep the batters under pressure. However, Yash Rathod and Akshay Wadkar, playing a resilient brand of cricket, steered the innings. Skipper Wadkar faced 102

Panchal ton leads Gujarat's strong reply

Ahmedabad: Gujarat captain Chintan Gajra's prediction came true on Day 3 of the Ranji Trophy semifinal against Kerala, thanks to a commanding knock from experienced opener Priyanshu Panchal (117 n.o. off 200b; 134x, 16x), reports Anub Mukherji.

Ahead of the day's play, Gajra had backed Panchal and the other opener Aaryan Desai (73 off 118 balls; 114, 16x) to deliver a strong start — and the duo did just that at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Wednesday.

After struggling to contain Kerala's batters in the first two days, Gujarat turned things around and bowled out Kerala for 457. Brief scores: Gujarat 222 (Desai 73 off 118 balls; 114, 16x) (Panchal 117 n.o., A Desai 73, Basil 140) vs Kerala 177 (M Azharuddeen 177 n.o., S Baby 69; A Nagwaswalla 3-81).

Lanning, Sutherland hand DC 7-wicket win over UP Warriorz

Vadodara: Skipper Meg Lanning struck 69 off 49 balls as Delhi Capitals powered a solid batting effort to beat UP Warriorz by seven wickets and register their second win from the Women's Premier League here on Wednesday.

Sent into bat, UP Warriorz rode on opener Kiran Navgire's quickfire half-century to post 166 for 7.

But the total was not enough as besides Lanning, Annabel Sutherland played a crucial 35-ball 41 and was ably supported by Mari-zanne Kapp (39 n.o. off 17b) and opener Shafali Verma (26 off 16b). Delhi completed the chase with a ball to spare.

DC were off to a brisk start with Shaik and Lanning sharing 65 runs in just 41 balls for the opening stand. Shafali was going great guns before she was caught by Chinelle Henry off Deepthi



SUPER SHOW: DC's Meg Lanning plays a shot during her 69-run knock

fourth wicket to take DC home. **AGENCIES**
Brief scores: UP Warriorz 166/7 in 20 overs (Kiran Navgire 51, Shweta Sehrawat 37, Chinelle Henry 33 n.o.; Annabel Sutherland 2-26, Minnu Mani 1-16) lost to Delhi Capitals 167/3 in 19.5 overs (Meg Lanning 69, Annabel Sutherland 41 n.o.; Grace Harris 1/11) by 7 wickets.

ONIDA

KING OF POWERFUL COOLING

TIME TO MAKE UP FOR PAST HEARTBREAKS

India Start Overwhelming Favourites But Bangladesh Can Be Potential Banana-Skin Rivals

THE TIMES OF INDIA IN DUBAI
Gaurav.Gupta@timesofindia.com

Dubai: The outfield at the state-of-the-art Dubai International Cricket Stadium looked lush green, while the 'Ring of Fire' — the LED lights — looked set to shine in full glow. The ICC volunteers went through the usual drill of displaying the national flags of India and Bangladesh, the workers were busy giving finishing touches to the painted ads on the ground, while the groundsmen gave the pitch one final roll.

After enjoying complete rest on Tuesday, India chose to train at the stadium on Wednesday evening at a venue which has by now become familiar to them. Bangladesh practised at the ICC Academy.

The Dubai leg of the 2025 Champions Trophy is set to kick off on Thursday when India, the tournament favourites despite the absence of talismanic pacer Jasprit Bumrah, take on an unpredictable, tricky Bangladesh in a Group A match.

Next up for India are Pakistan on Feb 23 and then New Zealand on March 1 — both in-form opponents. Clearly, this is a far bigger challenge for Rohit Sharma & Co than facing a dour England in a meaningless series at home.



TEAM BONDING: Indian players and support staff share a lighter moment during nets in Dubai on Wednesday

Buy your New AC at a Fixed EMI of

₹ 2025/-*



#IndiaKaOnida

However, having just thrashed England 3-0 in the ODI series, India would be high on confidence going into this mini-global event purely because the format suits them. Unlike the Tests, where they seemed to have lost the edge even on the deadly turners

back home, and the T20Is, where things can be dicey, One-Day cricket is a format where India have lifted their game.

Remember their brilliant run in the 2023 World Cup at home, where India steamrolled all opposition, winning 10 out of 11 matches before a

Travis Head century in Ahmedabad in the final robbed them of the title.

Almost 16 months later, India would be slightly worried over the inconsistent, rather patchy form of their two old warhorses — captain Rohit Sharma and superstar Virat Kohli. Another poor outing in the desert would raise more questions over their future. However, India would also be pleased with the form of their vice-captain and opener Shubman Gill, the new No. 1 batter in ODIs, who was player-of-the-series against England with a century and two fifties.

Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul are set to bat in the middle-order despite recent lack of clarity over their roles. There was a lot of hue and cry over Rahul being preferred to Rishabh Pant for the keeping slot, but the team management wants Rahul because of his proven record as a reliable and versatile batter who can bat in different gears.

In the bowling department, India are certain to prefer left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh who has enjoyed tremendous success in the T20Is (99 wickets in 63 matches, while he has 14 scalps in nine ODIs), over

Harshit Rana who impressed in his debut ODI series against England (six wickets in three matches) during which he generated good pace and bounce. With Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel set to start in the XI, it would be interesting to see whom India would pick as their third spinner — Kuldeep Yadav or Varun Chakravarthy. Kuldeep offers accuracy, variation and experience, while Varun brings 'mystery'.

Despite Bangladesh's lopsided record against India — they have lost 32 out of 41 ODIs — Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto was on Wednesday bullish about his team's chances. Bangladesh lost to Pakistan Shaheens in a warm-up match here, but the skipper refused to read much into it. Clearly, the Bangladesh skipper is basing his confidence on his team's newfound, young pace battery, headlined by the talented young quick Nahid Rana, who is backed up by the experienced Mustafizur Rahman and Taskin Ahmed and a slew of useful allrounders.

OPINION POLL

To your view, who should play as India's wicketkeeper in the Champions Trophy game against Bangladesh?

1. KL Rahul
2. Rishabh Pant

To give your answer, scan this QR code



Shanto hopes to rattle India with pace attack

Gaurav.Gupta
@timesofindia.com

Dubai: Spin is Bangladesh's most bankable factor across formats. It therefore came as a surprise when captain Najmul Hossain Shanto spoke about pace being a big strength of his side as they take on India here today.

Much of Shanto's confidence comes from the presence of young pace battery, headlined by the talented young quick Nahid Rana, who is backed up by the experienced Mustafizur Rahman and Taskin Ahmed and a slew of useful allrounders.

Shanto credited the Bangladesh Cricket Board's decision to play domestic cricket with the Dukes ball, and the right coaching, as the big reason behind this turnaround.

"I think the important thing is the change in pitches and ball in First Class cricket. We play with the Dukes ball, so the fast bowlers want to bowl a lot of overs. There are a lot of local coaches and overseas coaches who have helped our pacers," Shanto said.

Rana has done well in his nascent career, having taken 20 wickets in six Tests and four scalps in three ODIs for Bangladesh. Rana has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

"Recently, he played one Test against India, so he is executing his plan," Shanto said. Rana, who grew up playing taped tennis ball cricket in Rajshahi, has travelled in quick time to become Bangladesh's quickest-ever pacer. Having established himself in the Tigers squad, Rana is now ready for his first taste of an ICC global event.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-21 as India scored a 280-run win. However, this sample size isn't enough to judge what he could do on Thursday.

Shanto has bowled in just one match vs India, the opening Test in Chennai in Sept last year and went for 1-82 & 1-2

Bayer escape scot-free

Davies repays club's faith in him with a stoppage-time goal to see off Celtic

Munich: Bayern were defending a 2-1 lead over Celtic in their play-off tie from last week's first leg but the Bundesliga leaders were unable to put the tie to bed, with Harry Kane hitting the bar before half-time. Instead it was Celtic who went ahead on the night on 63 minutes thanks to former Bayern player Nicolas Kuehn. That meant the tie was heading for extra time, but Bayern ultimately won ahead on the night on 83 minutes thanks to former Bayern player Nicolas Kuehn. That meant the tie was heading for extra time, but Bayern ultimately won ahead on the night on 83 minutes thanks to former Bayern player Nicolas Kuehn.



LATE SHOW: Bayern's Alphonso Davies scores in stoppage-time

Bayern's board member for sport Max Eberl said in March 2024 that the club had made its final offer to Davies, who was also the subject of reported interest from Real Madrid. In the end, Bayern and Davies agreed a new deal reported to be worth some \$21 million a year to the player. The goal will go some way to repaying it. Advancing to the last 16 will bring Bayern another \$11.5m in prize money. "That's the Champions League," Davies said. "Celtic play with a lot of intensity. Not easy. We're playing so many games."

Minamino milestone but 3-3 draw puts Benfica through
Benfica drew 3-3 at home with Monaco to win their play-off tie 4-3 on aggregate and go through to play either Barcelona or Liverpool next. Benfica won 1-0 in Monaco last week. Monaco winger Takumi Minamino's first-half goal made him the highest-scoring Japanese player in the Champions League (5th CL goal). Benfica's Orkun Kokcu made it 3-3 on the night on 84 minutes. "We didn't play our best game," Kokcu said. **RESULT:** Benfica 3 (Akturkoglu 22, Pavlidis 76-pen, Kokcu 84) Monaco 3 (Minamino 32, Seghir 51, Ihenkhenia 81) (Benfica win 4-3 on aggregate).

Theo red sends off Milan

Milan: AC Milan are licking self-inflicted wounds after a painful Champions League exit at the hands of Feyenoord which has cast a dark shadow over an awful season. Seven-time European champions Milan have the Italian Cup and a top-four finish left to play for after a bizarre elimination at the play-off stage caused in large part by Theo Hernandez's daft sending off. Milan dominated the match at the San Siro until the 51st minute, when Hernandez hit the turf in the penalty area despite not being touched by Givinsio Road. The France full-back was already on a booking for a needless foul.



This is the only way he'll live, because he's VAR, if you cheat they'll see it, what is the point? - Zvonimir Boban, former AC Milan player

Hernandez's dismissal changed the course of the match and a boisterous home crowd, boosted by Santiago Gimenez's goal after just 36 seconds, settled into shocked silence when Julian Carranza thumped home the header which gave Feyenoord the tie 2-1 on aggregate. In the Sky studios, Milan icons Zvonimir Boban, Alessandro Costacurra and Fabio Capello unleashed their anger at Hernandez, calling him 'irresponsible' and 'childish'. Boban, who won three Serie A titles and the 1994 Champions League under Cappello, labelled him a cheat. Coach Sergio Conceicao was more forgiving. "Theo has given so much to Milan. I have made many mistakes in my career," he said. Now, he has a task on his hands. Milan sit seventh in Serie A. **RESULT:** AC Milan 1 (Gimenez 1) Feyenoord 1 (Carranza 73) (Feyenoord win 2-1 on aggregate).

Man United spent £14.5m on sackings

London: Manchester United paid a total of £14.5 million (£18.3 million) to sack manager Erik ten Hag, sporting director Dan Ashworth and other members of their football staff, according to the club's latest accounts published on Wednesday. It confirmed in their first quarter results the pay-off to Ten Hag and his staff was worth £10.4 million, indicating Ashworth's departure cost some £4.1 million.

Ref who sent off Bellingham under scrutiny for biz activities; Jude suspended for 2 games

The ref who sent off Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham for cursing at him has denounced what he calls a false accusation that has led to him being sidelined by the Spanish football federation. El Espanol alleged Munuera had business relations with officials in the Spanish league. Bellingham was hit with a two-match Liga ban.

China's Shandong booted from AFC

China's Shandong Taishan were booted out of the Asian Champions League after withdrawing from a crunch group match. Shandong said they were "unable to form a team" because of "serious" health issues. AGENCIES

WTA bans spectator after Raducanu's stalking complaint

Dubai: A panic-stricken Emma Raducanu approached the chair umpire during her clash against Karolina Muchova late on a rain-rattled Tuesday, sending shockwaves through the tournament. The 23-year-old Briton had threatened by a fan who exhibited 'freaked' behaviour in the stands. Raducanu, ranked 61, entered the Dubai Duty Free tennis championship on a wildcard. The Londoner — who worked her way from the qualifying competition to the US Open title to steal the thunder in New York four years ago — slipped behind the chair umpire's seat on Court Three and was comforted by her Czech Republic opponent. The fan was subsequently ejected from the venue. The incident quickly became the talking point of the WTA 1000 event, not entirely surprising given that the sport has known a knife attack on tennis superstar Monica Seles more than 30 years ago in Hamburg when she was playing a match. Major champions — Iga Swiatek and Elena Rybakina and young sensation Mirra Andreeva — however acknowledged that while there's the possibility of a fan overstepping, they felt safe at tournaments, given the level of security around them. In a statement the WTA said, "On Monday, February 17, Emma Raducanu was approached in a public area by a man who exhibited fixated behaviour. This same individual was identified in the first few rows during Emma's match, he will be banned from all WTA events pending a threat assessment." Andreeva, aged 17, ranked 14, who will go up against Swiatek in the quarterfinals on Thursday, said she has received hate-filled messages, but hasn't been troubled when on a tennis court. "I remember when I was 14 years old, I was playing one of my first ITF tournaments and I received a message after my loss. (It said), look around, because I'm going to find you and cut your arms," the Russian teenager said. Swiatek, the five-time major winner, said she and her team are vigilant about how and when they upload information on social media. "I try for my Instagram feed to be up-to-date, but sometimes we post one day after I leave some place," Swiatek said. The tournament's sixth seed Elena Rybakina was all steel in her round-of-16 clash on Wednesday. She saved six match-points against the in-form Spaniard Paula Badosa, seeded nine, to seal a stunning 4-6, 7-6(8), 7-6(2) win in a little under three hours. In a shock result, world no.1 Aryna Sabalenka went down 3-6, 2-6 to the 38th-ranked Dane Clara Tauson.

LOOKMAN WORST PENALTY TAKER, FUMES GASPERINI; PLAYER BLASTS COACH'S BARBS
Bologna: Atalanta coach Gian Piero Gasperini said his striker Ademola Lookman is "one of the worst penalty takers he has ever seen" after his miss hindered a comeback in their home 3-1 defeat to Club Brugge. He said midfielder De Keleba or striker Retegui should have taken it. "Lookman is one of the worst penalty takers," the Italian said. "He has a terrible record even in training. In a moment of enthusiasm after scoring, he decided to take it."

Lookman took to social media to share his upset. "Being singled out in the manner I have been not only hurts but feels deeply disrespectful, not least because of the immense hard work and commitment I have always put in." **RESULT:** Atalanta 1 (Lookman 46) Club Brugge 3 (Talbi 3, 27, Juglja 45+3) (Club Brugge win 5-2 aggregate). AGENCIES

'Football training helped in beginning'

England Hockey Goalkeeper Mazarelo, Once With U-12 Man United, Feels It's Important To Learn From Other Keepers

Currently one of the best young goalkeepers in the world, Mazarelo, however, played football in his childhood and was with the Under-12 Manchester United sides as a goalkeeper. "After some disappointment in my young football career, I happened to start playing hockey. I started enjoying it and kind of just happened to go from there. Eventually ended up getting selected into junior pathways and gradually moved my way up and here I am today," said the 23-year-old. Although he didn't succeed as a footballer, it did help him when he shifted to hockey in the beginning. "There was a lot of work done and training in terms of how quickly we moved our feet and it definitely helped. As I got further up, maybe 14, 15, or 16 when my hockey was getting better and I was playing at a high level, the demands became different," he added. Mazarelo, meanwhile, believes in "taking certain elements from certain goalkeepers and merging that to make the best version of himself." "Vincent Vanasch (of Belgium) is fantastic with his stick. I think Pirmijn Blaak (of the Netherlands) is very good at getting his distances right. Luis Callezo (of Spain) is very good at getting through people's legs," said the England goalkeeper before adding, "I think we've got to learn from each other and that will keep pushing the standards of goalkeeping." Meanwhile, he was more than pleased with the whole experience of Hill, where Rudras just missed out on making the knockouts. "He became good friends with Hardik and Laiti and loved the camaraderie in the team," said his father Felix, who has come down here with his wife Claire. Mazarelo, however, didn't play their second game against Spain on Wednesday, which England lost 1-4, but in all likelihood should take the field against India in a doubleheader next week. It will be the first time that the two teams will face off since their quarterfinal tie in Paris Olympics which India won in the shootouts.

Men beat Germany; women lose to Spain

Men's hockey team came back in style to beat Germany 1-0 in their FIH Pro League game at Kalinga Stadium here on Wednesday. But it was disappointment once again for the women as they lost 0-1 to Spain later in the day.

Men beat Germany; women lose to Spain

Men's hockey team came back in style to beat Germany 1-0 in their FIH Pro League game at Kalinga Stadium here on Wednesday. But it was disappointment once again for the women as they lost 0-1 to Spain later in the day. **FIH PRO LEAGUE** When the two teams faced off on Tuesday, the men's team, playing without Harmanpreet Singh and Hardik Singh, went down to the Germans 1-4 — one of their biggest defeats here. On Wednesday, it was a completely different story as India, with two of their key players back in the squad, put up a defensive mas-

celebrating 2 lakh TATA.avs — no.1 today, here to stay

Thank you, India, for driving the .ev revolution.

Five years ago, we began with an electric dream.

Today, we celebrate all those who have been part of this journey with us.

To our early customers and the newest ones who continue to drive the .ev revolution.

To our charging partners, with whom we built India's largest EV charging ecosystem.

To our supply chain partners, who helped us scale up.

To our dealer partners, who always go the extra mile to support our customers.

Thank you.

Every milestone reached and every headline grabbed is a tribute to each of you.

Now, with 2 lakh TATA.avs, 6 exclusive TATA.ev stores, India's largest range of EVs, and 5 billion kms driven - the dream is bigger than ever.

— limited period celebratory rewards programme

Avail benefits worth ₹1 65 000*

exchange benefits up to ₹50,000*

free charger & installation

6 months free charging**

zero down payment

100% on-road finance

special upgrade benefits for:

TATA.ev owners

TATA Motors car owners (PV)

TATA Group employees

Curvv.ev

Price starts at ₹17.49 Lakh*

Punch.ev

Price starts at ₹9.99 Lakh*

Nexon.ev

Price starts at ₹12.49 Lakh*

Tiago.ev

Price starts at ₹7.99 Lakh*

book TATA.ev

To know everything about EVs call +91 92402 92401 or visit ev.tatamotors.com

Visit a TATA MOTORS showroom now

Also, available in GeM, CSD and KPKB

TATA .ev

move with meaning

EXCLUSIVE TATA.EV STORE, SECTOR 14, GURUGRAM: 9167161897; EXCLUSIVE TATA.EV STORE, SOHNA ROAD, GURUGRAM: 9167518627
SOHNA ROAD: OKHLA: TREQ AUTO: 7506019457; SAFARJUNG ENCLAVE: TREQ AUTO: 7506019454; NEHRU PLACE: TREQ AUTO: 7506019457; SAKET: TREQ AUTO: 7506019454. **LAJPAT NAGAR:** SAB MOTORS: 7506019487; MATHURA ROAD: SAB MOTORS: 7506019505. **SECTOR 14:** PREET VIHAR: DPS CARE: 829539444; PALAM DABBI: SPARSH AUTOTECH: 7506019445; NARELA: SPARSH AUTOTECH: 8291058089; PRASHANT VIHAR: MALWA: 7506019463. **WEST DELHI:** PUNJABI BAGH: CHERISH CAR: 9167277034. **JANAK PURI:** DELIGHT MOTORS: 7045211252. **NAJAFGARH:** SPARSH AUTOTECH: 7506019549. **PALAM DABBI:** SPARSH AUTOTECH: 7506019638. **MAYAPURI:** TRUENORTH: 7506019638. **PEERAGARH:** TRUENORTH: 9619232511. **MOTI NAGAR:** AUTOVIKAS: 7506019415. **DWARKA SEC-5:** AUTOVIKAS: 7506019416. **DWARKA SEC-20:** AUTOVIKAS: 9619023842. **RENTLIX:** CONAUGHT PLACE: ARYA MOTORS: 9810638782. **KAROL BAGH:** ZEDX MOBILITY: 9619490152. **KASHMERE GATE:** DPS CARE: 905008005. **GHATECHAUK:** HINGIRI AUTOMOBILES: 961940714. **GOLF COURSE EXTN. ROAD:** ZEDX MOBILITY: 9167617962. **SOHNA ROAD:** ZEDX MOBILITY: 7506019906. **UDYOG VIHAR:** ARYA MOTORS: 8291518973. **GHATECHAUK BPTT:** MULTITECH MOTORS: 8291291325. **SEC-27A:** MULTITECH MOTORS: 7506019846. **YMCA CHOWK:** AUTOVIKAS: 8291940298. **PALWAL:** MULTITECH MOTORS: 8291518205. **GHATECHAUK SECTOR 63:** SAGAR MOTORS: 9167622374. **GHATECHAUK SECTOR 63:** SAGAR MOTORS: 7506020277. **JEWAR:** SAGAR MOTORS: 8291304204. **GHATECHAUK PATEL NAGAR:** SAB MOTORS: 7506019939. **MOHAN NAGAR:** SAB MOTORS: 7506019947. **VAISHALI:** SAB MOTORS: 9619085440. **MODINAGAR:** SAB MOTORS: 9152102564. **HAPUR:** SAB MOTORS: 9152102564. **KANINA:** DHEERAJ MOTOCORP: 9619949466. **KANINA:** DHEERAJ MOTOCORP: 9619947651. **KOSLI:** PREMIUM MOTOCORP: 9152102543. **SONIPAT & KUNDLI:** SWAN MOTORS: 915317772. **MEERUT:** GARB ROAD: ANUNAY AUTOMOBILES: 8291103957. **SHATABDI NAGAR:** DELHI ROAD: SHREE VASU: 7506019959. **SARDHANNA:** SWAN MOTORS: 9619362026. **BUNOR:** MANGALAM AUTOWORLD: 8879702579. **NAUBABAD:** MANGALAM AUTOWORLD: 8291176455. **DHAMPUR:** MANGALAM AUTOWORLD: 8879702579. **BARAUT:** SHREE VASU: 9167475934. **MAWANA:** SHREE VASU: 8879954579. **BAGHPAT:** SHREE VASU: 9167276250.

Images and illustrations are indicative and for information purpose only. All features & specifications mentioned may vary from model to model and may not be available across all persons / variants. Features and specifications are subject to change without prior information. Please consult an authorized TATA Motors dealer for latest information on features & specifications before deciding to place an order. Colours may not match actual colours due to printing limitations. **Free charging is available only on TATA power stations on Curvv.ev & Nexon.ev (Manufacturing year: 2024). Purchased between 1st February 2025 to 31st March 2025 and Van registration by 31st March 2025. Free charging offers are subject to policy of 1000 units. (Within per vehicle during the 6 months offer validity. All India ex-showroom price. Offers/Benefits may vary from state to state. Please contact your nearest authorized TATA Motors dealer for exact offers and details. *Terms & conditions apply.



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER | To subscribe call 1800 1200 004 or visit subscribe.timesofindia.com

Gen Upendra Dwivedi expresses 'concern' over reports that a Pak Army-ISI team recently visited areas in Bangladesh close to 'Chicken's Neck', P 13



HREERA Registration No. RC/REP/HARERA/GGM/ 910/642/2025/13. Dated 05.02.2025
HARERA Website: www.haryanarera.gov.in



AMSTORIA VERTI-GREENS

SECTOR 102, DWARKA EXPRESSWAY



ARTISTIC IMPRESSION

A Heightened Sense of Living

Allotment weekend 1st & 2nd March 2025.
First come, first served basis.

LIMITED INVENTORY. BOOK NOW.

📞 9319-76-3737

Scan to know more





Amstoria Verti-Greens transcends traditional luxury, crafting an icon of vertical elegance at a prime location in Sector 102, on the main Dwarka Expressway. Here, cutting-edge design blends with verdant sanctuaries and world-class amenities nestle amidst nature's embrace to define a new way of vertical living.

Standout Features

1.55
Lac Square Feet
Club & Landscape Area

15
Sky Gardens
Across 5 Towers*

7
Lifts
Per Tower**

3
Seismic Zone V
Construction***

3
Club & Amenities
Zones

IGBC Platinum
Pre-Certification

Indoor Sports Arena

- Indoor Pickleball Court
- Indoor Badminton Court
- 2 Squash Courts
- Indoor Swimming Pool

Other Amenities

- Padel Court
- 2 Outdoor Swimming Pools
- Yoga Studio
- Sculpture Garden
& more...

2 & 3 BEDROOM BESPOKE RESIDENCES STARTING AT ₹3.14 Cr*

To discover a new way of living, call 9319-76-3737 or email sales@bptp.com

Preferred Banking Partners - SBI, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, Kotak Bank, IDBI Bank, Canara Bank, Tata Capital Housing Finance

Disclaimer: BPTP Amstoria Verti-Greens has been registered with HRERA having registration number RC/REP/HARERA/GGM/ 910/642/2025/13 dated 05.02.2025 and is available on the website www.haryanarera.gov.in under registered projects. The License No. of the project is 123 of 2014 dated 22.09.2014 and Building Plan has also been approved vide Memo No. ZP-1025/SDIR/2025/922 dated 09.01.2025. BPTP Amstoria Verti-Greens is a group housing colony being developed on land admeasuring 94.292 acres (Phase 1) out of 12.06 acres situated in Sector 102, Gurugram. The terms of allotment/sale shall be subject to (a) application form, allotment letter, agreement for sale and /or conveyance deed, (b) licenses, building plan and other approvals, and (c) occupation certificate(s). Nothing contained herein constitutes an invitation to offer, an offer, provisional or final allotment and does not form part of any legally binding agreement and/or commitment of any nature. All material/representations, plans, specifications, images (other than actual images), areas, sizes, shapes and positions and facilities, amenities and recreational areas as shown are merely artistic impressions and it might differ to be in line with actual Project. All specifications and amenities, shall be as per the final agreement executed with the Company. Customers are advised to apprise themselves of the necessary and relevant information of the Project prior to making any purchase decisions. *Refers to areas designated as part of refuge area and library in the approved sanctioned plan. **6 passenger & 1 service lift to each core, as per sanctioned plan ***For better safety, the structure is designed for India's highest seismic considerations of Zone V for high rise structures, viz-a-viz Zone IV as stipulated by the Indian codes.

THE TIMES

INCLUSIVE OF DELHI TIMES (CIRCULATED ONLY IN DELHI NCR) |

BANKER UDAY KOTAK WARNS INDIA'S ECONOMIC 'ANIMAL SPIRITS' FADING AS NEXT GEN OF BIZ FAMILIES FOCUSES MORE ON MANAGING INVESTMENTS THAN RUNNING COS, 19

Unfair to US if Musk sets up factory in India, says Trump

'Why Give India \$21m To Raise Voter Turnout?'

Chidanand Rajghatta | TN

Washington: US President Donald Trump has added a \$21-million question to his relentless smackdown on tariffs by India despite talking up ties with Delhi and friendship with PM Modi during the latter's recent visit to Washington DC. "Why are we giving

▶ EDIT PAGE: Elon Riders/Don't Be F-35ed, P 20

\$21 million to India? They have a lot more money," Trump said on Tuesday, referring to a US Agency for International Development programme that details the amount (0.04%

ON INDIA: I told Prime Minister Modi yesterday — he was here — I said, 'Here's what we're going to do: reciprocal. Whatever you charge, I'm charging. He (Modi) goes, 'No, no, I don't like that.' I (Trump) said, 'No, no, whatever you charge, I'm going to charge.' I'm doing that with every country.

ON MUSK & TESLA: It is impossible to sell a car, practically, in, as an example, India. The tariffs are like 100% import duty. Now, if he (Musk) built the factory in India, that's okay, but that's unfair to us. It's very unfair.

— US President Donald Trump

▶ MAHA, GUJ, TN MAY VIE FOR TESLA FACTORY, P 19

of USAID's \$44-billion budget), ostensibly to increase voter turnout in India.

He then segued into his customary rant about New Delhi's trade barriers and tariffs, picking up the theme in a joint interview on Fox News with Elon Musk, complaining that "every country in the world takes advantage of

▶ Trump statement, P 17

Prez: Zelensky a dictator, started war with Russia

President Trump on Wednesday called Volodymyr Zelensky a "dictator without elections", lashing out after the Ukrainian president said Trump was living in a Russian "disinformation space" as he moves to end the Kremlin's war against Ukraine on terms that Kyiv says are too favourable to Moscow. Senior US and Russian officials met in Riyadh Tuesday and agreed to negotiate a settlement to end the war. Trump accused Zelensky of "misusing American aid to Ukraine for the war effort, and instigated Ukraine was to blame for the ongoing conflict. **P 18**

'Fgn tribunal can't scrap own finding'

SC has ruled that once a designated Foreigners Tribunal rejects the Assam govt's claim that a person is an illegal Bangladeshi immigrant who entered the state after March 25, 1971, the tribunal cannot review its own order on a fresh plea. **P 14**

Suicide pact unravels after Kol car crash

A car crash in Kolkata left three members of a prominent business family gravely injured early Wednesday, but soon took a shocking turn as the bodies of three other members were found in their home. Cops suspect a suicide pact. **P 13**

Lokayukta clean chit for Sidda, wife in land swap

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mysuru: Lokayukta Police gave a clean chit Wednesday to Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah, his wife Parvathi and two other co-accused in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) land-swap case, saying the charges levelled by petitioner Snehamayi Krishna against them "could not be substantiated".

However, Siddaramaiah, for whom the case posed a challenge to his pre-eminence within the state Congress,

▶ Only officials who have sold their conscience can give such a report

— Snehamayi Krishna | PETITIONER

Petitioner must respect the decision of the investigating agencies

— M Lakshman | CONG.



apparently isn't out of the woods yet. ED is separately investigating — laundering charges linked to the CM's wife allegedly benefiting from preferential allotment of 14 plots within Mysuru city by MUDA in exchange for land on the outskirts.

▶ 'Planned drama', P 17

Waive diplomatic immunity: India to Kenya on child sex assault case

New Delhi: India has asked Kenya to waive diplomatic immunity for a diplomat whose son is accused of sexually assaulting a five-year-old girl studying in a Delhi school. The 19-year-old accused studies in the same school. The assault allegedly took place in the school last Sept.

Delhi Police had filed a case but couldn't take further action as the child's father has said in a complaint that the mother of the accused is a diplomat. **TN**

▶ Can recall envoy, P 7

adani wilmar

celebrating

Don't worry, Chole Bhature will not put an end to your resolutions.

Keep your resolution going, smartly.

Switch to **Fortune Rice Bran Health Oil**, enriched with **Gamma Oryzanol** to help reduce **bad cholesterol**.

Reduces bad cholesterol

fortune
rice bran health oil

How did Donald trump US democracy so easily?

A month into his second term, Donald Trump has reshaped American administration in his own image – imperious, unrestrained, and insulated from institutional checks. With party-line polarisation paralysing Congress and the courts, he's ruling with unchecked authority, raising fears that the American Republic is inching towards a Caesar's Rome-like fate



Abhilash.Gaur@timesofindia.com

America's founding fathers modelled it on ancient Rome. Democracy, Congress, rule of law, separation of powers. They even picked an eagle for their national symbol. But it had to be Rome of the Republic, led by consuls, not Caesar. Trump in the first month of his second term has been Caesar for all practical purposes though. Putting seasoned toga wearers to pasture, he's surrounded himself with a cabinet whose members' qualifications raise eyebrows, leading many to ask if this is American democracy's darkest hour.

ONE-MAN SHOW

Trump's proclivity to order, not consult, has been on display daily. Where he's delegated work, it is to his henchman Elon Musk. He's aiming to cast America in his mould, and perhaps mindful of his age and the two-term constitutional limit, he's in a tearing hurry. Hence, the spate of legally questionable actions, such as:

- Rejecting birthright citizenship for the children of illegal immigrants, even though it's guaranteed by the 14th Amendment
- Pardoning over 1,500 people who were convicted in connection with the Jan 6 Capitol attack after his loss to Biden
- Sacking over a dozen federal prosecutors who worked on the Jan 6 cases, and the case related to Trump's mishandling of classified documents
- Sacking 17 inspectors general whose job was to prevent the misuse of federal funds
- Blocking \$3tn in federal funds meant for state and federal programmes
- Delaying implementation of TikTok ban after Congress passed and SC upheld it

Most glaring are his foreign policy plans, announced with complete disregard for diplomatic niceties. He wants Panama Canal and Greenland, and Gaza with no place for Gazans. From Ukraine, he wants payback in the form of minerals

THERE'S MUSK'S SIDESHOW TOO

Unusually for Trump, he lets Musk steal the show often. For instance, the Feb 11 Oval Office press conference with Musk's son X as a red herring. Musk is a super-billionaire with massive gov't contracts. In another age — just a month ago — his appointment as 'special gov't employee' in charge of the Department of Gov't Efficiency (DOGE) would have been unthinkable because it's a huge conflict of interest. But Trump doesn't care. And his MAGA voters love the idea of subversive energy because everything 'official' is rotten anyway. So, Musk can come in like Jack Reacher and take out the garbage. A quick recap of some of the things he's done so far:

- Clawing back \$800m in federal funds from New York City's accounts. It's not a big sum, but it's the first time a federal grant has been sucked back without justification
- Demolishing USAID. "We spent the weekend feeding USAID into the wood chipper," as Musk put it on X
- Seizing databases of sensitive information

about US citizens

- Most recently, DOGE has asked the revenue service for taxpayer records.
- It already has access to the fiscal service's system that controls federal gov't payments.

WHY TRUMP-MUSK ARE UNSTOPPABLE

In India, it took a long legal battle for UIDAI — a gov't agency — to collect residents' biometrics. In US, Trump has allowed a demi-official agency, headed by an unelected man who happens to be the biggest campaign donor, to suck up whatever private data it needs, without setting up any safeguards. Why are American institutions caving before Trump and Musk?

The short answer is that the system of separation of powers isn't working because of polarisation along party lines.

In the original idea of America, the House and the Senate could stop presidential overreach. If they didn't, courts did. And these guardrails have held up well over almost 250 years.

Watergate is a good example of America's guardrails at work. Nixon tried to force the justice dept to shelve its probe, but the resignations that followed — Saturday Night Massacre — proved damaging. Meanwhile, court declared the removal of special prosecutor Archibald Cox illegal, and many House members from Nixon's Republican party supported his impeachment.

But 52 years later, US politics has changed. There is complete polarisation along party lines, and the governing party is completely beholden to the president. There is no ideological diversity within parties. Were Bill Clinton impeached today, no Republican would come to his rescue.

When hard party lines leave no room for debate, bench strengths decide the answer to every question. That happened in India long ago, but America's reached that stage now.



CONSERVATIVE MOOD IN US SC

Republican House members were already under Trump's thumb, and he's bent senators to his will in the recent cabinet confirmations. That leaves the judiciary, which has stood up to him in the states, but Trump will appeal negative rulings all the way to the Supreme Court, where the 6-3 conservative majority could work in his favour.

The first such appeal, about the sacking of a US whistleblower protection agency's chief on Feb 7, reached the Supreme Court last Sunday. A district court had ordered the officer's reinstatement, and the court of appeals had refused to overrule the order.

A MATTER OF DECENCY

The US constitution is a short document, 4,400 words in all. It didn't foresee the consequences of party politics, and it relied too much on the innate decency of future presidents, hoping they would forbear to use their powers to the hilt. For Trump, the unwritten rule is no rule. As for those written down, he's not above bending them. Sample:

- According to University College London professor Christina Pagel, who has analysed 76 major Trump gov't decisions till Feb 15, most fall in the category of 'undermining democratic institutions and rule of law and dismantling federal gov't. That's his clear priority.
- He's even attempted to remove Federal Election Commission chair Ellen Weintraub. FEC is America's equivalent of India's EC.
- A significant number of orders seem intended to make corruption easier. For example, halting the enforcement of a US law that banned bribery of foreign officials.
- Suppressing dissent and controlling information is another of his goals. He's already targeted public broadcasters NPR and PBS and has tried to intimidate the media with litigation.

BUT THERE'S HOPE

For all the upheaval Trump has unleashed in the first month, history suggests that American institutions have a way of self-correcting. The country has weathered crises before — Watergate, McCarthyism, even the Civil War — and each time, its democratic framework has endured.

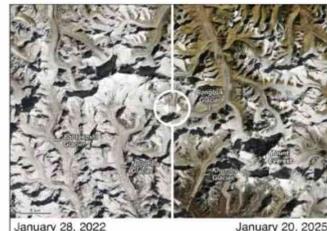
While Trump's overreach now seems unchecked, legal challenges, bureaucratic resistance, and shifting political winds could rein him in over time. By the end of his term, this moment may be seen as a temporary convulsion rather than a lasting transformation. America's system, though battered, has repeatedly proven its resilience and that remains the best hope for the future.

Everest snow cover has retreated by 490ft in 1.5 months, says study

'Change Due To Sublimation, Not Melting'

Gaurav.Tahwar@timesofindia.com

Dehradun: In less than two months, the snow line in the glaciated landscape around Mt Everest rose by 490 feet, from 20,000 ft on Dec 11 last year to 19,510 ft on Jan 20, due to sublimation — a process in which strong winds, low humidity, and unseasonably warm temperatures cause snow to evaporate directly into the atmosphere, scientists observed. Glaciologist Mauri Pelto, a member of Nasa Earth Observatory's science advisory board, detected the change while studying Everest-region glaciers through satellite imagery and local weather stations. Scientists say warmer, drier conditions are pushing



Nasa's satellite images point to a long-term shift in snowfall patterns

the winter snow line higher, meaning seasonal snow now remains only at greater elevations. Satellite imagery from Nasa's Landsat 9, captured on Jan 20, confirmed this upward retreat, contrasting with typical snow distribution seen in Jan 2022. Experts said sparse lower-elevation snow, as seen this

Jan, has become the norm in recent winters. Pelto said this trend has persisted in recent years, suggesting a "new normal" for the region. "This change was due to sublimation, not melting," he said. The snowline was already above average at the start of winter, following a dry beginning to 2024 and an unusually warm

and wet post-monsoon season. Pelto added that 2022 was the only recent year when Jan snow lines remained at typical levels. However, the elevated snow lines seen in Jan 2021, 2023, 2024, and 2025 point to a long-term shift in snowfall patterns. Unlike North American and European glaciers, which gain mass from winter snowfall, Himalayan glaciers primarily accumulate snow during summer, making dry winter months particularly critical. Approx 75% of the annual precipitation falls during the monsoon from June to Sept, during which these glaciers accumulate the most snow. If the snow persists long enough, it can eventually transform into glacial ice. Experts warn that the winter snow line in the Himalayas reaching unprecedented elevations could threaten water security for downstream communities and increase wildfire risks, as seen in Nepal's early 2025 fire season.