



BCCI announces Viacom18 has secured media rights for the Women's IPL for ₹951 crore for five years, from 2023-2027, meaning it will pay ₹7.09 crore per match P 17

Cricketer Rishabh Pant, in his first statement since his car crash on Dec 30, says "I am humbled and grateful for all the support and good wishes"; adds he has undergone successful surgery P 17

Kerala government issues orders making face masks mandatory in all public places and gatherings, also directs measures for social distancing to prevent spread of Covid P 11

Italian film legend Gina Lollobrigida, 95, who achieved international stardom in the 1950s and was dubbed "most beautiful woman in the world" after the title of her film, dies in Rome P 13

RBI red-flags OPS revival by states

The RBI red-flagged the return to the old pension scheme in some states as a concern, saying, "The annual saving in fiscal resources this entails is short-lived". P 15

Cos refuse to cut rd concreting rate

Under fire for cost escalation in its cement concrete (CC) road works, BMC has told firms to cut their rates by 6-8%, but the five firms are refusing to budge. P 3

Oppn no to EC plan for remote EVMs

Most opposition parties Monday opposed EC's proposal to introduce remote voting for domestic migrants, raising the issue of "trust deficit" in EVMs. P 11

Retd Major held for running over girl

A retired Major was arrested in Mohali for a hit-&-run 2 days ago in which his SUV allegedly left a woman feeding strays wounded. P 7

"Upar se Bharat kaisa dikhta hai aapko?"

"Bagair kisi jhijhak ke keh sakta hoon, saare jahaan se accha."

Rakesh Sharma, the first Indian to visit space, when asked by then PM Indira Gandhi how India looks from above

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Times Interact | P 8 & 10

BJP must win all 9 states in run-up to 2024: Nadda

Oppn Campaigns Exposed By SC Verdicts: BJP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Citing a string of SC verdicts as vindication of PM Modi and banking on his leadership, BJP on Monday set an aggressive foot forward expressing confidence about its prospects in the state elections scheduled in the lead-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

In a hard-hitting political resolution adopted on the inaugural day of its national executive meet, BJP said SC verdicts in a number of cases brought to harm the PM's image have exposed the opposition.

"2023 is a crucial year for BJP as it will have to contest elections in nine states," party



PM Modi at a roadshow in Delhi on the way to BJP's national meet

► YOU'LL BE GAME-CHANGERS: PM TO AGNIVEERS, P 11

president JP Nadda said, exhorting cadres to "ensure the party wins all the assembly polls that are a prelude to the 2024 general elections". Polls in Karnataka, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana

will be due this year.

The sense of vindication and a confidence about its prospects marked the deliberations of BJP's key decision-making body that appeared to set the ball rolling for the polls.

► In campaign mode, P 16

BMC chief goes to ED office, submits docus

BMC chief I S Chahal visited the Enforcement Directorate office on Monday in connection with a summons in a money laundering case that the agency is investigating against Sujit Patkar, a close friend of Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut. Chahal told media persons that he had submitted to the ED documents related to a medical contract awarded by the BMC during the pandemic. It has been alleged that the BMC awarded contracts to LHMS at higher rates and despite the fact that LHMS was an unregistered firm and had no experience in healthcare. Vijay V Singh reports, P 2

Crash victims' kin set out on 415km road journey to Nepal

Rajeev Dikshit & Arvind Chauhan

Varanasi/Dharwa: A family member of each of the four young men from UP's Ghazipur killed in Sunday's plane crash in Nepal's Pokhara left for Kathmandu by road, a 415-km journey, on Monday, Monday.

► Crashed jet once owned by Mallya-led Kingfisher Air, P 13

ping to quickly bring back their loved ones' bodies after a possibly difficult identification process that could require DNA sampling.

The charred bodies will be taken to Kathmandu from Pokhara on Tuesday for identification, an official quoted authorities in Nepal as say-

Pilot couple killed in crashes, 16 yrs apart

In 2010, Anju Khatriwada joined Nepal's Yeti Airlines following in the footsteps of her husband, a pilot who died in a crash four years earlier. On Sunday, Anju was the co-pilot on a Yeti flight that crashed. P 13

ing. If the identification process is completed without a hitch, the bodies of Sonu Jaiswal, Anil Rajbhar, Vishal Sharma and Abhishek Kushwaha could arrive in their native villages earliest by Wednesday or a day later.

► Flight at last minute, P 16

IN THE COURTS

► SC seeks Centre's response on validity of penal exemption to marital rape, posts final hearing on March 21 | P 9

► Apex court to take call on transferring to itself nearly two dozen religious conversion cases from high courts | P 9

► Will you abide by EU anti-monopoly regime in India, SC asks Google after Centre says US tech company is questioning CCI's Rs 1,338cr fine but paid \$4bn EU penalty | P 16

► Default bail granted due to delay in probe can be cancelled after filing chargesheet if an accused has committed a non-bailable offence: SC | P 9

► SC to consider live streaming hearings in all important cases, not only in cases before constitution benches | P 9

► Unnao rape case: Delhi HC grants 2-week bail to convict Kuldeep Singh Sengar to attend daughter's wedding | P 9

► BMC can't widen road and cut footpath size, says HC, asks what the policy on footpaths is - "who has rights to be there?" | P 6

After hotels, damaged homes in Joshimath colony to come down

Kautilya Singh & Shivani Azad

Dehradun: In a significant development, the Uttarakhand government Monday decided to "mechanically demolish" structures at Jaypee Residential Colony in Joshimath that cannot be retrofitted or repaired to reduce the burden on the slope said

► Now, residents flee Rudrapur village, P 12

to be accountable for the situation in the town. This would be the second major demolition exercise after the administration a few days ago began to raze two of Joshimath's biggest hotels.

There are over 30 houses, many of them with large cracks, which a resident said "seem to be getting bigger". Apart from these, even cul-



SDRF personnel demolish Malari Inn hotel in Joshimath Monday

verts that have developed fissures will be brought down.

During his second visit to Joshimath on January 11, CM Pushkar Dhami had met the affected families in the town and assured the distraught residents that "unless unavoidable", houses in the town won't be demolished.

► 'Damaged line', P 16

Letter to CJI a follow-up of MoP: Rijiju to Kejriwal

Inclusion of a member of the government in collegiums for appointment of judges in SC and HCs flows from the new MoP as suggested by the apex court constitution bench after it struck down the NJAC, law minister Kiren Rijiju said. Responding to a tweet of Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, who tagged the TOI story and termed the minister's letter to CJI as "extremely dangerous", Rijiju said, "I hope you honour court's direction! This is a precise follow up action of the direction of SC constitution bench while striking down the NJAC Act." P 7

Bhiwandi biker's throat slit by banned nylon manja

Pradeep Gupta

Bhiwandi: A 46-year-old motorcyclist died when a nylon manja slit his throat in Bhiwandi on Sunday, which saw Makar Sankranti celebrations with widespread flying of kites. Likemost of the state, the Thane police commissionerate, in whose jurisdiction Bhiwandi falls, had issued an order banning nylon manja from January 12 to February 10.

The deceased, Sanjay Hajare, was riding home to Ulhasnagar from Vada where he worked in a wine shop, in the evening.

On Balasaheb Thackeray

flyover, the nylon string slit Hajare's throat and he lost his balance, hitting the retention wall of the flyover.

Hajare was the sole breadwinner for his family comprising a wife, two children and his parents. After the police received information about the accident, they took Hajare to the state-run Indira Gandhi Memorial hospital. Doctors declared Hajare dead and cited blood loss from his throat and other injuries as the cause of death.

Another rider had had a close shave on the flyover earlier in the day.

► Another biker survives, P 2

E Freeway's extrn till Thane to have ramps at 4 places

Ten years after the Eastern Freeway was completed, the tender for its extension till Thane is likely to be floated by April. When completed—2026 is the deadline—the 31km signal-free road will cut south Mumbai-Thane travel to 40 minutes. The extension will have entry and exit ramps at Chheda Nagar, Kanjurmarg Junction, Airoli-Mulund Link Road and Thane's Anand Nagar, reports Manthan K Mehta. P 5

WPI dips below 5%, rise lowest in 22 months

Wholesale price inflation slowed to a 22-month low in December due to moderating food, mineral oils and crude prices, adding to the relief provided by easing retail inflation numbers. Data showed WPI rose an annual 4.95% in December, lower than the 5.9% in November. Vegetable prices fell nearly 36% during the month. Economists said the central bank may adopt a wait and watch approach. P 15

Russia now India's 4th biggest import source, up 16 spots

Imports from Russia have jumped five times to \$32.9 billion in April-December, making it India's 4th largest trading partner. It has moved up from being India's 20th largest source of imports last financial year due to the massive surge in crude petroleum flows. At current pace, imports from Russia could hit \$50 billion, just shy of the value of goods shipped from the US, India's 3rd largest source of imports. P 15

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BJAZ-PR-EC-01859/22



Colaba
26.4° / 18.2°

Forecast: Mainly clear sky.
Maximum and minimum temperatures would be around 29° and 26° respectively.

THE TIMES OF INDIA, MUMBAI | TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023



SUNRISE
Wednesday: 07:14 hrs

SUNSET
Tuesday: 18:22 hrs

Relative humidity:

Colaba

64%

Santacruz

49%

FOR LIVE UPDATE

SCAN THE QR CODE



Civic chief appears before ED in Covid hosp contract case

Vijay V. Singh@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: BMC commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal appeared before Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials at their Ballard Estate office on Monday and submitted documents related to a Covid hospital management contract awarded by the civic body during the pandemic.

The ED had summoned Chahal for questioning in a money laundering case the agency is investigating against Sujit Patkar, a close friend of Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut, and others.

Chahal went with the additional municipal commissioner (health) and a couple of other civic officials around 11.30am and left around 3pm. While leaving, Chahal told mediapersons he submitted documents to the ED and explained them. He would assist the ED and appear whenever required, he added.

Acting on a complaint by BJP leader Kirit Somaia, the Azad Maidan police station had registered a forgery case against Lifeline Hospital Management Services (LHMS), and Patkar and his three partners — Hemant Gupta, Sanjay Shah, Raju Salunkhe — last August. The four are alleged to have fraudulently bagged BMC contracts for managing Covid field hospitals during the pandemic. After registering the case, the police had transferred it to the EOW to probe cheating and forgery allegations.

Recently, the ED registered a case based on the police FIR to investigate the money laundering angle.

It has been alleged that the BMC awarded contracts to LHMS at higher rates and despite the fact that LHMS was an unregistered firm and had no experience in healthcare. The BMC also allegedly first awarded the contracts and a year later, signed a related agreement with the company.

While leaving the ED office, Chahal said during the pandemic, the BMC was war-

PROBE INTO DEAL WITH SUJIT PATKAR FIRM

THE CONTROVERSIAL CONTRACT

DAHISAR FIELD HOSPITAL
June 2020 | Sujit Patkar, along with three partners — Hemant Gupta, Sanjay Shah and Raju Salunkhe — forms Lifeline Hospital Management Services (LHMS)

► Company is not yet registered, they apply for management contract of Dahisar field hospital
July | BMC awards the contract to LHMS and it starts running the hospital
► It is alleged that though LHMS has no experience in healthcare, BMC awarded contracts to it at higher rates



I S Chahal arrives at the ED office in Ballard Estate on Monday morning

July 2021 | Exactly a year later, BMC and LHMS sign contract agreement

OTHER ALLEGATIONS PATKAR FACES

► Patkar is accused of helping Raut in eight land deals at Kihim beach, Alibaug. They were purchased jointly in the names of Raut's wife Varsha and Patkar's wife (now estranged) Swapna
► Most of the payments to the land owners made in cash
► Patkar allegedly indulged in suspicious financial transactions with his friend and Shiv Sena (UBT) spokesperson Sanjay Raut during the Patra Chawl FSI fraud



Associated in firm allegedly registered with forged documents

► In January 2021, Sandeep Gupta and Yogesh Ullengala incorporate Eternal Health Care LLP partnership firm and register it with Registrar of Companies (RoC)
► In April, Sujit Patkar, Raju Salunkhe and another person included in Eternal Health Care LLP
► This January, RoC files a forgery case at Marine Drive police station against Gupta and Ullengala for registering Eternal Health Care LLP with the help of forged documents

ned about an increase in numbers of Covid patients and was asked to set up more hospital beds to handle the situation. In June 2020, many field hospitals had been constructed in open spaces by different government agencies and the BMC had not spent any money on the construction. But the civic body was responsible for managing these field hospitals and arranging for healthcare staff at its own expense.

Chahal added that the BMC had invited expressions of interest for management of the field hospital initially and four companies responded. "BMC awarded them the contract and these Covid facilities saved thousands of lives. BMC awarded 10 such contracts and in 2022, Azad Maidan police received a complaint related to one of the companies (LHMS), saying it had submitted bogus documents and got the con-

tract. The BMC had no mechanism to check the authenticity of those documents," Chahal told reporters.

The municipal administrator also said: "Last August, we wrote to the police to investigate the complaint and subsequently provided them with all the related documents. The ED also asked for the same information. There was a questionnaire and I provided the required information."

BE.7 causing fresh Covid surge in China found in three Mumbaikars; all recover

Malathy Iyer@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: For the first time, the BE.7 sub-variant, which is responsible for the ongoing Covid outbreak in China and reportedly claimed 60,000 lives in a month, was isolated in three Mumbaikars who returned from foreign trips.

All three patients have fully recovered, said the state's daily Covid update on Monday evening. BMC executive health officer Dr Mangala Gomare said samples of these three patients were among the 61 samples sent from Mumbai to NIV Pune for genome sequencing. "Only 49 could be analysed and all are Omicron variants," she said. Of the three BE.7 patients, two had come from China while one was from Canada, said state

government's Covid update. "All three patients were vaccinated. All of them had mild symptoms and nobody needed hospitalization," it added.

Dr Gomare said the three BE.7 patients included a 59-year-old female from Malad who has liver cirrhosis. While the second patient is a 57-year-old male, an NRI working in China and staying in Mulund at the moment, the third is a 31-year-old female from Parel who had returned from China on December 17.

Four cases of BE.7 were reported in India in the September-October period last year, including three cases from Gujarat and one from Odisha. In the first week of January, four people from West Bengal, including three of a family, tested positive for the BE.7 variant.

Alleviating concerns of any wave, city experts said the BE.7 variant may not be as serious as it is in China. In fact, local doctors are barely seeing cases of coronavirus. "There is quite a bit of upper respiratory infection that physicians are tackling, but Covid-19 cases are rare now," said physician Dr Pratit Samdani, adding that since Mumbai's vaccination coverage is over 90%, the threat of a surge is low.

Infectious disease expert Dr Vasant Nagvekar concurred that the possibility of newer variants causing a new wave is little. "We have not been seeing any Covid cases for a while. Even cases with upper respiratory tract infection are mostly coming positive for influenza A H3N2," he added.

Union health minister

Mansukh Mandaviya had last week said that 200 of the 15 lakh air passengers at India airports had tested positive for Covid. He said some of these passengers showed BE.7 variants, "but our vaccines are effective against this variant."

There has been a resurgence in Covid cases since winter began in parts of world, especially China, Japan, Brazil and the US. Omicron's BE.7 sub-variant has been isolated in huge numbers in China, triggering fears in India, and the government responded by restarting random testing at airports. Positive samples were sent for genome sequencing for new sub-variants BE.7, XBB1 and XBB1.5.

(Inputs by Sumitra DebRoy)

► Add'l relief returned, P 6

Sharp strings cut into 900 birds as kites fly high and low on Sankranti

Vijay Singh@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: More than 900 birds were reported injured by the manja of kites that were flown on Makar Sankranti in the Mumbai region on Sunday. There were several bird deaths too.

The figure of injured avians was reached after activists who had set up bird rescue camps in the city at the weekend collated their statistics. "The actual number of injured might be even higher."

"More than 30 'Free Bird Medical Camps' were organised by different organisations and circles all over Mumbai. Over 900 injured birds have been rescued and treated. Many more lost their lives due to grave injuries from sharp kite strings," said Mitesh Jain, the honorary animal welfare officer of Animal Welfare Board of India and a trustee of Karuna Trust Virar.

More than 650 birds were rescued in Dahisar, Borivli, Kandivli and Malad. "Even days after the festival, we will get calls from animal lovers about birds in distress after getting entangled in the thread used for flying kites," said Jain.

Shalish Mehta of Jeev Daya Group said one particular bird suffered a deep wing injury. "Our NGO basically rescues birds and animals throughout the year, by sharing our helpline 9820135517. This year, it was heart-breaking to see an adult kite with a badly cut wing due to the use of illegal manja," said Mehta.

Sandeep Shah of Bird Helpline group said people should not hesitate to call the group on 9820038275 if they saw any birds in distress. He said kite flying might be fun for some people but was a killer for birds and humans too. "Unless the citizens themselves do not understand how their fun activity of flying kites is harming birds and also humans, this practice will continue," said Shah.

Sneha Visaria of Just Smile Charitable Trust said the police were most cooperative. "With the help of VP

MANJA LEAVES A TRAIL OF BLOOD

BHIWANDI MISHAP

Deceased Biker Family's Sole Breadwinner

Name of motorcyclist |

Sanjay Hajare | 46

Manja accident spot |

Balasahab Thackeray flyover in Bhiwandi

Occupation |

Employed at wine shop in Vada near Bhiwandi

Residence |

Ulhasnagar

Dependents |

Wife, two children, parents

Police action after death |

FIR registered against unknown persons for causing death due to negligence



Balasahab Thackeray flyover

Ban on Nylon Manja & Action Taken

► Thane police commissionerate, like others in state, banned use, sale and storage of nylon manja from Jan 12 to Feb 10

► Nylon manja poses a danger to humans as well as birds and animals

► Many shops still kept nylon manja for Sankranti. Police booked 5 in Bhiwandi



TIMES VIEW: Despite the ban on the deadly nylon manja, many shops and traders brazenly sell these during the Makar Sankranti festival. These not only harm birds but are a big threat to people like the biker in Bhiwandi who lost his life. Unless stiff penalties are imposed on those who sell Chinese manja, such tragedies will continue to occur. What may be a 'fun activity' for some, should not become fatal for others.

Road police station, we had sent up a bird rescue camp in this area, and got many rescue cases involving pigeons, kites and parrots, among others. We thank the Mumbai police for allowing activists to set up bird camps at different places," said Visaria.

From the time the order banning nylon manja, or Chinese manja as it is also called, came into effect on Thursday to the end of Makar Sankranti celebrations late on Sunday, the police registered offences against five shopkeepers in different parts of Bhiwandi for stocking and selling the banned item. They were slapped with cases under Section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) and other sections of the IPC.

Similar action was also taken by the police in other parts of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

Before flyover manja death, close call for another biker

Pradeep Gupta

Bhiwandi: The police registered an offence against unidentified persons for causing the death due to negligence of a motorcyclist, Sanjay Hajare, on Sunday after his throat was slit by the banned nylon manja in Bhiwandi.

"We suspect four to five children were flying kites in the area and the manja that made Hajare fall from his bike could belong to any one of them," DCP (Zone 2) Navnath Dhavale said.

Earlier in the day, on the same flyover a motorcycle rider, Rishi Kesharwani, escaped with minor scratches on his throat after he, too, rode into the manja of a kite.

Kesharwani said that since he was riding slowly he could control his motorcycle when the kite string cut into his throat.

From the time the order banning nylon manja, or Chinese manja as it is also called, came into effect on Thursday to the end of Makar Sankranti celebrations late on Sunday, the police registered offences against five shopkeepers in different parts of Bhiwandi for stocking and selling the banned item. They were slapped with cases under Section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) and other sections of the IPC.

Similar action was also taken by the police in other parts of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

State moots transgender category for govt jobs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The state government has proposed creating a separate category for transgenders in applications for government jobs. It has still to be approved by the state cabinet.

This comes shortly after the Bombay high court rapped the Maharashtra government for not having a separate online category for transgenders (TGs) in the ongoing recruitment of police constables.

Last month, the high court had asked the state to make the transgender option available in the last two days of the application process which ended on December 15. Sixty-seven people have applied in the transgender category for the recruitment underway for 18,331 posts in Maharashtra Police and the State Reserve Police Force.

The government departments would be asked to frame rules related to the physical and educational eligibility to be set for TGs, officials said. The rules could vary in different departments, officials said.

Kurla firing accused had also cheated firm headed by actor's sis

Ahmed Ali@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: MNS functionary Ganesh Chukkal, the main accused in the alleged firing on a civil contractor in Kurla who is on the run along with co-accused Sameer Swant, was earlier booked by the Powai police for allegedly cheating a hospitality company in which Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar's sister is the director.

Directors of Melronia Hospitality Private Limited — Akshay's sister Alka Bhatia Hiranandani, Kamal Niranjan Hiranandani and Shridhar Narayan — lodged an FIR with the Powai police in September last year, alleging that one of the properties of HGP — Adonia — which was liquidated under NCLT in 2018, came under the custody of Melronia Hospitality which provides live and liaisoning agreements for vacant flats.

According to the FIR registered in October last year, Chukkal, a director of Bryce Infrastructure, leased one flat from Melronia along with two parking lots for 36 months in 2018. As per the said agreement, Bryce Infrastructure was to pay Rs 15,30,000 as deposit and a monthly license

fee of Rs 2,55,000 to Melronia on or before the 20th of every month.

It was also stated that in case of default or delay in payment, Bryce Infrastructure will be liable to pay interest at the rate of 12% per annum from the due date to Melronia until the date of full recovery of the fee. However, Bryce defaulted in October 2019. When contacted, Chukkal said he would pay the due amount of Rs2.67 lakh in the first week of January 2020, but failed.

The company terminated the agreement in 2020, and asked Chukkal to vacate the flat, but he refused, after which Melronia filed a written complaint against him. Chukkal, however, filed an affidavit stating he had leased the agreement with the company for 30 years. "He forged the documents, including notary dated 2004, and made three to thirty. On closer scrutiny, police found that the deed did not have the serial number of the notary and the seal of the notary wasn't clear either. Chukkal had even forged the signatures of three directors of Melronia hospitality," said a police officer. Chukkal has obtained anticipatory bail in this case.

Harbour line halted for 30 min over OHE issue

Mumbai: Harbour line services came to halt for 30 minutes at 3.40pm after power supply connection was disrupted due to an external object near Reay Road station on Monday.

A CR official said, "Work on construction of bridge is in progress at Reay Road. A cable from the construction area fell on the OHE (overhead equipment) because of which the power supply was disrupted."

A total of six services were cancelled because of the incident that happened at 3.40pm. The services were restored around 4.10pm.

During this period, Central Railway (CR) allowed Harbour line commuters to travel by the Main line. Riyaz Khan, a commuter at Kurla, said, "There was overcrowding at the platform because of the disruption." Another commuter, Sandesh Kadam, said trains were late by 15 minutes till the onset of the evening peak hour. CSMT commuter Ajay Mishra said passengers were inconvenienced as indicators were not working and the announcement system was inaudible. — Manthan K Mehta

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

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WT 5505 2023

BMC tells contractors to cut concrete rd work rates by 8%; cos don't budge

Chaitanya.Marpakwar
@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Under fire for cost escalation in its mega cement concrete (CC) road works worth Rs 6,080 crore, the BMC has told the winning contractors to reduce their rates quoted by at least 6% to 8% and agree to work "on par" with the BMC's estimates.

With the BMC's mega road contracts under the scanner over cost escalation and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray alleging there was a price hike of around 48%, the BMC is hard bargaining with the winning contractors. BMC has said it is insisting contractors work on par with the BMC's estimates since the schedule of rates was revised only recently and there is no need to quote rates higher than the estimated rates. However, so far, the five winning contractors are refusing to budge and reduce their rates.

"We have sent two letters to the winning bidders asking them to reduce their rates and agree to work on par with the BMC's estimates but they have not replied. Four out of the five bidders also didn't turn up for a negotiation meeting on Monday. So we will call them for another round of meetings and then decide. We will ask them to work on par with the estimates," said a senior civic official.

In the biggest-ever civic contract to concretise 400km of road for Rs 6,080 crore, the BMC has finalised five big construction firms experienced in national highway construction to execute the work. All the five companies have bid around 6% to 8% above the BMC's estimate. The

CONCRETING 30% ROADS: 2 YRS + MONSOONS

BMC wants concreting of 30% of the city's roads within two years, not counting the rains: while work orders on concreting about 400 km are to be issued this week, work on concreting about 235 km of roads is ongoing. This means the intention is to concrete about 635 km out of the city's net road length of 2,000 km. **Richa Pinto reports**

OPPN SCEPTICAL ABOUT DEADLINE

Corporators from opposition parties say the BMC's 2-year deadline is unlikely to be met as traffic police is giving permission for the work in parts. They say work will likely go on for 5 years



Rainy season excluded | For the 375 km work, BMC's 24-month timeline excludes the monsoon months

CONCRETING PLAN

990 km | Has already been concreted
400 km | Tender for concreting floated last Nov*
375 km | Tender for concreting to be floated in March



235 km Work order for concreting issued last year
235 km Tender for concreting to be floated in March

Concreting work started on MA Road in south Mumbai in September, but is only 26% complete. At this pace, how can a 2-year deadline be set? — **Rais Shaikh** | **SAMAJWADI PARTY MLA**

TIMES VIEW: Even though the BMC has claimed that its tendering process for the Rs 6,080 crore project has been transparent, allegations have surfaced on cost escalations and cartelization. The BMC must come clean and ensure that these tenders are awarded after a thorough scrutiny. The BMC should ensure effective quality monitoring mechanism of the road works and address environmental concerns that have been raised over concretization of all roads in Mumbai.

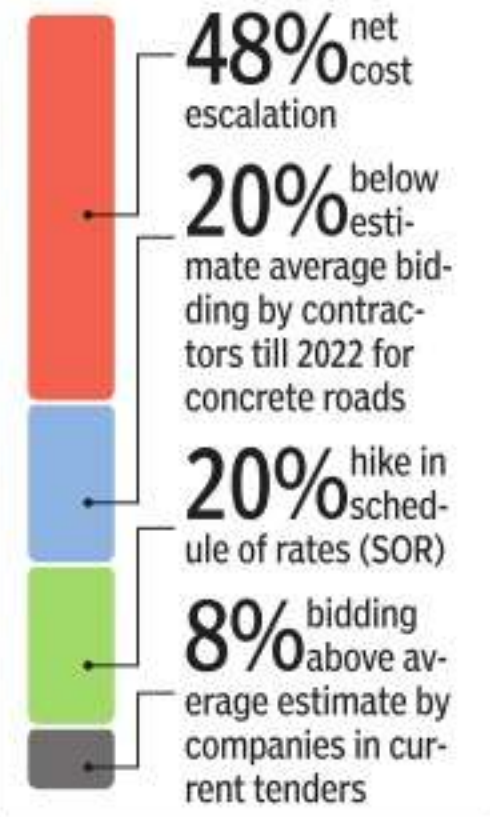
two-year road concreting mega-contract is expected to be awarded to Nagarjuna Construction Company, Eagle Infra India, Roadways Solutions India, Megha Engineers & Infrastructure and Dinesh-chandra Agrawal Infracon.

Last week, Aaditya had said in previous CC road contracts, contractors had always bid around 20% below estimate.

tors who emerge as the lowest bidder. Effectively, this means works that used to be completed at 80% of the estimated price by the BMC (which is higher than other cities), will now be done at 120%, thanks to the hike in SOR, by 20%. This helps sugarcoat the unnatural over-escalated bidding by contractors, almost by 40%," Aaditya alleged. "Despite the rapid hike of almost 40% in the bid estimate price, the lowest bidder in each of the 5 packages has quoted an average of 8% higher than the estimated price. This takes the over-escalated bids higher from 2021 by almost 48% on an average," Aaditya had said.

AADITYA'S ALLEGATIONS

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray has alleged cost escalation in road works, to the tune of ₹3,000 crore



BMC'S CLAIM

Earlier tenders were invited on basis of SOR of 2018. Price indices have increased from 2018 to 2023

When contacted, P Velasu, additional municipal commissioner (projects), said the BMC was negotiating with bidders and scrutiny was on.

City may turn into Joshimath if all rds concretised: Aaditya

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Mumbai: Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and former minister Aaditya Thackeray on Monday raised environmental concerns over the BMC's mega 397km cement concrete (CC) road contracts. Demanding that the Rs 6,080 crore road tenders be scrapped, Aaditya asked if all roads in Mumbai are concretised and if the city turns into Joshimath, who will be responsible? He said no city in the world has 100% CC roads.

Aaditya also wrote to municipal commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal asking 10 questions on CC road contracts that have come under fire for cost escalation and alleged cartelization by contractors. When asked if Shiv Sena (UBT) will challenge the CC road project in courts if it is not scrapped, Aaditya replied that Sena will only reveal its plan later and for now he wanted other political parties to make their stand clear on this and raise a voice.

Once again targeting the Shinde-Fadnavis government, Aaditya asked who had proposed 400km roads when there were no elected corporators in the BMC since March 2022. "How appropriate is it for the

administrator to approve the work of Rs 6,000 crore? Nowhere were people's representatives asked when such a large amount of work was being proposed. How are you going to show Rs 6,000 crore in the budget? How many years will be required to complete 400km of road works? Three to four year tenders are not drawn at once, right? This will lead to a financial crisis. One km road was going to be built for Rs 10 crore. Now it will cost Rs 17 crore."

Aaditya further said with 100% CC roads, much more runoff rainwater will not percolate into the ground. "Already there is concretisation everywhere in Mumbai. Where earlier there were mud plains, concretisation has been done. If after these CC roads, Mumbai turns into Joshimath, who is responsible for this? No city in the world has 100% concretisation. No one has thought about this. Such large-scale concretisation is not good for Mumbai's environment. But the CM has no knowledge or understanding of such issues. If 400km roads are concretised it will affect the capacity of the land to absorb rainwater and in that situation there will be flooding across the city. The current road tenders are all about scale,

scam and setting," he said.

Aaditya said he was asking 10 questions to Chahal since the BMC's response to his allegations last week over a 66% cost escalation was full of anomalies and missing details. "The BMC claimed the contractors have national experience in building greenfield projects like national highways. But do they have any experience of building roads in mega cities like Mumbai where there are underground utilities? Have they ever worked in any city like Mumbai, Chennai or Delhi?" Aaditya asked.

The BMC on Monday said it will meet the expenditure in coming financial years for the road works. "Expenditure for 5% mobilisation advance will be incurred in the current financial year and further budget provision will be made in the coming years in a staggered fashion," the BMC said.

The BMC said CC roads will be completed in 24 months, excluding monsoon. "Traffic police and other NOCs will be obtained at the earliest to start the works immediately," the BMC said.

Meanwhile, Aaditya also slammed the Shinde-Fadnavis government over the delay in local body polls.

Pre-school kid's fingers crushed; teacher booked

Mumbai: Dindoshi police have issued a notice to a teacher at a pre-school chain in Malad East after the parents of a two-year-old female student lodged a complaint against her. The parents said that two of their daughter's fingers had been crushed due to the teacher's fault. Police have booked the teacher and asked her to remain present at the Dindoshi police station for inquiry.

The alleged incident occurred on January 5. The child's parents were informed that her hand got caught in a door at the pre-school and was injured. The child had been taken to a hospital by pre-school staffers and had been further moved to another hospital from there.

On reaching the hospital, the child's parents learnt that two of her fingers had been crushed, causing a lot of blood loss, and an immediate need for surgery. The parent inquired about the incident at the pre-school, at which the management told him that his daughter had pulled a door causing her hand to get stuck. But when the parent checked CCTV footage, he claimed that a teacher had shut the door from inside which led to his daughter's hand getting stuck. He further alleged that his daughter was screaming in pain but the teacher ignored her and went after the other kids. He also checked the pre-school's door and found that it isn't functioning properly. No arrest has been made so far. **TNN**

At 306, Mumbai air quality very poor, Delhi's better at 242

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Mumbai: A record dip in temperature has seen Mumbai surpass Delhi in air pollution. On Monday, Mumbai's air quality index (AQI) was very poor at 306 against Delhi's 242.

After four days of bad air a week before, Mumbai's air quality plunged into the very poor category to 322 on Friday, nearing that of Delhi's 326 just a day ahead of the Mumbai marathon. After a little improvement, though, Mumbai was back in the very poor air quality zone on Monday against Delhi's improving AQI amid biting cold.

According to the forecast by the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR), Mumbai's air quality may stay very poor for a few days. Experts said this comes as a caution for those with heart or lung diseases and for older adults and children against indulging in longer or heavy exertion as it can trigger respiratory issues.

An AQI of 0 to 100 is good, 100 to 200 moderate, 200 to 300 poor, 300 to 400 very poor and 400 and more is severe.

On Monday, Navi Mumbai at 352, Chembur 347, Andheri 326, BKC 361 and Mazgaon 322 were the major contributors to the city's poor AQI. By comparison, Colaba at 290, Malad 180, Bhandup 159, Worli 125 and Borivli 111 remained within the moderate to poor range.

Deterioration of AQI is being attributed to an abnormal drop in surface temperature in the distant Pacific Ocean which experts say is impacting coastal wind speeds around the city.

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Cop on duty at marathon vomits blood, dies in hosp

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: A 46-year-old police constable Naik who was on security monitoring duty near Horniman circle in Fort, died on Sunday evening after she vomited blood. Kanchan Bhise, who was posted with the special branch (SB), and was on the security monitoring duty for a program felt dizzy and fell. She later vomited blood and the other police personnel present there, rushed her to St George's Hospital. Bhise was admitted to the ICU ward but died during treatment.

She was attached to the special branch unit of the city police and was assigned to monitor the security in the programme. The special branch mainly looks after the intelligence gathering and monitoring bandobast in various programs.

Bizman's crypto a/c hacked, ₹12L siphoned off

Thane: A businessman lost nearly Rs 12 lakh after the accused hacked his cryptocurrency account and siphoned off USD15,097, the police said. A police officer quoting the complaint by the 37-year-old victim from Kandivli, said he owns a company and had come to Thane in November for some official work. "Since the past few years he has been trading into cryptocurrency through netbanking," said the officer quoting the complaint. The victim mentioned in his complaint, while he was in Thane, some unidentified person hacked his Crypto account online and siphoned off USD15,097 which he had invested in the account. The amount was directly transferred into the bank account of another company, the complaint stated. Subsequently, he did correspondence with that company and registered a complaint online. The company with which his cryptocurrency was found told him that it had seized the sum. The police said further probe is underway and an offence has been registered on Saturday against the unidentified person at Shrinagar police station in Thane. **TNN**

Newborn flung out of toilet: Kin & doc quizzed

Navi Mumbai: The case of murder registered against the unmarried 19-year-old girl who threw her newborn girl out of the washroom window of her aunt's Ulwe flat is now being probed by assistant commissioner of police, Turbhe division, who is ascertaining the accused's claim that no one knew about her pregnancy. Police have quizzed the teen's kin as well as the doctor who gave her a painkiller. "I have recorded statement of the doctor at the local hospital, where she was taken by her uncle and aunt after she complained of abdominal pain," said Gajanan Rathod, ACP (Turbhe division). "I have sought opinion from the civil surgeon if the painkiller injection can induce labour and lead to premature child birth. If the doctor is found guilty, he too will be booked," Rathod added. **TNN**

Decomposed body found in sewage tank

Thane: A highly decomposed body of an unidentified man was found in a sewage disposal tank behind ESIS hospital in Wagle estate area, Monday afternoon, police informed. The corpse was spotted around 1.30pm, after some youngsters went to rescue a dog that had fallen inside and saw the body floating in the water. Avinash Sawant, chief at the Thane RDMC said the spot is deserted and the tank seems to not be in use for some time. **TNN**

Man dupes cellphone retailer of ₹1.5 crore, threatens him

Accused Claimed To Know The 'CEO Of iPhone' & Other Companies

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: A mobile phone retailer was duped of Rs 1.49 crore by a man who claimed to have tie-ups with phone manufacturers, including the "CEO of iPhone."

The complainant ended up in heavy debt as he had borrowed substantially to make payments to the accused. The Malad police have registered an FIR. The complainant told the police that he ran a retail phone shop in Malad for the past 20 years.

He would place orders at Dadar and Manish Market in

Masjid for stock. In 2018, he got acquainted with Rehan, the accused, who claimed to have tie-ups with phone manufacturers and could therefore afford to get handsets from the companies at much lower prices.

Rehan sent pictures of different handsets to the complainant and told him that an advance payment of Rs 1.5 crore was required—partly in cash and the rest in bank transfers.

The complainant expressed his inability to pay such a huge amount at a go and said he would pay in instalments

Rehan claimed to be acquainted with CEOs of various phone companies. On one occasion, he brought along an individual to the complainant's house and introduced him as the "CEO of iPhone."

"The complainant started to trust him," a police officer said. Between 2019 and 2021, the complainant made various payments to Rehan through bank accounts operated by his relatives and friends, after promising to offer each of them a share in the profits that his business would eventually make. The complainant's wife and his

brother also took out gold loans to fund him.

After the complainant had paid Rehan Rs 1.49 crore totally, he claimed that the godown where the handsets had been kept at Mumbai Central got destroyed in a fire. He promised to make alternate arrangements. But the next time the complainant called him, Rehan blamed transporters for the delay. As days passed and the complainant persisted, Rehan allegedly threatened him with dire consequences and warned him of his underworld links.

MOAT AND SMALL FORT GUARD A TEMPLE OF LEARNING



THEY EVEN HAVE A FLAG TO FLY OVER THE FORT: The students and staff of Vivekananda Education Society, Chembur, find it difficult to enter their college with sewage overflowing from a choked manhole. With the problem persisting for over a year, a small cement wall was made around the manhole by the BMC to divert the gutter water flowing onto the gate — **Malay Shah**

AND OUTSIDE A TEMPLE OF HEALING

SICKENING: Look at the condition of the footpath outside Apollo Hospital, Belapur. Visitors are forced to walk on the road, jeopardising their own safety as vehicles speed down Parsik Hill — **Venkatasubraman R**

FAKE PLATE: MH01 CH0224 is my car number. I was surprised how my parked car at my Dadar home got a traffic challan in Byculla on December 25. My car's number is in English, the fake one is in Marathi (inset) — **Aspy Engineer**



THESE PICTURES WERE TAKEN OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS

BELAPUR



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Maha Home Guards to get insurance for death on duty

Mumbai: For the first time, Maharashtra Home Guards are entitled to an insurance cover in case of accident or death in the line of duty, a top official said on Monday.

Director General of Home Guards, Dr B. K. Upadhyay handed over a cheque of Rs 25 lakh to a home guard, Laxman Vithal Akhade who lost one leg in a serious accident while on duty on September 5, 2022.

"Similar to Maharashtra Police, the Home Guards have tied up with the private sector's HDFC Bank for the salary accounts of its staff and also entitlements to all insurance benefits," Dr Upadhyay said.

Present were the beneficiary Akhade, Additional DGP Brijesh Singh, Additional SP of Raigad Atul Zende, HDFC officers, and other top officials.

With 45,000 personnel including women and technicians, Maharashtra Home Guards is among the biggest in the country and serves as an auxiliary to the police force for maintaining internal security.

It also serves as an emergency force for specialised tasks and has set up specialist arms like the border wings, marine units, etc. that work for the defence of the country. **IANs**

Raut's Jammu itinerary packs in Rahul yatra, Pandit meet

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Jammu: Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut will be arriving in Jammu on Thursday on a three-day tour and is scheduled to join the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra and a Kashmiri Pandits' protest for relocation. He will also meet refugees from Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir and Sikh representatives, said a Shiv Sena (UBT) politician on Monday. Manish Sahni, president, J&K Shiv Sena, in a press meet said Raut would join Gandhi's yatra on Friday and Saturday in Jammu. Sahni and others from the Shiv Sena have joined the ongoing dharna of Kashmiri Hindu employees posted in the Valley and have extended full support to their demand for relocation.

Sahni said the government was making Kashmiri Hindustan goats while terrorist outfit The Resistance Front, an offshoot of the LeT, was threatening attacks.

Ghatkopar fire FIR names bldg officials, class mgmt

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Mumbai: A month after the fire in a building in Ghatkopar claimed three persons, including an 18-year-old student, the police have registered an offence against the building officials and the management of the coaching classes in the building.

The police slapped an FIR against the officials of the Ganesh co-operative housing society and the management of Kalrashukla classes under Section 304-A (causing death due to negligence), Section 336 (negligence), Section 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) and Section 338 (causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

A fire broke out on December 16 in Madhav Apartment, a ground-plus-six storey commercial building near Ghat-



The fire brigade report blames exposed overhead wiring and a vulnerable meter box

kopar railway station. The building housed a hospital, coaching classes and clinics.

While Korshi Dedia (45) died on the spot, 18-year-old student Eldish Sahetya was admitted to the National Burns Centre in Airoli for treatment of burn injuries. Sahetya succumbed to his injuries on December 26.

Anjali Biwalkar, who had suffered 65% burn injuries in the fire died on December 20.

The police said that they registered the offence based on the fire brigade report. The fire brigade inspected the spot and collected samples and concluded that overhead wiring in the building had been left exposed without being securely covered and the fire started in the meter box and ignited the wiring.

The fire subsequently spread from the ground floor to the fifth floor.

The office-bearers of the Madhav apartment/Ganesh society were negligent and it was because of poorly maintaining the electricity meter cabin in the building that a port circuit was broken out, said the fire brigade report. "There were no fire extinguishers," said the report. The police said that due to the negligence of officials of the housing society as well as directors of the Kalrashukla classes, the fire broke out and three lives were lost.

PM Modi to inaugurate ₹18k cr CSMT redevelopment project

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Mumbai: On his arrival in city on January 19, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of CSMT redevelopment project that will include segregation of arrival and departure areas, a disabled-friendly station, better services for passengers, an energy-efficient building, and restoration of the heritage site built in 1930.

Modi will also flag off Metro services on Phase II of Line 2A and 7 in the Western suburbs, and will do bhoomi puja of BMC projects, including concretisation of road, hospital and sewage treatment plants, on January 19.

A senior official said, "CSMT redevelopment project is worth Rs 18,000 crore. The bidder is expected to be finalised next month, and therefore, bhoomi puja of this project is scheduled at the hands of PM." The project had got the approval of the Union cabinet last September and the Mumbai Heritage Conservation Committee has also given its nod to railway ministry's plan for CSMT station revamp.

Upon redevelopment, it will provide multiple access points to passengers for easy commute and a direct linkage between suburban railway and harbour line. No vehicles will be allowed at the GPO side of the entrance, and the square area that lies between DRM building, long distance entry/exit and rear side of World Heritage building will be made 'pedestrian-only area'. Some buildings behind the World Heritage building will be demolished and the



Preparations are underway at BKC ground ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rally on January 19

BJP plans to mobilise 25k Muslim participants for PM's BKC address

Mumbai: BJP state secretary and ex-chairman of Maulana Azad Minorities Finance Development Corporation Haider Azam has said that he and his party workers would ensure at least 25,000 Muslims attend the January 19 meeting which PM Narendra Modi is scheduled to address at the BKC ground. "We are mobilising Muslim participants from minority pockets, like Mohammed Ali Road, Bandra, Kurla, Mira Road, Malad-Malvani, Mumbai and Bhiwandi. They will come in buses, lorries, rickshaws and on bikes to listen to Modi," said Azam, the Muslim face of BJP in Maharashtra. Azam added that many Muslim women, too, would attend the meeting as they want to "thank" the PM for bringing in a law against the triple talaq. "Triple talaq worked as a sword over married Muslim women. Modi's government has made a tough law against instant divorce or triple talaq, and cases of triple talaq have substantially dropped," said Azam. — **Mohammed Wajiduddin**

Mumbai division offices will be shifted near P D'mello road entrance. There will be full integration with suburban platforms by constructing a suburban roof plaza which will have an area of around 22,600 sq mtrs. It will be linked with long distance train platforms too.

A Railopolis is planned at P D'mello road, which will have a mall-like structure with pro-

vision for retail and F&B. Around 2.5 lakh square metre space between CSMT and Byculla will be available for commercial development. Of this, 1.4 lakh sqm will be available at CSMT, 80,000 square metre at Byculla and another 30,000 sq m at Wadi Bunder. Green building techniques, such as use of solar energy, water conservation and improved tree cover, will be adopted.

Go to Guj to get back projects, not Davos, Raut tells Shinde

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Mumbai: Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut on Monday slammed chief minister Ekanth Shinde over his visit for the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Raut said Shinde should go to Gujarat instead of Davos and bring back the investments that were snatched away from under his nose.

Raut also hit out at the BJP over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Mumbai later this week to inaugurate a bunch of infrastructure projects.

Raut said the BJP was in fact tarnishing the image and reputation of Modi by inviting him to Mumbai to inaugurate projects which were executed by the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA).

"We don't know what the state will get from Davos. But



Reacting to opposition's barbs on investments being wooed with an eye on BMC elections, Chief Minister Ekanth Shinde quipped, "Big investments too will come, Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji will also come. We will ensure Mumbai are happy."

he (Shinde) must get the projects that left from under his nose from Maharashtra like Airbus, Vedanta-Foxconn, investments worth over Rs 2 lakh crore. Gujarat and other states took these projects, if they aren't coming back then there is no point in go-

ing to Davos. We know how MoUs happen in Davos...no one can prove how much actual investment comes from there," Raut said.

"Many projects like the Airbus, Bulk Drugs Park and Vedanta-Foxconn were coming to Maharashtra, some had come but they were snatched away," Raut said.

While deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnis had pulled out of the four-day annual meeting of World Economic Forum commencing from January 16, in Davos, Switzerland, in view of PM Modi's visit to the city on January 19, CM Shinde left to attend the convention, where he is expected to sign over half a dozen MoUs worth Rs 1.4 lakh crore with leading foreign industrialists.

Shinde, too, is expected to be back a day before the prime minister arrives.

HC seeks NGO's expertise in regulation of strays in Navi Mum soc

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Mumbai: Bombay high court on Monday added the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), Welfare of Stray Dogs (WSD), as a party to a petition, to assist and lend its expertise in handling technical and legal aspects related to stray dogs in and around Seawoods Estate, and to help evolve a mechanism on their care, given the rise in their numbers.

The HC roped in WSD in a petition filed last year by few residents against management of an upscale residential complex in Navi Mumbai



A petition was filed against management of the soc over feeding of stray dogs

—Seawood Estate Limited (SEL)—over feeding of stray dogs in the society premises.

The residents, including senior citizens, who feed strays, in their petition sought or-

ders to the Navi Mumbai Municipal corporation (NMMC) and Cideco "to identify and confirm seven feeding stations" within the Seawoods Estates, and a "proactive approach" from the State towards implementation of animal protection laws.

The HC bench of Justices Gautam Patel and SG Diga said WSD has been working for decades in the field, it has worked on neutering, vaccinating, feeding of stray dogs and coordinates with local civic bodies in its work. Observing, "it is a matter of social concern," the HC also that senior counsel Zal Andhyaraju-

na and Shiraz Rustomjee may be requested to appear for WSD in the matter. In December 2021 the HC had restrained the housing society from taking any coercive steps against the petitioners over non-payment of fines. The HC at the time had also appointed advocate Nausher Kohli as an amicus (an impartial adviser to the court) to help argue the law and policy.

On Monday, lawyer for the petitioners, Siddh Vidya said some of them are senior citizens, and the society had issued notice to prevent them from having "domestic help, dog walkers, car washers."

last August. She said a notice was sent to two residents over unpaid dues in which it warned them of restrictions as mentioned in a 'resident's handbook'.

The HC asked the society lawyer Aditya Pratap, "by what law can you stop such services." Pratap said the society has not cut their water or power supply. He also said the notice was not sent through him and he was not given a copy. Justice Patel said, "When court says 'no coercive action' it means no coercive action."

Justice Patel after reading the notice, orally said to the

society lawyer, "The Society is acting as if the resident's handbook is the Constitution of India. We will rubbish your handbook so fast, it is not funny."

Expressing its disapproval over six points in the handbook including denial of use of SEL's common facility, denial of renewal of passes for maids, drivers, maintenance staff or for major maintenance of flat, denial of plumber, electrician, carpenter or mason, the HC asked Vidya a one-page affidavit of the residents' grievance within a week and gave time to Pratap to reply thereafter.

READYING HIMALAYA FOR THE CLIMB



Three girders were launched earlier this month as part of Himalaya Bridge reconstruction. The bridge, which had collapsed in March 2019, killing seven people, is expected to reopen to pedestrians next month

CBI wants med panel to assess Pune builder health

Mumbai: With Pune builder Avinash Bhosale, an accused in a money laundering case, being admitted to St George Hospital since last October and the CBI submitting that it did not find any justifiable reasons for his long stay, the probe agency submitted before a special court that a medical board constituted by experts from AIIMS or any other board should assess him. It was reported that he had a covid-related illness. With the court suggesting that the JJ Hospital dean should be approached and must refer to the points that were allegedly left unanswered by other doctors, the CBI sought that its plea to be kept pending till January 20.

On January 10, the court had pointed out that Bhosale had been hospitalised for long without any update on his health. It then said the ED should depute staff to collect details on his health. When the CBI filed a plea wanting to intervene and sought the constitution of a medical board, the court said the CBI was at liberty to depute its staff to collect the details. **TNN**

Wadia murder bid: Petition to make Mukesh depose junked

Mumbai: A plea filed by an accused in the industrialist Nussli Wadia attempt to murder case seeking the deposition of businessman Mukesh Ambani as witness was rejected by a special CBI court on Monday. Rejecting the plea of Ivan Sequeira, special judge SP Naik Nimbalkar ruled that an accused cannot have a say on whom the prosecution can summon as witness.

In 2003, the court charged Kirti Ambani, Arjun Babaria, Sequeira and Ramesh Jagotia for "criminally conspiring in 1988-89 to murder Wadia, then chairman of Bombay Dyeing. The CBI had opposed Sequeira's plea. Kirti Ambani, charged with "instigating and abetting the commission of the offence", died in 2017, a year after Wadia deposed.

Sequeira had also moved court alleging that the CBI seemed to have been "wilfully shielding and trying to avoid arraying Mukesh Ambani as an accused although the industrialist seemed to be the mastermind". **TNN**

Man held with ₹60K fake notes



Mumbai: A 33-year-old man was arrested from Malwani on Sunday with fake currency notes of Rs 60,000. The police acted on a tip-off that accused Hanif Shaikh, would appear at Ambhujwadi slum in Malwani to circulate the fake notes. A trap was laid and Shaikh was nabbed with 300 fake notes of Rs 200 each. His phone revealed more details following which a raid was carried out at Naigaon. Cops recovered a computer, colour printer used to make fake currency notes, a lamination machine, plain butter paper, card reader, pen drives, glue, hair dryer, cutter, etc. **TNN**

1st boards: Colleges jittery for HSC kids

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Mumbai: As Std X and XII exams will be held in physical mode with 100% syllabus and no concessions for the first time since the Covid outbreak, junior colleges are worried about their HSC students who will be technically writing their first boards next month.

The 2022-23 batch of class XII students that will appear for the state board exams starting February 21 did not get to write its SSC 2020-21 papers when exams across boards were cancelled due to Covid.

FREEWAY TO GET 14KM EXTN TILL THANE BUT IT WILL BE TOLL ROAD, WITH 4 RAMPS

The Eastern Freeway is slated to be extended by 14km till Thane, with entry/exit ramps at four locations along the extension. This will take the length of the Freeway to 31km and provide signal-free commute between south Mumbai and Thane. **Manthan K Mehta reports**

FREEWAY EXTENSION

■ **Origin** | Chheda Nagar Junction on Eastern Express Highway (EEH) at Ghatkopar

■ **End point** | Anand Nagar in Thane

Lanes:
3+3

Entry-exit ramps

- 1 Chheda Nagar
- 2 Kanjurmarg Junction
- 3 Airoli-Mulund Link Road
- 4 Anand Nagar



Ongoing work | MMRDA is carrying out junction improvement at Chheda Nagar. The freeway extension will be integrated with this project, which includes flyovers

Toll | Motorists will have to pay for using the Freeway Extension (the existing Freeway is tollfree). A toll booth will be set up for the purpose. The amount will be determined later

Projected benefit | It will decongest Eastern Express Highway, which carries traffic between Thane and south Mumbai

Existing benefit | The Freeway helped decongest Dr Ambedkar Marg, Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Marg, Port Trust Road and also Eastern Express Highway at the time it was opened in 2014. It also ensured faster commute between South Mumbai and Navi Mumbai

Cost estimate: ₹3,100cr

Status: Tender could be floated by April

Deadline: 2026

EXISTING FREEWAY

Origin | Orange Gate on PD'Mello Road

End point | Indian oil junction on Ghatkopar Mankhurd Link Road (GMLR)

GPO to Thane by road

100 minutes at present

40 minutes after Freeway extension

MLC polls: Nashik to see Cong, BJP rebels fight

Prafulla Marpakwar
@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The MLC polls for the Nashik graduate constituency will be a straight but interesting battle between Congress rebel Satyajit Tambe and BJP rebel Shubhangi Patil. It is the only seat in the state where the two candidates are in the fray without the support of their respective parties while elsewhere a straight contest is on the cards between official nominees of Congress, NCP, Shiv Sena and BJP.

A day after the veteran Congressman and sitting legislator from Nashik division, Sudhir Tambe, was suspended by the AICC for his failure to submit papers as a Congress nominee and his son entered the fray as an Independent, the Maha Vikas Aghadi has extended support to Patil; the BJP is yet to decide on extending support to Tambe though. "There is no question of supporting the candidature of Tambe, since he has not asked for it. In the event, he seeks support, then deputy CM Devendra Fadnis and state BJP president Chandrashekhar Bawankule will

take a decision in consultation with the BJP high command," BJP spokesperson Keshav Upadhye said.

In a letter to Sudhir Tambe, the head of AICC's disciplinary action committee, Tariq Anwar, said instead of filing nomination papers before the due date, Tambe had put up his son Satyajit as an independent candidate with the support of the BJP. "You are prima facie guilty of grave indiscipline," Anwar said in his letter. Satyajit Tambe has described the AICC action as unfair and a figment of imagination of detractors of the families of Tambe and Congress legislature party leader Balasasheb Thorat, who is Sudhir Tambe's brother-in-law.

In the Nagpur division teacher's constituency, BJP has re-nominated N G Ganar as its nominee, while Congress has nominated Vidarbha Madhyamik Shikshak Sangh president Sudhakar Adbale. In a related development, NCP has expelled rebel candidate Satish Itkelwar who is contesting on his own from the division while Shiv Sena nominee Gagadhar Nakde has withdrawn his

nomination as per the agreement in the MVA.

In Amravati graduate constituency, there will be a straight contest between sitting legislator Ranjeet Patil (BJP) and Congress nominee Dhiraj Lingade. In Konkan division teachers' constituency, sitting legislator Balam Patil of PWP, supported by MVA, will take on BJP's Gyaneshwar Mhatre, who was earlier with the Shinde faction of the Shiv Sena, but shifted to BJP. In Marathwada division teachers' constituency, NCP has re-nominated Vikram Kale against BJP's Kiran Patil. NCP has expelled rebel candidate Pradeep Salunke for filing nomination papers against the party's advice.

The otherwise routine MLC elections have generated interest following the entry of former state youth Congress president Satyajit Tambe as an independent and the failure of his father to contest on a Congress nomination following which the senior Tambe was suspended for anti-party activities. Besides, the MVA's efforts to forge a consensus around candidates has also made the elections more competitive.

Baby succumbs; second measles death this year

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: An eight-month-old baby girl from Saki Naka passed away due to measles last week, marking the second death of the year caused by the disease and the 11th since September. The city has reported 600 confirmed cases of measles since the outbreak began last year, with the number of suspected cases surpassing 5,580.

Officials stated that the infant passed away on Saturday, but the confirmation of measles as the cause of death came on Monday. The baby had developed a fever on January 3rd and subsequently developed a cough and cold two days later. On the seventh day, the baby developed the

characteristic measles rash all over her body. Despite attempts to revive her, the child's condition worsened on Saturday and she ultimately succumbed to the infection. The official cause of death is listed as acute respiratory failure with bronchopneumonia with measles. However, the BMC will consider it as a suspected death until it is confirmed by the review committee.

The officials also revealed that the child had not received any measles vaccination, as she was not eligible for it. According to civic data, out of 5,003 children in the age group of 6 months to 9 months in 22 health posts, where measles cases were more prevalent, 64% (3,182)

have been given the first dose of the vaccine. The city of Mumbai has seen a total of 78 outbreaks since last year, marking it one of the largest in recent years. However, the situation is improving as daily suspected cases are now around 8-10, compared to a high of almost 100 cases two months ago, said a civic official. Civic officials said mobile teams are arranging vaccination for children living with their parents in construction sites and those who move locations frequently. At construction sites, 77 kids were given the first shot of measles-rubella vaccine and 33 were given the second one. At nomadic sites, 92 children were given the first dose and 41 the second dose.

Criminal held in robbery case after Bollywood-style chase by police

Ahmed Ali@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: In a chase that could put in the shade any Bollywood potboiler, a police sub-inspector suffered severe injuries but managed to nab a wanted criminal in Chembur in the early hours of Monday.

The accused, Azim Salim Shaikh (28), who is wanted in a robbery case, tried to flee police custody by running on to railway tracks, risking his own life and those of the cops after him. However, a determined sub-inspector Kiran Mandhare managed to nab Shaikh and hold on to him despite getting repeated blows to his knees till his colleagues rushed in and overpowered the history sheeter.

On Sunday, Shaikh, who has 7-8 serious offences such as theft, robbery, dacoity and assault against him, had gone to Farooq Galli at Vashinaka with an iron rod, threatened one Suresh Mahatre and snatched Rs 1,000 from his pocket. When



Azim Salim Shaikh with the police team

Mahatre protested, Shaikh assaulted him with the rod before fleeing the place. Mahatre got an FIR filed against Shaikh, and police began their hunt for him.

On getting a tip-off that Shaikh was

likely to come to Islampura in Chembur, RCF police formed a team consisting of Mandhare, SI Anil Devre, and constables Khaire, Raut and Kurte. All of them fanned out in different directions in their hunt for their target. However, Shaikh suddenly ran on to a goods train track and PSI Mandhare managed to catch hold of him after a chase. But with Shaikh trying to overpower the cop and escape, a fight broke out between the two, resulting in both falling into a nearby gutter. Shaikh grabbed a stone and began slamming it on Mandhare's knees, but the cop managed to hold on to the criminal for at least 10 minutes and raised an alarm before his team members rushed in and overpowered Shaikh.

Mandhare was treated for his knee injuries and discharged. Police have filed a fresh case against Shaikh under the IPC sections for assault and preventing a public servant from performing his duty.

Univ students still to list on Academic Bank of Credits

Yogita.Rao@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: As a large number of college students bank on prepaid cards for their mobile phones and switch their numbers often, it has become a challenging task to get them registered on the Centre's Academic Bank of Credits (ABC). While colleges said the process started about a month ago, it is still to pick up as several students do not have a mobile number linked to their Aadhar cards. At least two deadlines set by the Mumbai University have already passed.

As a prerequisite for smooth mobility of students across higher education institutions under the National Education Policy, students need to mandatorily register with the ABC, an initiative of the Union ministry of education. The ABC will digitally store the academic credits of students earned from higher education institutions and will help in credit transfers and also verification of degrees and credits. Colleges say it is not a difficult task, but likely to take time due to technical problems.

"Many students keep switching their numbers based on the voice and data offers available with service providers. As a result, their mobile num-

bers are not linked to their Aadhar cards. Since they have to register it at their end, we have no option but to wait for them to complete the process," said a principal. Another said they are trying to expedite the process by making the ABC registration mandatory for collecting marksheets.

"We hope that they will get their current numbers linked to the Aadhar cards soon in order to get their marksheets," said the principal.

The university had first sent a circular in October last year and given colleges a deadline till mid-November. In another circular issued on December 31, the university gave a deadline of January 3. Both deadlines have passed. Principals said it is likely to take much more time. A student requires Aadhar card, birthdate and a mobile number linked with the Aadhar card to register on abc.gov.in or www.digilocker.gov.in portals for the process.

A state higher education department official said they have been holding orientation programmes and campaigns with university representatives to get students registered at the earliest. "We are addressing all the technical queries that are coming from students," said the official.

Shinde group says its men forcibly taken into UBT fold

Manoj.Badgeri
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Thane: The tussle between the two factions of the Shiv Sena seems to have moved on from staking claim to shakhas to blatantly poaching politicians, hinting at a more aggressive fight in the coming days as the civic elections draw closer.

Spokesperson Nareish Mhaske of the Balsahebanchi Shiv Sena accused the Sena (Uddhav Balsaheb Thackeray) of having "forcibly inducted" Eknath Shinde local supporters and activists into its camp and randomly assigned them with responsibilities.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) dismissed the claims.

Mhaske was addressing the media with former corporator Bhaskar Patil, who he claimed had been forcibly appointed as a functionary in the UBT faction recently.

The Thackeray faction has also complained to the municipal commissioner about former corporators from the Shinde faction using facilities at the civic HQ despite their tenure ending last year. It appealed to commissioner Abhijit Bangar to either stop this misuse or allow the common citizens to also use the facilities.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

I want to **raise money** to **start my business.** What are my **options?**

Preeta Sukhtankar
Founder - The Label Life

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ET PLAY

In better footpath PIL, HC asks state and BMC about its policy

Swati.Deshpande
@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Taking up a PIL suo motu over lack of walking space for pedestrians in the city, the Bombay high court on Monday asked what the policy was on footpaths.

The HC bench of Justices Gautam Patel and S G Dige asked the state government pleader and civic lawyers to find out and observed that there has to be something to regulate what can and cannot be on pavements. For instance, bus stops can stay on footpaths and police need shelter, too, and asked: "Is there a policy on fruit vendors?"

The bench added orally: "BMC cannot widen the road and narrow the footpath... Disability ramps also have to be ac-

cessible." The next hearing will be after two weeks.

Last November, the HC had converted a petition by two shopkeepers into a suo motu (on its own) PIL to deal with the larger issues of paltry pavement space, obstructions on them and the policy on maintaining sidewalks. "Everywhere there are obstructions of pavements and sidewalks, impeding pedestrian movement," the HC had observed.

On Monday, the court observed orally: "Pedestrians must also observe rules meant for them, crossing where you like is not on... But where am I (the pedestrian) supposed to walk. We have every category of structure (on the pavements)."

It told state government pleader Purnima Kantharia: "We

are not asking you to remove the police chowkies or bus stops... but we must know the policy — who has rights to be there?"

While directing the registration of the PIL, the HC had said: "...such sidewalks as exist are virtually unusable because of their shoddy maintenance, uneven, broken or damaged surfaces and other problems. Almost no sidewalk is usable by or accessible to senior citizens and others with walking and physical disabilities. Those who are wheelchair-enabled are simply unable to use our sidewalks and pavements. In many places, the sidewalks have given way to road-widening. We are unable to see how, once there is a hawking policy in place, hawking can be permitted out-

side of it. We also do not see why milk booths and other constructions are permitted to occupy almost the whole of a sidewalk, forcing pedestrians on to roads, which is unarguably dangerous."

It added: "We also question whether stalls (even of a so-called 'temporary' nature, although these last for decades and seem only to grow in size) can and should be permitted on the available sidewalks. Globally, the trend in city planning is towards greater pedestrianisation."

It had pointed out the BMC had an obligation to provide continuous and usable footpaths, make them suitable for use by the physically challenged and to encourage pedestrianisation.

BOYS TO MEN: EAGER TO DON THE KHAKHI

Anil Shinde



Candidates undergo height and chest measurement appraisal for cop recruitment at Police Sports Ground at Saket in Thane on Monday morning

Doctor duped of ₹2.5 lakh in crypto scam

Mumbai: A 27-year-old doctor from Malad East lost Rs 2.5 lakh after she fell for an online cryptocurrency scam. The Kurar police registered an FIR on January 15. The complainant works at a hospital in Malad East. On January 12, she received a message from a woman claiming to be an HR executive. She sent her a link to invest in cryptocurrency. TNN

PWD removes speed breaker post biker's death

Navi Mumbai: PWD-Uran office has removed illegal speed breaker erected opposite Rambaug garden in Nhava creek village. The speed breaker was erected on Nhava Creek and Shivaji Nagar road, Ulwe, causing the death of a biker. Activists have raised concern over PWD taking no action against those who had constructed it. TNN

Parents protest as school plans to shut Cambridge section

Pradeep Gupta

Kalyan: The parents of students in Podar International School, Kalyan were left in a tizzy when the school suddenly announced on Monday that it was shutting down its Cambridge International Board section. More than 200 parents gathered in front of the school and protested against the decision. The school administration called a meeting of the management of Podar School on Thursday.

According to the parents, the school is asking them to discontinue this board, citing losses.

Pradeep Mutha, whose two children are studying in the school, said, "The school is saying they are suffering losses while the reality is that they are using the same infrastructure for three sections – CIE, CBSE and ICSE – and also charging a good amount of

fees." Another parent Dipesh Hasija said, "The main problem is that both the boards have Hindi and Marathi languages which were not in ICE. In such a situation, how will kids learn these languages when their basics are not clear?"

Girish Kamath, General Manager, Podar Education Network said, "The school has proposed a gradual closure of the ICSE classes at the end of the Academic Year 2023-24 in April 2024 (after a period of about 15 months). The school has given multiple options for the reallocation of the students to other Podar Education Network schools of various boards over the coming year and a half as per the convenience of the parents."

Kamath said the school has initiated discussions with the parents to plan for the eventual shifting of the students by April 2024.

Govt gets back ₹1cr extra paid as Covid relief

Pune: At least 200 people have returned the additional Covid ex gratia paid till January 15 in the state following warnings of FIR, Maharashtra disaster management officials said on Monday. The amount returned totals to about Rs 1 crore, reports Nisha Nambiar.

The department has been granting Rs 50,000 to the relatives of Covid victims as per the SC's order. As many as 2,053 applications were under scrutiny for additional payouts of Rs 50,000 each, an official said. While Rs 98.5 lakh has been recovered, three applicants have pledged to return the amount, taking the total to Rs 1 crore.

The department said claims were raised twice in most cases and even thrice in some. Officials said the discrepancies occurred as relatives of the victims had filed applications from different districts in many cases, which were cleared by the disaster management officials of the given areas.

CM, Dy CM send chadars to Ajmer Dargah

Mumbai: Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, deputy CM Devendra Fadnis and speaker Rahul Narwekar have sent chadars or shawls to be presented at the Sufi saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti's tomb at Ajmer. The Urs or death anniversary of the saint begins on January 17. Traditionally, dignitaries from across the country send chadars as tribute to the Sufi saint. TNN

Police arrest cousin sister for ₹20L gold theft

Kalyan: The police have arrested the cousin sister of a woman for stealing 40 tola gold worth Rs 20 lakh from her house. The police said that when the complainant, Priya Saxena had gone to attend a family function, her cousin Simran Patil (27) stole the house key and locker key, entered the woman's house and committed the theft. —Pradeep Gupta

Bullion trader hides self behind cabinet to evade arrest, held

Ahmed.Ali@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) probing the fake export racket and custom duty evasion racket, have arrested two bullion traders who were found to be involved in hawala transactions.

The DRI had last week arrested Ashok Kumar Velchand Jain alias Matka (60), a resident of Navjeevan Society in Tardeo and Hiralal Jain (64), a resident of S Nimkar Marg, Byculla, under the Customs act. When DRI officials had gone to Ashok Jain's home, he had hid himself in a wall cabinet.

Their names cropped up during the interrogations of two arrested exporters Mahaveer Jain and Mahendra Singh of Zee Bullion. In June last year the nodal agency had also raided their office

and had seized 4.5kg gold worth Rs 2.07 crore and Rs 1.39 crore cash.

The DRI had carried out a search at the office of Kashish Metals having Import Export Code (ICE) covering under shipping bills being exported in contravention to the provisions of Customs act from the Customs office at Bharat Diamond Bourse at BKC. Officials said gold contents in the goods mentioned were less than 0.5% and provided a certificate incorporating the same along with its value. Officials said Rs 1.39 crore seized was proceeds of the sale of gold bullion to Ashok Jain @Matka.

Hiralal Jain admitted that he doubles as broker of scrap material and hawala transactions and earns 1-1.5% commission. He said Mahaveer used to send money outside India via him.

Two break into store, steal ₹2L silver jewellery

Navi Mumbai: Two burglars broke into a jewellery store in Airoli on Monday past midnight and decamped with 3kg silver ornaments worth Rs 2 lakh. Senior police inspector of Rabale police station Dulba Dhakane said, "The burglary took place at Naveen Jewellers around 2.30am. The burglars damaged CCTV and took away the DVR. TNN

₹17L power theft: 3 who hit MSEDCL staffers booked

Mumbai: Three power consumers who were part of a group that allegedly handled 10 MSEDCL engineers and other workers on January 11, have been booked in Rs 17.7 lakh power theft cases. The engineers had gone to the site at Ambarnath to check electricity meters when they were attacked, official said. Cops filed FIR on Monday. TNN

RAJENDRA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, RANCHI
Phone: 0651-2541533
Email: rimsranchi@rediffmail.com

E-Tender Notice
E-tender is invited for supply and installation of Medical machines/ Equipments/ Instruments/ for Installation of ABG test (Free of Cost) at four sites on 24 x 7 basis for the Department of CTVS, New Trauma Centre, Neurosurgery Department And NICU with man power on Reagent Rental Basis for ten years in RIMS, Ranchi on turnkey basis in two bid system (Technical bid and Price bid) from the original equipment manufacturer/ authorised dealers/ firms/ agency only through e-tender process. The whole document with terms and conditions can be viewed on the website <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may apply as per eligibility.

Director
Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences, Ranchi

PR 287518 Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (22-23).D

UT ADMINISTRATION OF DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN & DIU
Public Works Department
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Special repairs to Sub Jail building at Silvassa, (3rd Call)
On line downloading start of tender documents
Last date & Time for Receipt of Bid/Uploading Bid
Online Opening of Technical Bid
On line opening of Price Bid
ID.No. 2023_UTDNH_6282_1
Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D., (Building), DNH, Silvassa
No. 4-1(1)WCD/IE-Ten/2022-23/27 Dtd.12.01.2023
No. IP/DMN/2/5/2022-23/1228, dtd. 13/01/2023

SCIENCE CITY
(A unit of National Council of Science Museums)
Ministry of Culture, Government of India
J.B.S. Haldane Avenue, Kolkata - 700046, Ph: 033-2885 4343

Notice inviting e-TENDER (SCCY-15014/30(442)/A)
Digitally signed e-Tenders are invited for the work of 'Reconstruction of Outer dome structure of Main Auditorium at Science City, Kolkata' at an estimated cost of Rs. 137.50 Lakhs. Reputed and experience Civil Contractors may visit <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> and search for tender ID: 2023_NCSM_734865_1 for details of this e-tender. Contact Civil section for site visit.

ICAR - CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF FISHERIES EDUCATION
(Deemed University)
Panch Marg, Off Yari Road, Versova, Andheri (West), Mumbai-400061
Tel. No. 022-26361446/7/8, Web Site: www.cife.edu.in

Inviting quotations for hiring of services of Labour Consultant for EPF Matters. For details, please visit our website: <http://www.cife.edu.in>

Sd/-
Administrative Officer

KRIBHCO
Cooperative and beyond...

PRE QUALIFICATION OF MANUFACTURERS FOR SUPPLY OF HDPE/PP/BOPP BAGS
Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO) a multi-unit Cooperative Society with a gigantic fertilizer complex at Hazira (Surat) intends to draw a comprehensive list of pre-qualified manufacturers for supply of HDPE/PP/BOPP bags to meet the packaging requirement of 11 Crore bags per annum for packing fertilizers at Hazira Plant and various ports situated on eastern & western coasts of India. Tenders for these bags will be invited from pre-qualified manufacturers only. Reputed manufacturers of above Bags may apply for pre-qualification with complete details on their letter heads in the prescribed format which can be downloaded from our website www.krishco.net. Application(s) with complete details in the prescribed format alongwith the required documents will be received upto 07.02.2023.

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

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IREL (India) Limited
(A Govt. of India Undertaking - Dept. of Atomic Energy)
CIN:U1500MH1950GOI1008187
Rare Earths Division, Kochi, Kerala, email: purchase-red@irel.co.in
An ISO 9001, 14001 & 45001 Company

TENDER NOTICE
IREL (India) Limited, Rare Earths Division invites tender for the following item/job description:

Description	Availability of tenders in the website
Outsourcing of material charging in MPP and Calciner Operation	17.01.2023 14.00 Hrs.
Construction of RCC Trenches No. 27-28-29	18.01.2023 14.00 Hrs.

For details visit the following websites <http://bit.ly/mstcirell>, <http://bit.ly/cpppirell>
www.irel.co.in/tender-information
Any corrigendum/extension to the above tenders shall be hosted in the above websites only.
Date: 17.01.2023
CBC 48129/12/0084/2223

GM & Head, RED

UT ADMINISTRATION OF DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN & DIU
GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL, DAMAN AUCTION NOTICE
Auction for unserviceable items of Govt. Hospital, Daman
Auction Notice No.: GHD/DNH/DD/unservic./Auct. Notice/2022-23/2718
Start date of Auction : 11.01.2023
Last date of Auction : 27.01.2023
The Medical Superintendent, Govt. Hospital, Daman
No. IP/DMN/2/5/2022-23/1224, dtd. 13/01/2023

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, invites open tender through E-tendering on IREPS Portal from eligible In Train Vending Contractors to Award Contract for Supply of Tea/ Snacks, Lunch and Dinner between Panvel to Mangalore Junction in Trains Running over Konkan Railway. Tender Notice No. CO-16031-23-2023-COMM, dated 16.01.2023. Closing Date & Time 15:00 hrs on 07.02.2023 for submission of online offers/bids. Manual offers shall not be accepted. Please visit www.ireps.gov.in website for details and participation. Corrigendum/addendum will be hosted in this website only.

National Competitive Bidding Procurement of Goods
(Single Stage Two-Envelope Bidding Process with e procurement)

Name of Non Consulting Service	Bid Security (INR)	Cost of Document (INR)	Period of completion
Supply of Point of Care Testing Devices at Health Facilities - Telemedicine spokes in Uttarakhand	24 Lakh	5000	Within 80 days of signing the contract

SCHEDULE

- Date of publishing E Tender - 17/01/2023
- Starting Date of online submission of bids - 17/01/2023
- Closing Date of online submission of bids - 13/02/2023, till 3:00 PM (IST)

SUBMISSION OF BIDS
For further details, tender document availability and online submission of bids, the E procurement website address is <https://uktenders.gov.in>

Project Director,
Uttarakhand Health System Development Project
2nd Floor, Red Cross Building
Danda Lakhaud, Sahasradhara road
Dehradun-248001, Uttarakhand

No. 3/2022-23
Directorate of Handloom & Sericulture (Industry Department)
Vikash Bhawan, Baily Road, Patna- 800015
INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTERESTS (EOI)
Expression of interests (EOI) are invited for preparing a panel for Cluster Development Executive to engage them in Cluster Development Programme (CDP) at various places of the state under National Handloom Development Program (NHDP).

The CDE should have Diploma in Handloom Technology (DHT), preferably with an experience of working 2 years, CDE should have the basic knowledge of computer (knowledge of computer MS Word/Excel/Power Point), basics of accounts etc, and he/she will be responsible to maintain records & managing all activities. The application form is available on the website state.bihar.gov.in/industries.

The eligible candidates interested in rendering their services as CDE may submit Eol in sealed envelope, superscribing the title "Eol for engaging CDE of CDP under NHDP" within 21 days of the date of the advertisement to Director, Handloom & Sericulture, Directorate of Handloom & Sericulture (Industry Department), Vikash Bhawan, Baily Road, Patna- 800015.

PR- 13502(Industries) 2022-23
Director
Handloom & Sericulture, Bihar, Patna

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

बिहार सरकार
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, हिलसा (नालंदा)
Email ID:- ee-rd-hil-bih@gov.in
आवश्यक सूचना
एतद् द्वारा सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि दिनांक 29.09.22 को प्रेस रिलीज संख्या-8849 (RCD) 2022-23 के माध्यम से प्रकाशित निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या -RCD/Road/Hilsa/12/ 2022-23 को अपरिहार्य कारणवश रद्द किया जाता है।
PR. No.13367 (RCD) 2022-23
नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।
कार्यपालक अभियंता,
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, हिलसा (नालंदा)।

HIGH COURT OF MADHYA PRADESH : JABALPUR
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (SECOND CALL)
Tenders are invited by the High Court of Madhya Pradesh from experienced and reputed firms/organizations/ Original equipments manufacturer (OEM) for the "Supply, installation, Commissioning, Maintenance of computer hardware articles under "buyback" and Rate Contract for the High Court and District Judiciary in the State of Madhya Pradesh". The last date of online tender submission is 08th February, 2023 before 06:00 P.M. (mandatory). The sealed tender complete in all respect addressed to "Registrar General, High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur" must be submitted before 05:00 P.M. on 09th February, 2023 (mandatory). The technical bids of the tender shall be opened on 10th February, 2023 at 11:00 A.M. The detailed tender document is available in the official website of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh www.mphc.gov.in and Government e-procurement portal www.mptenders.gov.in.
G-21697/22
Sd/-
कोरोना में सावधानी हटी, समझो दुर्यंता घटी।
REGISTRAR GENERAL

Inclusion of govt reps in collegiums part of follow-up on new MoP: Rijju

Law Minister Says Convenient Politics Is Not Advisable

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Inclusion of a member of the government in collegiums for appointment of judges in Supreme Court and high courts flows from the new 'memorandum of procedure' (MoP) as suggested by the apex court Constitution bench after it struck down the NJAC, law minister Kiren Rijju said on Monday.

Responding to a tweet of Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, who termed the law minister's letter to CJI as dangerous, Rijju said, "I hope you honour Court's direction! This is a precise follow up action of the direction of the SC Constitution bench while



The Constitution of India is supreme and nobody is above it, Rijju said

striking down the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act.

"The SC constitution bench had directed to restructure the MoP of the collegium system." Earlier, Kejriwal in his tweet tagged the TOI story ('Govt writes to CJI, wants its reps on SC collegium') and said: "This is

Rijju's remedy is a poison pill for judiciary: Cong's Jairam Ramesh

New Delhi: Congress termed law minister Kiren Rijju's letter to the CJI seeking involvement of government representatives in the appointment of judges as BJP's bid to intimidate the judiciary with the objective of capturing it.

AICC spokesman Jairam Ramesh said, "The Vice-President's assaults. The law minister's attacks. All this is orchestrated confrontation with the judiciary to intimidate and thereafter capture it totally. The collegium needs re-

form. But what this government wants is complete subservience—its remedy is a poison pill for the judiciary."

Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha expressed shock at the demand. "How is it possible, law minister Rijju, in the teeth of the NJAC judgement of the Supreme Court? Though there are inherent issues in the collegium system, the reigning sentiment in the country is to protect the independence of the judiciary. We request a rethink." TNN

extremely dangerous. There should be absolutely no government interference in judicial appointments."

"The contents in the letter to hon'ble CJI are exactly in conformity with the observations

and directions of the SC Constitution bench. Convenient politics is not advisable, especially in the name of judiciary. The Constitution of India is supreme and nobody is above it," Rijju emphasised.

In works for years, govt wants MoP finalised

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New Delhi: The Centre's insistence on the early finalisation of the 'memorandum of procedure' (MoP) that guides appointment of judges in Supreme Court and high courts, pending with the apex court collegium since August 2017, has triggered a fresh controversy with law minister Kiren Rijju shooting a letter to the Chief Justice of India reminding him of the setting up the long-pending "search-cum-evaluation committees" for appointment of judges to the constitutional courts.

Reiterating the need to finalise the MoP, sources said, Rijju has sought setting up of a "search-cum-evaluation" committee, as part of secretariats to be set up in the SC and each of the



The 'memorandum of procedure' has been a work-in-progress since 2016

25 HCs for screening of advocates before their names are recommended for elevation as judges. In the latest communication, the law minister has proposed that the screening committees, both for the SC and HCs, had representatives from the government.

The law minister's letter to the CJI sent recently has evoked political reactions with the opposition

parties terming it as "extremely dangerous" and that the government should desist from interfering in judicial appointments.

The new MoP has been a work-in-progress for several years now, with the first draft sent to the CJI-led collegium on March 22, 2016, i.e. a few months after the December 2015 judgment of the SC Constitution bench. After striking down of the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC), the Constitution bench suggested the creation of a mechanism outside the collegium to ensure transparency in appointments by setting up a secretariat and a system to deal with complaints against judges.

Four different drafts of MoP have since been exchanged between the government and the CJI's office. The government

stood by the last one it had prepared, rejecting the collegium's objections to certain clauses in it.

The Centre had then emphasised the need to retain certain proposals in the MoP such as wider consultations among all the judges of the SC bench in case of selections to be made in the apex court, and in case of appointments in HCs, all the judges of the HC concerned to be consulted.

It also asserted the right to turn down recommendations of the collegium on grounds of national security.

While it agreed to share the reasons for the disqualification of collegium's choice on grounds of national security, it said that the information so shared was for the exclusive use of the CJI and was not to be shared with other members of the collegium.

Three killed as cars collide on Samruddhi Expressway

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Nagpur: Two Nagpur residents were among three killed on the spot in another ghastly accident on Samruddhi Expressway on Monday at 6.45am. The accident took place near Seoni Pisha village in Mehkar tehsil of Buldhana district.

A speeding car rammed from behind another car ahead of it at top speed. Subsequently, both cars drifted in high speed towards the railing of a bridge on the highway and rammed into the wall. Both four-wheelers were damaged substantially. The deceased have been identified as Gaurav Karchan (38), Shanvee Sontakke (37) and Ankit Khairwar (27), who were in different cars.

Journalist Sachin Moon was seriously injured in the accident and was referred to a hospital at Nagpur. While Karchan and Khairwar were from Nagpur, Shanvee was from Pune. Shanvee's 12-year-old daughter, Rashi, miraculously escaped unhurt, said police.

Police said Karchan was driving the car which rammed from behind the other four-wheeler driven by Rupesh Gawande. Karchan had Shanvee, his colleague in a private company, sitting beside him. Shanvee's daughter, Rashi, was sleeping in the back seat.

It's learnt Karchan was heading home for Sankranti festival. He was supposed to drop Shanvee and her daughter in Amravati. Police said they had started from Pune.

While Gawande sustained some bruises, journalist Moon was critically injured. Moon was seated beside Gawande. Khairwar, who was seated in the back seat of their car, was critically injured and declared dead some time later.

The latest accident was the second to occur near Mehkar.

Woman feeding dogs hurt in hit-&-run in Chandigarh, retired Major arrested


Chandigarh: A retired Major of the Indian Army was on Monday arrested in Mohali for a hit-and-run incident that occurred two days ago, in which his allegedly speeding SUV left a 25-year-old woman grievously wounded while she was feeding stray dogs on the roadside.

Police identified the man at the wheel of the vehicle that hit **Tejashwita Kaushal**, an architecture student and civil services aspirant, as 40-year-old Maj (ret'd) Sandeep Sahi. He has been charged with rash driving and

causing hurt by endangering life or personal safety of others under sections 279 and 337 of the IPC.

CCTV footage showed Tejashwita feeding strays near the Sector 53 furniture market at 11.39pm on Saturday when a vehicle knocked her down and sped away, police said. As Tejashwita lay bloodied on the road, her mother was seen purportedly screaming for help. A passer-by called the police and Tejashwita was taken to hospital, where she is recuperating. TNN






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MP woman's arm for Mum girl who turned 18 on day donor died

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai/Indore: The right arm of a brain-dead cadaver donor in Indore is being transplanted on an 18-year-old girl in Mumbai, whose birthday was on Sunday — the day the donor died.

The recipient suffers from a congenital disorder and needed an upper arm transplant—from below the shoulder to the elbow, sources said. The transplant surgery was on at a Mumbai hospital on Monday evening when this report was filed.

This is the first arm donation for the Madhya Pradesh State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO), an official said.

The donor, 52-year-old Vinita Khajanchi, was admitted to Indore's Bombay Hospital on January 13 with hydrocephalus. She was declared brain-dead on Sunday — the day the Mumbai girl had her 18th birthday.

Doctors at Bombay Hospital retrieved the 52-year-old's heart, lungs, kidneys, cornea, skin, and right arm after her family members gave consent. "Her right hand was sent to Global Hospital, Mumbai, and her lungs are being flown to Chennai via chartered flights. Her heart cannot be donated due to technical issues," said SOTTO ex-officio head Dr Sanjay Dixit.

Four green corridors were created in Indore, including two to the airport. In Mumbai, a green corridor was es-



The donor's family at Bombay Hospital in Indore on Monday

ablished from Andheri's Terminal 2 to Parel—the journey taking only 16 minutes—to transport the cadaver hand.

According to sources, the organ was transported from Andheri terminal at 1:40pm and arrived at Global Hospital before 2pm. The transplant procedure was on late in the evening. This is the sixth hand transplant that the hospital has performed, all of which have been done with cadaver hands from other states, including two from Ahmedabad, two from Surat, and one from Chennai.

Green corridors are typically established for the transportation of organs such as heart and lungs, as they have a shorter window for transplantation.

An expert said hands also have a "cold ischemia time", which is the time between when blood supply is cut off and when it is restored, and for hands it's six hours.

Due to this, it is crucial to minimize travel time for successful hand transplantation, he said.

Aurangabad ACP accused of molestation held, gets bail

Aurangabad: ACP Vishal Dhume, who is facing charges of molesting and stalking a woman, was arrested on Monday, reports **Mohammed Akhef**. He was produced in court, which ordered his release on bail against a personal bond and surety of Rs25,000.

Judicial magistrate first class S P Bedarkar directed Dhume to cooperate with the investigating agency and restrained him from tampering with evidence or absconding from the court's jurisdiction.

Dhume held the charge as ACP (crime) with Aurangabad

city police before being shifted to the police control room following the allegations.

Police have charged Dhume with sexual harassment, making unwelcome advances with sexual overtures, stalking, house trespass, assault, intentional insult and criminal intimidation, and moved a plea seeking his magisterial custody remand. The magistrate said since the charges carry a jail term of less than seven years and that being a police officer, he cannot abscond, no purpose would be served by keeping him in custody.



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I Salim Shaheed Sheikh S/o of shahed Sheikh R/O Shelter Don Bosco, Opp. St. Joseph High School, Wadala (W) Mumbai - 400011. Have changed my name from Mohammad Saleem Mohammad shahed to Salim Shaheed Sheikh for all future purpose

I, Sangita legally wedded spouse of No. 4566960A late Ex Sep Kamble Devidas Laxman, have changed my name from Sangita to Sangita Devidas Kamble and date of birth from 30.10.1980 to 03.10.1980 due to erroneously endorsed vide Affidavit No. 36AA 691998 Dated 05.01.2023.

FOR Sale 2 Adjoin Ownership Shops. Shamaldas Gandhi Marg next to Geeta Bhavan. Rest. Marine Lines, Mum.2. Carpet Area 438 & 259 Loft 7 Ht. Can Be Sold Jointly or Separately Owner 9821154404.

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SC to decide on hearing 22 pleas on conversion laws

High Courts Better Placed To Assess State Laws: AG

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to take a call on whether to transfer to itself nearly two dozen petitions pending before various high courts, which are adjudicating challenges to provisions of state-enacted Religious Freedoms Acts banning religious conversion for marriage without prior permission from the authorities.

A bench of CJI D Y Chandrachud and Justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala saw a battery of combative senior advocates—Kapil Sibal, C U Singh, Indira Jaising, Dushyant Dave, Raju Ramachandran, Vrinda Grover, Huzefa Ahmadi and Sanjay Parekh—succeed in persuading the court to allow filing of a petition seeking transfer of 22 petitions on this issue pending before the high courts of Allahabad, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttarakhand.

Attorney general R Venkataramani suggested that “it would be appropriate to allow the HCs to adjudicate the pending petitions as



CJI D Y Chandrachud has transferred to his bench a similar PIL heard by Justice Shah, who had called conversions through force, deceit or allurement a threat to national security

they are better placed to scrutinise state laws”. The bench said it is only permitting Sibal’s client to file a petition seeking transfer of all similar petitions from the HCs to the SC. “We will hear you (the AG) before passing orders,” it said.

But the CJI, as the master of the roster, has already transferred to his bench a PIL, which was heard many times by a bench headed by Justice M R Shah. The Justice Shah-led bench had termed the allegations in BJP leader Ashwini Upadhyay’s PIL about conversions through force, deceit or allurement as “very serious” and a threat to national security. It had sought the Centre’s response to the PIL.

The Justice Shah-led bench had

ignored senior advocate P Wilson’s allegations that this PIL had a BJP-driven agenda as well as his objection to the repeated withdrawal of similar PILs earlier and their refiling by Upadhyay. The court had then told Wilson not to politicise the legal issue. However, on Monday, Wilson succeeded in submitting similar arguments before the CJI-led bench, which asked whether PIL petitioners have no regard for rules and procedures.

Senior advocate Arvind Datar, appearing for Upadhyay, said before the Supreme Court embarks upon a scrutiny of the validity of state laws against conversion through marriage, it would be advisable to seek views of the law commission as there is no provision in the IPC that makes conversion through force, deceit and all kinds of allurement an offence.

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta told the court that Gujarat and MP have already challenged the interim orders of their respective HCs staying provisions on seeking prior permission for conversion for marriage. He said he had no objection if the apex court wanted to decide the issue but registered his strong objection to the locus standi of activist Teesta Setalval-led NGO Citizens of Justice and Peace in filing a petition challenging the law.

The SC posted the matter for the next hearing on January 30.

Ex-MLA Sengar, in jail for Unnao rape, gets 2-wk bail for daughter wedding

New Delhi: The Delhi HC on Monday granted interim bail to former BJP MLA, Kuldeep Singh Sengar, to attend his daughter’s wedding. Sengar was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment for raping a minor girl in UP’s Unnao.

A division bench of Justice Mukta Gupta and Justice Poonam A Bamba granted bail to Sengar from January 27 to February 10. He’d moved the high court in December 2022, seeking interim bail for two months for his daughter’s marriage on February 8, 2023.

Sengar’s other plea seeking interim bail in the case of custodial death of the Unnao rape victim’s father will be considered on January 19.

The bench sought CBI’s response to the bail plea in December and directed it to verify the facts of Sengar’s bail application and file a status report in the matter by Monday.

In December 2019, a Delhi court had sentenced Sengar to life imprisonment in the 2017 Unnao rape case and imposed Rs 25 lakh in costs upon him. The Unnao rape survivor, a minor, had been kidnapped and raped by Sengar in 2017, and then sold for Rs 60,000. **TNN**

Act against guard shoving pilgrims at Sabarimala: HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: The Kerala high court on Monday said that the body language and facial expression of a Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) guard while shoving Sabarimala pilgrims in front of the ‘Sreekovil’ should be deprecated in the strongest words. HC said this while directing disciplinary action against the guard.

“We have also viewed the visuals that appeared in media,” a division bench of Justices Anil K Narendran and P G Ajithkumar said in the order. The court was considering a case registered suo motu based on a report filed by the Sabarimala special commissioner regarding the guard’s misbehaviour during the ‘Makaravilakku’ festival (January 14).

The special commissioner’s report identified the guard as Arunkumar S, devaswom watcher who was posted on special duty at the ‘Sopanam’. He was relieved from Sabarimala duty and sent back to his home station next day, it said. The bench pointed out that the HC had issued an order earlier directing devaswom guards and police to regulate the movement of pilgrims through barricades and by causing the least inconvenience to them.

The police special officer at Sannidhanam and the TDB Sopanam special officer should have prevented such misbehaviour, the court said. It asked TDB to file an affidavit explaining the action taken against the guard by January 23. The court will hear the case again on January 24.

SC mulls live telecast of key cases

New Delhi: The Supreme Court said it would seriously consider senior advocate Indira Jaising’s suggestions to extend the live streaming facility to all important cases, such as adjudication of validity of IPC provision decriminalising ‘marital rape’. At present this facility is restricted only to cases before Constitution benches of five or more judges. Another suggestion was providing audio transcripts, which would be a more affordable option as compared to regular transcripts. **TNN**

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DIGITAL MARKETING & E-COMMERCE

Course Duration: 3 Days | Date: 20 to 22 January 2023 | Time: 9:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Course Content: Intro to Digital Marketing, How to Host a Website, E-Mail Marketing, Google My Business, Blogging, Google Analytics, Finding Keyword from Google, Social Media Marketing, Podcast, Business Networking on Social Media, S.E.O, S.M.O, Getting Found in Search Result, Direct Selling Tools, etc., How to Setup your Own Direct Selling Business, Facebook Marketing, Customer acquisition and Lead generation, How to Get Freelancing Projects, Live Practical Class

Fees: Rs.3,000/- (Study material in soft copy shall be provided)
Coordinator: 9971875996, 9953920498
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA CERTIFICATE WILL BE AWARDED

Top court seeks govt stand by Feb 15 on law decriminalising marital rape

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday decided to promptly adjudicate the validity of an exception to section 375 of the IPC, which decriminalises ‘marital rape’. The SC asked the Union government to respond by February 15 to a bunch of PILs demanding deletion of the incongruous provision affronting the dignity of married women.

Exception 2 to IPC section 375 states that “sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under fifteen years of age, is not rape”.

There are three categories

of petitions before Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala—one, related to an appeal filed by a husband against whom the Karnataka high court has ordered filing of rape charges despite the exception. Second, the PILs which challenged the constitutional validity of the second exception to Section 375 of the IPC decriminalising ‘marital rape’; and third is related to an appeal against a split verdict of Delhi HC on the live issue.

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta, terming it a “sensitive issue having huge social ramifications”, also suggested

that the SC could request an ‘umpire judge’ of Delhi HC to expeditiously decide which of the views expressed in the split verdict were correct. But the CJI-led bench said, “It is not necessary to send the issue for adjudication in Delhi HC because we already have the benefit of opposing views of two HC judges.”

The bench asked the counsel to file the written submissions by March 3 and appointed counsel Pooja Dhar and Jaikirat S Jadaia as nodal counsel for preparing common compilation on the case laws.

The bench also asked senior advocate Sidharth Dave, who appeared for the husband ordered to face rape charges for allegedly forcing his wife into sex, to redact the wife’s name from the pleadings, so as not to make her identity public.

Karnataka HC’s Justice M Nagaprasanna, in March last year, had refused the husband’s plea for exemption from facing rape charges citing the exception to Section 375.

The judge said, “Institution of marriage does not

confer, cannot confer any male privilege or a licence for unleashing a brutal beast.”

Online registration & payment of fees:-
Start Date: 17th January 2023 (from 08:00 hrs.)
End Date: 05th February 2023 (till 20:00 hrs.)

DGM-HR
Date: 17 Jan 2023

CBC 01115/12/0106/2223

Default bail can be cancelled after filing chargesheet, says SC

New Delhi: Observing that an accused granted ‘default bail’ cannot claim special rights to remain on bail, the Supreme Court on Monday ruled that such a bail, which is granted due to failure of the investigating agency to complete the probe and file chargesheet within stipulated time, could be cancelled on filing of the chargesheet if the accused has committed non-bailable offence and a strong case is made out against him, reports **Amrit Anand Choudhary**. A bench of Justices M R Shah and C T Ravikumar, however, said that mere filing of chargesheet is not enough for cancellation of bail and it should be done only when the accused deserved to be in custody.

The bench set aside the order of Andhra Pradesh HC, which had held that default bail cannot be cancelled on merit and can be cancelled only on other general grounds like tampering with evidence/witnesses; not cooperating with the investigating agency; and/or not cooperating with the trial court. The SC allowed the plea of CBI which had challenged the HC order. The agency sought cancellation of bail granted to the accused in the case of murder of former MP Y S Vivekananda Reddy.

Delhi HC quashes review plea on CJI’s appointment

New Delhi: The Delhi high court on Monday rejected a plea seeking a review of the dismissal of a PIL that had challenged the appointment of **DY Chandrachud** as the Chief Justice of India.

“The petitioner is not able to show any error apparent on face of record. There are no grounds to interfere with the impugned order passed on November 30, 2022,” a division bench observed.

The judges also remarked that the plea—filed by Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari—was an appeal “disguised as review” and it did not fall “within the four corners of a review”. **TNN**

SC nixes BJP neta’s plea on HC order for rape FIR

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed BJP leader and former Union minister **Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain**’s petition challenging the Delhi high court order allowing registration of an FIR on a woman’s complaint alleging rape. Pressing for quashing of the HC order, senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi and Siddharth Luthra, appearing for Hussain, submitted that Hussain was being trapped in a false case. However, a bench of Justices S Ravindra Bhat and Dipankar Datta said there was nothing wrong in having a fair probe. **TNN**

डॉ. राजेंद्र प्रसाद केंद्रीय कृषि विश्वविद्यालय
Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University
पूसा, समस्तीपुर, बिहार-848125
Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar - 848125

PUBLIC NOTICE
EXTENSION OF LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORM FOR THE TEACHING POSITIONS
With reference to the advertisement no. RPCAU/01/2022 dated 12.02.2022 for recruitment of various Teaching positions published in various newspapers & University Website, the last date for submission of Application form is extended till 3rd February, 2023 upto 05:00 PM (for the post of Professor & Associate Professor) and till 3rd February 2023 upto 11:59:59 PM (for the post of Assistant Professor) For further details, please visit university website i.e., www.rpcau.ac.in.

Dy. Registrar (Rectt.)

WESTERN RAILWAY
NOTIFICATION
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
For CVTS Department as Team in Jagjivanram Hospital, Western Railway Mumbai Central, Mumbai 400 008.

Applications are invited for empanelment as Consultant on case to case basis (Specialist/Super specialist Team) in CVTS department of Jagjivanram Hospital, Western Railway, Mumbai Central, Mumbai 400 008

Eligibility, Qualification & Experience
Super Specialist:- Minimum qualification will be Post-Doctoral Qualification DM / MCH or equivalent with five years of experience in the field.

The application should contain the following information:
1. Detailed CV of Cardiac Surgeon (Team Leader)
2. Name of Cardiac Anaesthesiologist.
3. Name of Assistant Surgeon/Physician assistant.
4. Name of Cardiac Perfusionist.
5. Name of assisting Nurse/Technician.
6. Distribution of amount to each member of the team.

Interested team leaders to apply **ON LINE** Site: <http://203.153.40.19> (e.karmik) within the stipulated time and date **VISIT > MEMO / NOTIFICATION** on the Home Screen>click display MEMORANDUM > select type>NOTIFICATION >click SEARCH
Opening date for on line application: 18.01.2023
Last date of applications: 25.01.2023.

Each individual of the team should be ready to comply with the terms and conditions of contract.

For detailed Terms and conditions visit railway Website www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in under News and Recruitment Section.

Terms:
1. The team will consist of Chief Cardiac Surgeon, Cardiac Anaesthetist, Assistant Surgeon/Physician Assistant, Perfusionist and Assisting Nurse/Technician.
2. The application to be made by Cardiac Surgeon who will be the team leader and has his own team.
3. Applicants and the other team members should have requisite academic qualification and experience on the date of on line application.
4. Individual applications will not be entertained.
5. Selected/shortlisted applicants will be called with the requisite original documents along with once attested copy of the same for verification.
6. Academic and Technical Qualification must be from Recognized Institution/Board otherwise candidature will be rejected.
7. Application received through other modes will not be entertained.

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www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in

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Radiation Medicine Centre

Tata Memorial Hospital Annexe Bldg., Parel, Mumbai - 400012

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Radiation Medicine Centre (RMC), Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) will conduct a Walk-in-Interview for appointment in the grade of Technician/B (Animal House Attendant) for Two (02 posts) on locum/adhoc basis (temporary) for 89 days (Maximum Two terms) on 23.01.2023 (Monday) at 14.00 hrs. at BARC Hospital, Anushaktinagar, Mumbai-94. For further details please visit BARC Website at: www.barc.gov.in

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CORRIGENDUM

Please refer our advertisement, 2022 released in Times of India & Navbharat Times on 9th October, 2022 and Employment Newspaper & Rozgar Samachar on 22-28 October, 2022 for various Teaching Posts in the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi.

The candidates belonging to PwD Category may kindly note the “Inclusion of a person with a spine deformity and spine injury in the list of posts identified to be reserved for persons with benchmark disabilities.”

The applications from the candidates belonging to the above category of PwD must reach within 15 days from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News.

The advertisement is specifically meant for **PwD candidates with above deformity.**

REGISTRAR

WESTERN RAILWAY
NOTIFICATION
Walk In Interview
7th Floor Auditorium Jagjivanram Hospital, Maratha Mandir Marg Mumbai Central, Mumbai 400008.

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for engagement for the post of Senior Residents in Jagjivanram Hospital, Western Railway, Mumbai Central.

Selection will be made through Walk In Interview on **30.01.2023**

Venue:- 7th Floor Auditorium Jagjivanram Hospital, Maratha Mandir Marg Mumbai Central, Mumbai 400008.

Registration time:- 9:00 hrs. To 12:00 hrs on notified date.

Application received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sr. No.	Designation	Department/Total Vacancy	Remuneration in Rs.Per month	Reservation
01	Sr.Residents	CVTS Medicine 02	Approx. Rs.1,18,000/- p.m.	UR-02, SC-01, OBC-02, EWS-02, Total -07
		CVTS Surgery 01		
		CVTS Anaesthesia 01		
		G.I.Surgery 01		
		Paediatrics 01		
		Gen. Anaesthesia 01		
		TOTAL 07		

Selection will be through the process of Walk In Interview. After verification of Documents, only those candidates who are found eligible in all respects will be allowed to appear for Interview. All documents have to be produced in ORIGINALS at the time of Walk In Interview along with the attested copies. No other intimation will be given separately for walk in interview.

The vacancies indicated may and post indicated herein may be kept unfilled at the discretion of Administration.

For more information visit www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in under News and Recruitment section.

Please bring the filled application form downloaded from above website with 2 recent coloured passport size photographs.

Walk In Interview for Sr.Residents being conducted on every 1st Thursday and 3rd Thursday of every month, according to vacancies and administrative requirement.

Note:- Senior Resident of JR.Hospital Western Railway Mumbai Central is accredited for DMER, Maharashtra, Government’s PG service bond.

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www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in

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121, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Chennai 600 034. Ph: 044- 2833 8383 / Fax No. 044- 2833 8317

C.No.26/5(Estt)/Sports/2022 Dated: 30.12.2022

RECRUITMENT OF MERITORIOUS SPORTS PERSONS IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF INCOME-TAX, TAMILNADU AND PUDUCHERRY REGION

1. Applications are invited from the meritorious sports persons fulfilling the eligibility criteria as per particulars mentioned in Annexure I for appointment to the post of Income Tax Inspector, Tax Assistant and Multi-Tasking Staff in Income Tax Department, Tamilnadu and Puducherry region.

2. The willing and eligible candidates can send their application form online in the website (<https://tnincometax.gov.in.sportsquota/application2021.php>) mentioned in Annexure-I on or before 06/02/2023.

The Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Tamilnadu & Puducherry, invites applications for the recruitment of meritorious Sportspersons in different games, sports as listed below for the following posts:

S.No	Post	Pay Band (Pre-revised)	Grade Pay(Pre-revised)
1.	Income Tax Inspector	9300-34800	9300-34800 + Grade Pay 4600 (PB-2)
2.	Tax Assistant	5200-20200	5200-20200 + Grade Pay 2400 (PB-1)
3.	Multi-Tasking Staff	5200-20200	5200-20200 + Grade Pay 1800 (PB-1)

The posts are temporary but likely to be permanent. The probation period is of 2 years.

ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

01. AGE LIMIT :
For Inspector of Income Tax : 18 to 30 years of age
For Tax Assistant/ Multi-Tasking Staff : 18 to 27 years of age
Relaxation of Age : 5 years for General/OBC candidates 10 years in case of SC/ST candidates (As per Govt. of India instructions for meritorious Sports persons)

Note: Cut off date for all the eligibility criteria, including age and education is 01/04/2022

02. ESSENTIAL EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION:
1. For Income Tax Inspectors:- (i) Degree from a recognized University or equivalent
2. For Tax Assistants:- (i) Degree from a recognized University or equivalent
(ii) Having Data Entry Speed of 8,000 Key depressions per hour
3. For Multi Tasking Staff:- (i) 10th class pass or equivalent from a recognized board or university

03. NUMBER OF VACANCIES:

S.No.	Cadre	Vacancy
1	Income Tax Inspector	28
2	Tax Assistant	28
3	Multi-Tasking Staff	16
	Total	72

04. SPORTS ELIGIBILITY:
Appointment can be made of a sportsperson considered meritorious with reference to the following criteria:-
Sportspersons having represented
(i) A State or the Country in a National or International Competition in any of the games/sports as mentioned in Para 6; or
(ii) Their University in the Inter-University Tournaments conducted by the Inter-University Sports Board in any of the games/sports as mentioned in Para 6; or
(iii) The State Schools Team in the National Sports/Games for schools conducted by All India School Games Federation in any of the games/sports as mentioned in Para 6; or
(iv) Sportsperson who has been awarded National Awards in Physical Efficiency under National Physical Efficiency Drive.

Note: The merit of sportspersons, who fulfil the aforesaid eligibility conditions, shall be considered/decided in the order of preference given above. Further, priority would be given to current players based on the best of three performances in the Calendar Year (in the descending order) 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019 (after 01.01.2019) shall be considered for evaluation.

05. EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF MERIT IN SPORTS EVENTS/GAMES:
Only certificates awarded by the authorities mentioned hereunder will be taken into account as evidence in support of having participated in competitions in any of the above Sports events/Games while considering eligibility of the applicant. A candidate who cannot produce self-attested copies of at least one certificate issued by one of the authorities mentioned here under along with application need not apply.

S.No.	Competition	Authority awarding certificate	Form
1.	International	Secretary of the National Federation of the game concerned.	Form-1
2.	National	Secretary of the National Federation or the Secretary of the State Association of the game concerned.	Form-2
3.	Inter-University tournament	Dean of Sports or other Officer in overall charge of Sports of the University concerned.	Form-3
4.	National/Sports/ games for School	Director of Additional/Joint or Deputy Director in overall charge of Sports/games for schools in the Directorate of Public Instructions/Education of the State.	Form-4
5.	Physical Efficiency Drive	Secretary or other Officer in overall charge of Physical Efficiency in the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, Government of India.	Form-5

Note: Sports achievements certified by the recognised authorities in specified forms (Form 1 to Form 5) as per Annexure 'A' of Department of Personnel and Training O.M in F.No. 14034/01/2013-Estt(D) dated 03/10/2013 which is available online in the URL mentioned below will only be considered: <https://tnincometax.gov.in/sportsquota/application2022.php>

06. LIST OF PREFERRED GAMES/SPORTS FOR WHICH THE APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED:

S.No.	Game / Sports	No. of Vacancies	S.No.	Game / Sports	No. of Vacancies		
		Men	Women		Men	Women	
1.	Athletics	5	5	9.	Football	6	0
2.	Badminton	2	2	10.	Hockey	8	0
3.	Basket Ball	5	12	11.	Kabaddi	4	0
4.	Body Building	1	0	12.	Lawn Tennis	1	1
5.	Carrom	1	1	13.	Swimming	1	1
6.	Chess	1	1	14.	Table Tennis	1	1
7.	Contract Bridge	2	0	15.	Volley Ball	5	0
8.	Cricket	5	0				

Note-1: In case of non-availability of eligible candidates in any of the above Games/Sports, the Department reserves its right not to consider such games/sports and all the vacancies reserved for such games/sports to any of the remaining games/sports in the above list or games notified by DoPT as per Annexure 'A' of O.M. No. 14015/176-Estt.(D) dated 4th August, 1980, Para 1 of O.M. No. 14034/4/85-Estt.(D) dated 18th September, 1985, Appendix to O.M. No. 14034/1/91-Estt.(D) dated 21st March, 1991, Para 3 of O.M. No. 14034/1/2009-Estt(D) dated 24th November, 2009, Appendix to O.M. No. 14034/1/2013-Estt(D) dated 01st September 2020, Para 2 of O.M. No. 14034/1/2013-Estt(D) dated 29th January 2021 and Para 2 of O.M. 14034/1/2013-Estt(D) dated 17th June 2022.

Note-2: In case of non-availability of eligible candidates in any of the vacancies earmarked against each gender for the above sports/games, the Pr.CCIT, Tamilnadu and Puducherry reserves the right to allot such vacancies to any of the gender in terms of Note-1 of Para-6.

07. HOW TO APPLY: Applications must be submitted only by online mode which can be accessed from the following URL: <https://tnincometax.gov.in/sportsquota/application2022.php>

08. The candidate on appointment will be liable for posting at any place in Tamilnadu and Puducherry Region.

09. The applicant shall upload attested copies of the following certificates:
(i) Matriculation/SSC or equivalent certificate for proof of age.
(ii) Certificates of Educational qualifications.
(iii) Sports/games certificates as mentioned at S.No. 05 above.
(iv) SC/ST/OBC community certificate.
(v) Copy of Aadhar Card

The candidate must be in possession of the requisite qualification for the concerned post as on 01/04/2022.

10. Sports persons who are already employed in Central Government or State Government or PSU should submit the NOC from the present employer which should be uploaded in the online application form.

11. The selected candidates will be posted in Tamilnadu and Puducherry region only. The selected candidates will be on probation for 2 years or such period as per the extant instructions of the Government of India. His/her participation in the tournament/meets on behalf of the department will also be a deciding factor in the declaration of his/her probation. The selected candidate will be required to represent the Income Tax Department, Tamilnadu and Puducherry Region in the tournaments/meets as decided at least for 10 years. The selected candidates will be required to give an undertaking not to apply for transfer on loan basis/ any other inter-charge transfer arrangement which the CDBT may devise in future, for a minimum period of 10 years.

12. The declaration to this effect to work at any place under Pr CCIT (CCA), Tamilnadu and Puducherry Region, should be submitted during the pre-appointment process.

13. Services of the selected candidates as far as participation in sporting activities and leave management etc. shall strictly be subject to fulfillment of the conditions as enumerated in the DoPT's O.M. No. 6/195-Estt. (Pay-I) dated 16th July, 1985.

14. Application duly filled and completed in all respect, shall be submitted online on or before the stipulated date. The application link in the Department website will be functional till **11:59 pm on the said stipulated date, i.e., 06/02/2023.**

15. Application submitted online with soft copies of invalid documents or illegible scanned documents will be rejected and no correspondence in the matter will be made with the applicant. Eligible candidates will be called for Document Verification. The date and venue for Document Verification will be intimated to the eligible candidates in due course.

16. Any form of canvassing by any candidate will render his/her candidature liable to be rejected summarily at any stage of recruitment process.

17. The Pr. Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Tamilnadu and Puducherry region, has right to cancel the recruitment process at any stage without assigning any reason.

18. In the event of any tie, the decision of Pr. Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Tamilnadu and Puducherry region shall be final.

(R. KUMARAN)
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX
(HQRS) (ADMN) / CHENNAI

Mallya incommunicado, lawyer disassociates

New Delhi: The SC on Monday allowed a lawyer, who in the past had represented fugitive erstwhile liquor baron Vijay Mallya, to disassociate from the case.

A bench headed by CJI D Y Chandrachud allowed discharge of the advocate-on-record, E C Agrawala, from representing Mallya as it was informed that the fugitive businessman has not contacted him with instructions, despite repeated attempts.

On July 11 last year, a bench of Justices U U Lalit, S R Bhat and P S Narasimha had sentenced Mallya, holed up in London and facing an extradition process initiated by India, to four months' imprisonment and ordered him and his three US-based children to return \$40 million, which was siphoned out by

Mallya, with 8% interest.

More than five years after Mallya was found guilty of contempt, the Justice Lalit-led bench had said it was sentencing him in absentia as he had neither showed remorse nor tendered apology. "We impose a sentence of four months and fine of Rs 2,000. In case the amount is not deposited within the time stipulated, the contemnor shall undergo a further sentence of two months." **TNN**

UK home secy orders Sanjay Bhandari's extradition to India

Naomi Canton

London: UK home secretary Suella Braverman has ordered extradition of defence middleman Sanjay Bhandari to India. Braverman ordered Bhandari's extradition on January 12 this year. Bhandari has 14 days from January 12 to put in an application seeking permission to appeal both the decision of the judge and of the home secretary in the administrative court of the high court.

Bhandari, who was arrested in London on July 15, 2020 and has conditional bail, is accused by the Indian authorities of, whilst a resident of India, evading income tax between July 1, 2015 and February 7, 2017 contrary to the Black Money Act of 2015 and the Income Tax Act of 1961, by failing to disclose assets and income outside India, and of money-laundering, contrary to Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

It is alleged that he had a number of companies in India and in various overseas jurisdictions, and that he acquired significant income outside India and acquired assets in overseas territories without making disclosure of the same to Indian tax authorities. These included properties in the UK and in Dubai, companies in the UAE and in Panama, and deposits in foreign bank accounts. It is alleged that in order to avoid proper payment of taxes, he created false and backdated documents to distance himself from ownership of the assets.

It is also alleged that a scheme to launder money was devised by him whereby various sham transactions between a web of entities, incorporated in different jurisdictions, were executed and funds were moved through various bank accounts in different jurisdictions. The purpose of this was to conceal the source of funds and identities of real owners with an intention to circumvent anti-money laundering laws of India and other countries as well.


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Our Beloved




SH. K.K. NAIR
(18.07.1941 - 17.01.2022)

Our Longtime General Secretary who left us 1 year ago

*Your Life was a Blessing
Your memories a treasure
You are loved beyond words
Missed beyond measure.*

All India Bank of Baroda Officers' Association
Email: aiboba1964@gmail.com
www.aiboba.com

II JAI JALARAM II
Smt. Diwaliben (Diya) Navinchandra Jasani (Thakkar)



ॐ 17.02.1940 ॐ 14.01.2023

Your life was a blessing, your legacy a treasure.

Prayer Meeting at Jalaram Hall, N.S. Road no.6, JVPD, Mumbai- 400049.
Tuesday 17th January, 2023, between 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

In Grief & Remembrance
Bharat & Dipti Jasani, Pankaj & Shweta Jasani, Rajesh & Sheela Mirani, Ajay & Gita Jasani, Rajiv & Hema Jasani, Ram & Radhika Jasani, Karan & Mansi Jasani, Nimish & Riddhi Thacker, Darshan & Megha Bhatt, Ankur & Prachi Dewani, Vaidehi, Krishna, Shibani, Janvi, Reya, Rivaan, Neo, Zayden, Bruno, Jay Shree Krishna

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Pravin Marfatia
Passed away peacefully on 16/1/2023.
Will be remembered forever by Dr Sarayu Marfatia Lavanya Anup and Arav Rachana Ravi Mihir and Abhay.
No condolences please.

SAD DEMISE

A TRIBUTE



Chirag Kotecha
16.10.1978-14.01.2023

A devoted, loyal, reliable and sincere personality. He was the soul of our company with his contribution to our organisation of more than 25 years. We will miss you and remember you always.

LEO CHEMO PLAST PVT. LTD.

Prayer meeting by Family.
Venue: Saraswat wadi, Zaver road, Mulund (west), Mumbai-80
Tuesday, 17.01.2023
Timing: 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

IN LOVING MEMORY



JACOB JOHN KALLOOR
1944 - 2023

Left for his everlasting home on 13 January. Beloved husband & loving father.

We miss you, Molly & Roshni

1st Death Anniversary



Cecilia Lucy Lobo
Died - 17-01-2022

Wife of Late Joachim Joseph Lobo
Children- Lancy, Vincent, Archie, Jane and Grandchildren

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY
IN LOVING MEMORY OF



LATE SHRI BHARAT PANDURANG BHOIR
(1/6/1953 - 27/1/2022)
Kapurbandi, Thane

Wife
Mrs. Vidya Bharat Bhoir

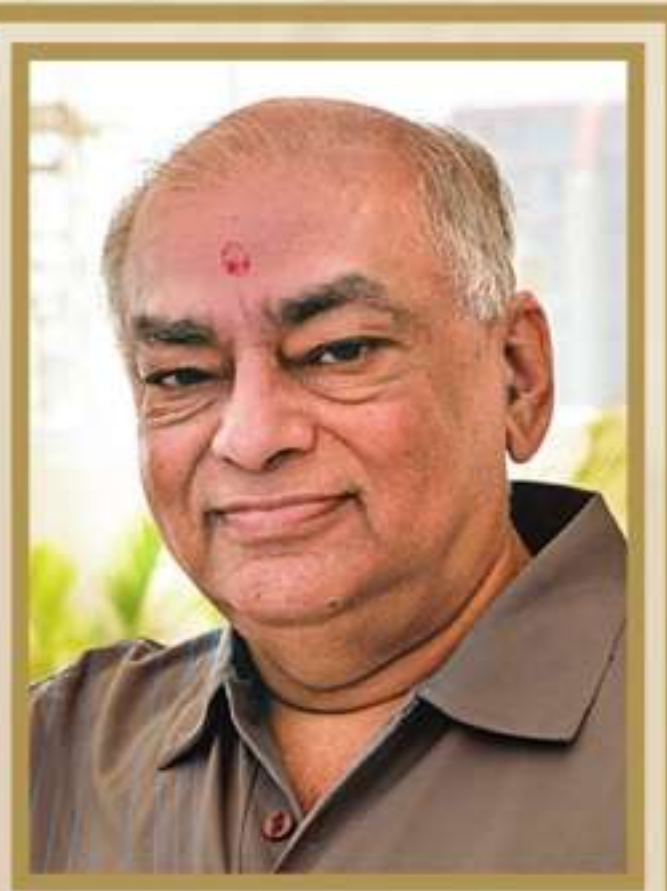
Daughter
Dr. Mrs. Lalan Sameer Palaskar

Son
Mr. Navin Bharat Bhoir

Grand Daughters
Shriya, Saachi, Manashree, Sanvi

WE MISS YOU A LOT

IN LOVING MEMORY OF




With profound grief, we announce that our beloved **Shri Mohan Maker ji** has left for his heavenly abode on 15th January, 2023.

Antim Ardas will take place at **Gurudwara Dhan Pothohar** nagar, 396/19, North Avenue, Near Rajesh Khanna Garden, Santacruz West on 17th January, 2023 | 5PM-6PM

IN MOURNING,
MAKER FAMILY & RELATIVES
ASANAND SONS,
MARK IMPEX & FX PIGMENTS PVT LTD

IN LOVING MEMORY OF



PUSHPA DHANANJAY PAREKH
14/02/1927 - 15/01/2023

PRAYER MEET

TUESDAY | 17TH JANUARY, 2023 | 6-7PM
SNDT COLLEGE HALL,
RAFI AHMED KIDWAI RD, MATUNGA

WITH US, AT EVERY STEP, FOREVER AND ALWAYS
GEETA-RAJ, JASMINA-MAYANK SONAL
MANSI-ANUJ, MAANSI-DHAVAL,
ROSHNI-NIMAY, DIKSHA-MALAY, DHWANI-SUNAY
ADIT, TARA, DEV, AASMA, NYRAA
PAREKH AND KUMBHANI FAMILIES

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED



SMT. KALPANA SHASHIKANT AJMERA
1944 - 2023

It's with great sorrow that we announce the demise of our beloved on 13th January 2023. You have taught us to never give up and live life to the fullest. You will always continue to inspire us. We love you and will miss you dearly.

Deeply mourned by:
Gaurang & Poonam,
Prashant & Alpa Ajmera
Shalin Vora
Esha & Ankur Saraf
Shaina, Vidhisha
Akshar, Aashna
Aanya, Viaan
& entire Ajmera family

Please join us for a Zoom meeting to pay a tribute to her on Tuesday 17th January from 6:30pm to 7:30pm IST
<https://bit.ly/KalpanabenAjmera>
Zoom Meeting ID - 964 4627 6507
Passcode - 1234567890

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED FATHER



Shri Jethanand M. Vasnani
(Founder of J.M. Vasnani Engg. Co.)
1931 - 2023

It is with deep sorrow that we inform you about the sad demise of our beloved father Shri Jethanand Vasnani. He was not only a beloved head of our family, but also a mentor and a role model to many. He lived a life filled with generosity, wisdom and hard work always putting family first, he showed us how to live a life worth living! We pray his departed soul rests in peace. Forever in our hearts, never forgotten with prayer & grief, Vasnani family.

"PAGDI RASAM"
on 17-01-2023
5:00 - 5:30 PM
at Sachkhand Darbar, 'C' Block Shahad Station Road Unr. 1
Condolence on 9820864944
9820198354


SAD DEMISE



SHRI. DILIPBHAI M. DHARJA
Son of Late Shri Muljibhai and Late Smt. Kamalaben Dharja (M/s The Imperial Tube & Hardware Mart).

PRAYER MEETING
17th Jan '23
Tarabai Hall, Marine Drive Between 5 pm - 7 pm
Wife: Rashmi Dharja
Sons: Rakesh & Saumil
Daughter-in-laws: Neha & Tanvi
Granddaughters: Ananya & Tanaya

3rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY
In loving memory of our Darling



SCHUBERT DIAS

3 years on, we still cherish your memory every day. Your laughter, your jokes, your love for food.. all of which taught us to live in the moment. We miss and love you loads.


"SCHUMANIA" LOVED FOREVER

From your loving wife:
RUMANIA
Children:
SCHNACKEN & SCNEITER & JUDY
Grand Child:
SCHALYAN

REMEMBRANCES


TALPADE VAIBHAV K
(25/01/1965-17/01/1993)
(Chartered & Cost Accountant) In the Everloving memory of my beloved Vaibhav who passed away this day in 1993 - Alpana (Wife)

12th Death Anniversary
17/01/2023



N. N. VENKATRAMAN
Your Life, Words will continue to inspire us forever. We remember & miss your presence every moment.
With love remembered by: Wife Radha & Family Members

SAD DEMISE



Shri Khataubhai Parekh (1935-2023)
Passed Away Peacefully on 15th January 2023
Husband of Late Krishnaben Parekh


In fond remembrance
Naresh & Dipti Parekh, Jagruti & Pradeep Patel
Yogesh & Zarna Parekh, Yash & Preksha
Kush, Krish, Henna
Karna & Bhavya, Kevin & Ankita
and Parekh Family

Prayer Meeting
18th January 2023, Time : 05.00 pm - 6.30 pm
Venue
Nehru Centre Auditorium,
Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai - 400 018

PAREKH GROUP

TO BOOK AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THIS SECTION CALL:
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In Loving Memory



Chunilal Popatlal Gutka
S/o Padmaben Popat Raja Gutka
22-12-1936 10th 17-01-2013
Death Anniversary


Ranjanben Chunilal Gutka
(Lakhabavadi)
10-05-1943 2nd 01-03-2021
Death Anniversary

FONDLY REMEMBERED BY:
Son: Hitesh Chunilal Gutka
Daughter-in-law: Kumud Hitesh Gutka
Grandson - Granddaughter-in-law : Neel - Komal Neel Gutka
Granddaughter - Son-in-law: Dr. Mansi - Adv. Harsh Pankaj Jakharia
Great - Grandson: Pakshal Harsh Jakharia
Granddaughter: Jaini Hitesh Gutka

Daughters & Family:
✳ Kalpana Kailash Shah, Late Kailash Devchand Shah, Bhavin Kailash Shah, Mansi Bhavin Shah & Sonali - Shail Kailash Shah
✳ Bijal Arun Gada, Arun Nemchand Gada & Harshin Arun Gada
✳ Bindu Chetan Haria, Dr. Chetan Ramniklal Haria, Fiona Chetan Haria & Herschel Chetan Haria

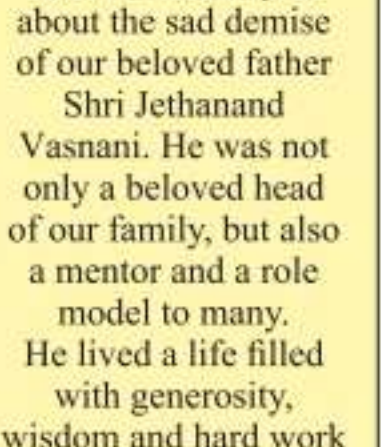
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SAD DEMISE



MS. THERESIA FERNANDES
W/o Late Norman Fernandes
You will always be in our hearts and our prayers. We will miss you and fondly remember you in every moment of our life. Lots of love from her Family, relatives and Friends.
Funeral service on 17th January 2023 at St. Vincent De Paul Church Khar at 4 pm followed by Burial at St. Andrew's Church Bandra

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED FATHER



Shri Jethanand M. Vasnani
(Founder of J.M. Vasnani Engg. Co.)
1931 - 2023

It is with deep sorrow that we inform you about the sad demise of our beloved father Shri Jethanand Vasnani. He was not only a beloved head of our family, but also a mentor and a role model to many. He lived a life filled with generosity, wisdom and hard work always putting family first, he showed us how to live a life worth living! We pray his departed soul rests in peace. Forever in our hearts, never forgotten with prayer & grief, Vasnani family.

"PAGDI RASAM"
on 17-01-2023
5:00 - 5:30 PM
at Sachkhand Darbar, 'C' Block Shahad Station Road Unr. 1
Condolence on 9820864944
9820198354

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

13th Death Anniversary



Dr. MANOHAR KRISHNA PANANDIKAR
(4.02.28 - 17.01.10)

Remembered By
Dr. Datta M. Panandikar,
Dr. Bharti D. Panandikar,
Mr. Pushkar V. Joshi
Dr. Monica P. Joshi
Nikita, Neha, Mihir & Anvita,
Staff & Doctors of Panandikar Hospital Thane.

TO BOOK AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THIS SECTION CALL: JAI SANSAR 9867505472

TO BOOK AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THIS SECTION CALL: JAI SANSAR 9867505472
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Hyd delivery man jumps off bldg to flee dog, dies

Hyderabad: A 23-year-old food delivery agent who jumped three floors from a Hyderabad apartment building last week to escape a pet German Shepherd that allegedly lunged at him died of his injuries in hospital late Saturday, his family said. News of Mohammed Rizwan's death prompted Banjara Hills police to add the charge of "causing death by negligence" under Section 304A under the IPC to the FIR against K Shobhana, the pet owner to whom the deceased was to deliver food. Rizwan was outside Shobhana's Banjara Hills apartment when the dog allegedly tried to attack him.

12-yr-old tribal girl gangraped in MP, 3 held

Jabalpur: A 12-year-old tribal girl was gangraped by three men in Jabalpur after one of them offered her a lift to her relative's home on Sunday. The accused have been arrested. The police said the girl knew one of the accused as he lives in a nearby village where her maternal aunt resides. On Sunday evening, when she set off to visit her aunt, the acquaintance offered to give her a lift on his bike, and she agreed, the police added. In a jungle on the way, the accused allegedly stopped the motorcycle, and he and his two friends raped her, said the police. **TNN**

Bird cage set ablaze in Satara, 40 pigeons dead

Kolhapur: A bird cage, with 40 pigeons inside, was set ablaze by unidentified person(s) at Laxmi Tekdi, in the Sadar Bazaar area of Satara city. All 40 pigeons were burnt to death. A case has been registered with the Satara city police station and the cops are checking the CCTV footage. A plastic water bottle, which had contained diesel, was recovered from the spot. Police suspect that someone from the same neighbourhood may have set the pigeon cage on fire. Rajendra Jadhav had set up the shed at some distance from his house. **TNN**

Masks must in Kerala, even inside vehicles

Thiruvananthapuram: The Kerala government has made masks mandatory in all public places, workplaces, social gatherings and vehicles for a month. The order, issued on January 13, said it would come into effect immediately. Though the government has not provided an explanation for the mandate, its view is that the state has never lifted the order requiring masks in public places. "The decision should be seen as a precautionary measure. There is no need for any alarm. Also, owing to the rise in influenza cases, it is good to wear masks and use sanitisers as part of hygienic measures. The norm regarding the use of masks was never lifted in Kerala," said Tinku Biswal, principal secretary, health. The use of sanitisers has been made compulsory in shops, offices, theatres and places where people gather. Social distancing must be

Kerala plans menstrual leave at all state univs

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala higher education minister R Bindu on Monday said the government is actively considering demands for introducing menstrual leave for students in all universities in the state. There were demands from various quarters for menstrual leave in all universities after Cochin University of Science and Technology (Cusat) introduced it. "Menstrual leave was approved in Cusat after demands from SFT-led students' unions. Now, the government is considering the same facility in other universities too, considering the mental and physical difficulties that female students face," Bindu said. While 75% attendance is mandatory for students to appear for examinations, Cusat amended rules, so that female students require only 73% attendance for the purpose. **TNN**

Agnipath a game-changer, will help forces be future-ready: PM

'Will Empower Women In The Military'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Agnipath scheme is a "transformative policy" that will be "a game-changer" in strengthening the armed forces and making them 'future-ready' for the challenges ahead, PM Narendra Modi said on Monday. Congratulating the first batch of Agniveers during a virtual address as "pioneers" who would make the armed forces "more youthful and tech-savvy", Modi said the "path-breaking" scheme will further empower women in the military. Women are already doing well on various fronts, he said, citing examples of a woman officer being recently



Modi said Agniveers are pioneers who will make the forces more youthful

deployed in the Siachen glacier and women pilots flying modern fighters like Rafales and Sukhoi-30MKIs. Under the Agnipath scheme announced last June, 26,000 Agniveers (20,000 for Army and 3,000 each for IAF and Navy) have already begun their training. Another 20,000 are slated to join Army regimental centres for training in March. The first batch in the Navy include 341 women, while the other two services plan to follow suit. Only 25% of these 46,000 soldiers, airmen and sailors will eventually be selected to serve for another 15 years after the first four years. The rest 75% will be demobilised with the Seva Nidhi exit package of Rs 11.71 lakh each. Addressing the Agniveers with defence minister Rajnath Singh and the military brass in attendance, Modi said "technologically-advanced soldiers" will play a key role in the military and that the current generation of youth

has this potential, while talking about the new frontiers of contactless warfare and challenges of cyber warfare. New India is filled with renewed vigour and efforts are underway to modernise the armed forces and make them *atmanirbhar* (self-reliant), the PM said. He said Agniveers' high spirits reflect the bravery of the armed forces, which have always kept the tricolour flying high. "The experience you will acquire through this opportunity will be a source of pride for life," he said, while urging them to learn different languages, cultures and ways of living during their postings to different regions. Singh termed the Agnipath scheme as one of the "most important and unprecedented reforms" that had received an "encouraging response" with a large number of applicants. "Agniveers will not only become *surakshaveers*, but also *samriddhivaveers*."

Sikkim wants a baby boom, will reward women

Gangtok: Sikkim CM Prem Singh Tamang aims to incentivise childbirth among indigenous communities to combat declining fertility rates in the country's least populous state, proposing a special increment to women employees giving birth to a second baby and two increments for a third child. The proposal to encourage people to have more children, possibly a first by any state, comes just over a year after the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha-led cabinet's November 14, 2021, announcement that women in government service would be entitled to 365 days of maternity leave while new fathers could avail 30 days' paternity leave. "We need to arrest the declining fertility rate with incentives for local people to produce more children," news agency PTI quoted Tamang as saying. "Sikkim's fertility rate registered the lowest growth rate at one child per woman in recent years." **TNN & AGENCIES**

After free power, Cong vows ₹2k sop to woo K'taka women

Anil.Gejji@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: Congress general secretary **Priyanka Gandhi-Vadra** on Monday announced a monthly cash assistance of Rs 2,000 for every woman head of a Karnataka household if the party is voted to power in the assembly elections slated this year. The pledge follows a recent Congress promise of 200 units of free electricity to all households. Priyanka made the cash aid announcement under a "Gruha Lakshmi scheme" at a women's convention called 'Naa Nayaki (I'm the woman leader)' in the city. The scheme will benefit over 1.5 crore women in the state and cost the exchequer around Rs 36,000 crore a year. The cash aid is an attempt to share the "burden of the exorbitant" LPG prices



Priyanka Gandhi takes oath at her 'Na Nayaki' convention in Bengaluru on Monday

and the daily expenses that a woman bears, Congress said, adding the idea for the welfare scheme came from women themselves. Addressing the convention, Priyanka said Rs 24,000 a year would be directly credited to their bank accounts. "We want every woman in the state to be empowered, capable of standing on her own and taking care of her children," Priyanka added. "Ask yourself

Bomma scoffs at Priyanka's event

Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai ridiculed Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's convention, saying the Congress general secretary had reached a stage where "she had to declare herself a leader". The CM said since there are no women rallying around her, Priyanka had to announce "Na Nayaki". "She is a leader only in posters and advertisements. It's clear that the women of Karnataka are not prepared to make her a leader," he added. **TNN**

whether your lives have improved over the past few years and then vote. Make this election about you and your future," Priyanka said in an apparent appeal to reject the governing BJP.

EC showcases remote EVMs; oppn parties say explain its need

New Delhi: The Election Commission on Monday held consultations with national and state political parties on its proposal on remote voting with a majority of opposition parties pressing for a broad-based consensus on legal, administrative and logistical framework, including the definition of domestic migrants before taking the matter further. While some parties saw the demonstration of the prototype remote electronic voting machine (RVM), others stayed away from it, saying technological interventions can wait before a consensus is developed on legal and administrative issues. Sources in the poll panel said some parties requested for demonstration of RVM in states also.



The remote electronic voting machine prototype being showcased in Delhi on Monday

While EC had invited eight national and 57 state parties recognised by it, 40 state parties attended the meet. Representatives of all eight national parties attended the consultation. The parties agreed with broad objectives of effort to include non-voting electors in the election process in the stakeholder consultations on electoral issues. "No opposition party wants to see the demonstration of a remote voting machine. First the issue of the need to have such a machine should be settled," Congress member Digvijaya Singh told reporters after the meeting. "The idea of remote voting machine is not acceptable," he added. **AGENCIES**

Delhi, Guj cops took away CCTV footage: Didi

Sagardighi (Murshidabad): West Bengal chief minister **Mamata Banerjee** accused the Delhi and Gujarat police on Monday of entering Banga Bhavan, the primary accommodation of state seniors and guests in Delhi, on Saturday and taking away CCTV footage, reports **Sukumar Mahato**.

"Gujarat police, along with Delhi police, took away all CCTV footage from Banga Bhavan on Saturday. The governor, the Calcutta high court chief justice and judges stay there (when in Delhi)," she said at a rally in Murshidabad before referring to Trinamool spokesperson Saket Gokhale's arrest from Banga Bhavan a few weeks ago. "One of our party workers was wrongfully arrested by Gujarat police from Banga Bhavan. He was going to Rajasthan. He was arrested again even after being released on bail," she said.

Banerjee linked the Centre's "deprivation and denial" of Bengal with "selective raids and harassment" by agencies.

E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, CD-I, Irrigation & Flood Control Department, GNCTD Opp. ESI Hospital, Basai Darapur Office Complex New Delhi-110027 invites on behalf of the President of India, online percentage rate tender from approved and eligible contractors for the following works:-

1. NIT No. EE/CD-I/DB/NIT/2022-23/112 (ID No. 2022_IFC_234183_1) H.O.A:- 4711-Plan (Other Drainage Works), Name of Work:- Removal of hump (silt/earth/manure/sludge etc.) by dredging from Ranhola Bridge D/S RD (34350m) to Outer Ring Road Bridge (RD 40680m) at Najafgarh Drain. E.C. Rs. 14,37,50,920/- Earnest Money:- Rs. 28,75,018/- period of Completion 180 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 17.01.2023 at 3:00 P.M. & 3:05 P.M respectively.)

Note:- 1) Details of above mentioned works & eligibility criteria can be seen and downloaded from the web site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

2. Amendment(s)/corrigendum if any, will be available at website only.

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER/ CD-I
DIP/SHABDARTH/0558/22-23

Desi scientists discover solitary waves in Mars's magnetosphere

New Delhi: Indian scientists have reported the first proof of the presence of solitary waves (electric field fluctuations) in Mars's magnetosphere, reports **Surendra Singh**. The discovery has been made by a four-member team of the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG). The discovery is significant as solitary waves directly control particle energisation, plasma loss and transport through wave-particle interactions. "Our earth is a giant magnet and its magnetic field protects us from high-speed charged particles that are continuously emitted from the sun in the form of solar wind. Mars doesn't have any intrinsic magnetic field. This allows the high-speed solar wind to interact directly with its atmosphere," Bharati Kakad, scientist with IIG, told TOI. The IIG team is exploring if solitary waves play any role in the loss of atmospheric ions on the red planet.

Jharkhand Urja Utpadan Nigam Ltd.
(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001703)
(CIN No.: U40108JH2013SGC001703)
Regd. Office: Engineering Building,
HEC, Dhurwa, Ranchi - 834004
(E-mail: dgmhrm.juunl@gmail.com)

e-TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. - 15 /PR/ JUUNL/ 2022-23
e-Tender in two parts i.e. Technical (Part-I) and Financial (Part - II) is invited from reputed, capable, experienced and financially sound registered supplier/ companies/ cooperative society/ agencies/ proprietorship firms/ partnership/ NGO/ PSU/ Registered Tour operator/ Pvt. Ltd./ Public Ltd. etc. for the following works :-

Name of work	Hiring of e-vehicle (e-car, Sedan type 5 Seater) Qty:-06 nos. with chauffeur services along with supply, installation & maintenance of e-vehicle (EV) charging stations for A.C. supply (Qty. = 02 Nos.) on monthly hire basis for a period of Six (06) years at JUUNL hqr., HEC, Dhurwa, Ranchi.
Estimated cost (Rs.)	Rs. 2,53,18,080.00 (Inclusive of all taxes)
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 5,20,000.00 in the form of DD/BG in favour of Jharkhand Urja Utpadan Nigam Limited, payable at Ranchi (in case of BG nationalized/ scheduled bank only)
Completion Period	06 Years
e-Tender fee	Rs. 10,000/- only + 18% GST in the form of DD in favour of Jharkhand Urja Utpadan Nigam Limited, payable at Ranchi.
Start Date and time of upload of BID	18.01.2023
Start Date & Time of Download the Tender Documents	18.01.2023
End date and time of upload of BID	10.02.2023 upto 04:00 PM
Last date of submission of hard copy of bid, tender cost and EMD in the office of G.M. (HR/ Adm./ Legal)	Upto 10.02.2023 at 06:00 PM
BID Opening date for technical part	14.02.2023 at 03:00 PM
BID Opening date for price part	Will be communicated
Procurement Officer and address for communication	General Manager (HR/ Adm./ Legal), JUUNL Hqr., Engineer Building, HEC, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004

1.e-Tender document and BOQ including terms & conditions, tender specification can be downloaded from website <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned (9431747672) during office hours.
2. The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only.
3.No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders. Bidders are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid last minute technical snag.

स्वतंत्र एवं पारदर्शित में ऊर्जा संचार। प्रगतिशील विचारों को 18003456570 (ऑल इंडिया) पर दर्ज कराया।

PR 287586 Jharkhand Urja Utpadan Nigam Ltd(22-23),D
Sd/-
General Manager (HR/ Adm./ Legal)

WESTERN RAILWAY- RATLAM DIVISION
TENDER NOTICE FOR VARIOUS WORKS
W/623/NIT/1. Date: 12/01/2023. The Divisional Railway Manager (W/A) Ratlam invites "Open Tender" through e-tender on website www.ireps.gov.in the details are as under:-

Sr. No.	E-Tender No. & Name of Work	Approx value ₹	Earnest Money in ₹
1	RTM-2022-23-82 Chanderia - Ratlam - Khandwa Section & Rau-Tihi Section - Construction of with Precast PSC Panel & Precast Column and RCC footing & Column Cap to prevent encroachments and trespassing in stretches (Balance Work) in the jurisdiction of DEN (North) Ratlam	3,88,99,357.96	3,44,500.00
2	RTM-2022-23-100 Nimach Depot - Supply of 50 mm size machine crushed stone ballast and loading in to hoppers at. (Total Quantity = 85046 Cum)	7,32,55,896.12	5,16,300.00
3	RTM-2022-23-103 Ratlam-Khandwa Section-Rebuilding Bridges Existing steel girder by RCC. box/PSC slab. Bridge No. 98 & 99, pipe culvert 539A & 539B (Total - 4 Nos.)	1,67,08,736.39	2,33,600.00

Approx Quantity : for Sr. no. - 1, 2 & 3 - As per Tender Schedule. **Completion on Period :** for Sr. no. - 1 & 2 - 18 Months. Sr. no. - 3 - 12 Months. **Similar type of work :** for Sr. no. - 1 - Any Civil engineering Work involving PSC elements such as PSC Girders/PSC Slabs/PSC Sleeper etc. Sr. no. - 2 - Any Civil Engineering/Track Work. OR Supply of Ballast/Boulders. Sr. no. - 3 - Any Rail/Road Bridge work of opening more than 3.0 m. **Note -** The work to be done under running line, the tenderer should have the experience of carrying out work under running traffic. **Date of uploading on website :** for Sr. no. - 1 - 11.01.2023. for Sr. no. - 2 & 3 - 12.01.2023. **Date of Opening & time at :** for Sr. no. - 1, 2 & 3 - 06.02.2023. **Cost of Tender Form ₹ :** Nil. * Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria and terms and conditions are available at Website - www.ireps.gov.in.
SNP-392
Divisional Railway Manager (W/A), Ratlam Division, Western Railway
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & PROJECT DIRECTOR
STATE PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT
WEST BENGAL MAJOR IRRIGATION AND FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROJECT
JALASAMPAD BHAVAN, 9TH FLOOR, SALT LAKE CITY, KOLKATA - 700 091
EMAIL :- ce.pd.wbmfimp@gmail.com Tel :- 033-23581315
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Procurement Notice for India - P162679 West Bengal Major Irrigation & Flood Management Project - IN-IWD-333606-CW-RFB (Funded by World Bank, AIB & Government of West Bengal)

Contract No (1)	Contract Title (2)	Bid Security (Rs.) (3)	Cost of Document (Rs.) (4)	Period of Completion (5)
Balance works of IRR-03/Lot-3, Durgapur Branch Canal (DBC) from 38.10 km to 57.912 km including all its appurtenant canals within the reach - Package No. IRR-20 - comprising two lots.				
RFB NO: WBMFIMP/PD/NCB/22-23/IRR20/L-A	Lot-A : Balance works of IRR-03/Lot-3, Durgapur Branch Canal (DBC) from 38.10 km to 43.30 km including all its appurtenant canals within the reach.	INR 0.20 Cr. [Indian Rupees Twenty only]	NIL	04 Months
RFB NO: WBMFIMP/PD/NCB/22-23/IRR20/L-B	Lot-B: Balance works of IRR-03/Lot-3, Durgapur Branch Canal (DBC) from 43.30 km to 57.912km including all its appurtenant canals within the reach.	INR 0.15 Cr. [Indian Rupees Fifteen only]	NIL	04 Months
Procurement Officer Chief Engineer & Project Director, WBMFIMP, I&WD, Govt. of WB		Availability of Bidding Document The bidding document is available online on https://wbtdenders.gov.in at 10.00 hours (IST) upto 13:00 hours (IST)		
Note: (i) The bidders are required to submit (a) original bid security in approved form; and (b) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document with Chief Engineer and Project Director, SPMU, WBMFIMP, 9th Floor, Jalasampad Bhavan, Western Block, Bidhannagar, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700-091, West Bengal before the bid submission deadline, either by registered post/speed post/courier or by hand, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive and will not be opened. (ii) The eligibility criteria for selection of Agency/Firms are provided below: (a) The bidder should have a minimum construction Cash flow requirement as follows:- i) Lot-A : INR 4.93 Cr; ii) Lot-B: INR 3.39 Cr. (b) The bidder should have a minimum average annual construction turnover during the last five financial years i.e. from FY 2015-16 to FY 2021-2022 as follows:- i) Lot-A: INR 14.78 Cr. ii) Lot-B: INR 10.17 Cr. (c) The bidder should have satisfactorily, as a prime contractor, joint venture member, management contractor or sub-contractor completed at least one similar nature of work of one contract having minimum value between 1st April 2015 and bid submission deadline as follows:- (i) Lot-A : INR 7.88 Cr; (ii) Lot-B : INR 5.42 Cr; (d) The bidder should have completed minimum quantity for Lot - A: Ordinary/Standard concrete (M15 and above)* minimum 7038.00 cum. Lot - B: Ordinary/Standard concrete (M15 and above)* minimum 4729.00 cum. * (i) Standard /Ordinary concrete as specified in IS 456:2000 (ii) Nominal mix ordinary concrete executed with mix proportion of cement, sand and coarse aggregate by volume not less than 1:2:4, should be considered as equivalent to M15, if the grade is not explicitly mentioned in the specific construction experience. Further details & Corrigendum if any can be seen from the website: https://wbtdenders.gov.in Sd/- Chief Engineer and Project Director, SPMU, WBMFIMP, Government of West Bengal				

‘Forced into sex’,
man kills friend,
helps with search

Vadodara: Eight days after a 34-year-old man from Halol went missing, police exhumed his body from an open field in Gujarat’s Panchmahals district on Monday. He had been hacked to death and buried by a 59-year-old man who was allegedly fed up of being sexually exploited by the deceased.

The accused, who was arrested on Sunday, had been evading suspicion by pretending to help the cops look for him for some days, but a phone call made on the victim’s phone nailed him. The accused claimed that the deceased used to force him to have sex with him.

“The two were friends. We suspected the accused’s involvement in the murder as he was upset with the victim, and had even approached his family some time ago and told them about his threats and blackmailing tactics,” said a cop. **TNN**

TRUCK TOO HEAVY, BRIDGE BREAKS



IN A ‘LORRY’ STATE: An iron bridge over Kamlia river in Bihar’s Darbhanga collapsed under the weight of a sand-laden truck on Monday. As the truck hung off the bridge, the driver and his helper were rescued. Activists said barriers had been placed to keep heavy vehicles off the structure built in 2004, but miscreants removed them

Eunuchs ‘dance’
at CRPF event,
report sought

Dehradun: The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has sought a report into a group of eunuchs “dancing” on stage and later amidst the gathering during the paramilitary force’s Raising Day event in Nainital district on October 14 last year, reports **Kalyan Das**.

After purported videos of the dance recently reached senior officers in Delhi and Dehradun, inspector-general of CRPF, Dehradun sector, sought a report of the incident from the deputy inspector-general, Kathgodam group centre. A CRPF officer posted in Uttarakhand, requesting anonymity, told **TOI** on Monday: “A report had been sought by senior leadership from Kathgodam group centre on the entire matter. The issue was raised citing campus security, the entry of outsiders during the event to mark the Raising Day of the force from October 13-14. Action, if any, will be taken by the department after gathering the report of the entire incident.”

Another CRPF officer from Kathgodam while confirming the incident to **TOI** added, “There is nothing wrong in eunuchs performing at a cultural programme on the Raising Day. Eunuchs are also a part of the society. There was nothing vulgar in their performance that day.”

Make ‘Pathaan’
accessible for
impaired: HC

New Delhi: Delhi high court on Monday directed Yash Raj Films to prepare audio description, close captioning and subtitles in Hindi language for OTT release of its upcoming movie Shahrukh Khan starrer ‘Pathaan’ to make it accessible for hearing and visually impaired persons.

The movie is scheduled to be released in theatres on January 25 and will be screened on Amazon Prime later in April. The court directed that a decision on recertification of the film be taken by March 10, 2023. **TNN**

Now, Rudraprayag village
shows cracks, locals flee

Marora Is
100km From
Joshimath

Shivani Azad & Kautilya Singh | **TNN**

Dehradun: There is a striking similarity, local residents say, between Rudraprayag’s Marora village and Joshimath. Separated by about 100km, houses in both these places in Uttarakhand have developed cracks and local residents are fleeing their homes with fear of losing everything they once had.

While Joshimath residents have blamed NTPC project for their suffering, villagers in Marora are upset with the 125km-long Rishikesh-Karnaprayag rail project. At least 13 families of 43 in this Rudraprayag village have already moved to “safer areas”.



HOUSE OF CARDS?

It was in 2021, when the cracks first appeared in their houses and the locals blamed it on the rail project, being constructed for pilgrims to reach Badrinath and beyond.

Marora sarpanch, Devi Prasad Thapliyal, said, “We got displaced due to continuous slope cutting in our hills for the rail project. Our houses sank, walls and ceilings developed cracks. Many villagers left out of fear. The only primary school is now in a

shambles.” Sudha Rana, headmaster of the Rajkiya Prathamik Vidyalaya, which has 21 students, said, “I’ve been associated with this school since 2018. There is nothing much left of it. The school is nothing but four tiny makeshift rooms made out of tin.” Sunil Rawat, a resident of Marora, added, “The Joshimath incident has left us all in shock... We are now looking for shelters elsewhere. Families are leaving or want to leave.”

Villagers were told by officials that the district administration has received Rs 21 crore as part of compensation and that it will now be distributed to the people. Besides Joshimath and Marora village, cracks are now being reported from several other parts of the state. Secretary, disaster management, Ranjit Kumar Sinha, said, “We have asked IIT-Roorkee to study the details.”

At cramped Joshimath camps,
a struggle to study for exams

Shivani.Azad@timesgroup.com

Dehradun: Joshimath residents, who braved harsh weather and the agony of losing homes, are now fearing for their children’s future. At schools, final and board exams are scheduled in a fortnight in February and students and parents are finding it tough to prepare for these cramped shelters.

Damayanti Devi, who moved to a shelter home at the Joshimath municipal council after her home in Singhdhar was marked ‘unsafe’, said, “We have been given a single bed in a hall which already has so many families. My son is neither getting the time nor the space to focus on his exams. Covid has already affected children’s studies and now this.” Like Damayanti, several parents living in shelters are tense over the upcoming board exams.



Demolition of an ‘unsafe’ structure underway in Joshimath on Monday

Even parents of children studying in lower classes are a worried lot. Madhavi Sati, whose son is in class IV, said, “I don’t know how my son would cope with the present stress and his studies. It is difficult to convince him to sit and study in this environment.” Those parents who couldn’t manage to stay back in Joshimath have taken their children to other towns. “Finding a school for my son at the

moment, will be an uphill task,” said a displaced parent.

The final exams will start in a fortnight and the board exams in CBSE schools will commence from February 15. District education officer, Kuldeep Gairola, told **TOI** on Monday: “Due to the difficult situation in Joshimath, the education department now plans to hold special online sessions for the displaced students. We’ll provide them counselling, if required.”

Aquifer water
outflow speed
ebbs in 10 days

Dehradun: In some relief for the beleaguered town of Joshimath, water outflow from the leaking aquifer which locals have been claiming is responsible for widening of cracks in their houses, has reduced from 540 litre per minute (lpm) on January 6 to 163 lpm on January 16 as per officials, report **Kautilya Singh & Shivani Azad**.

Director of Doon-based Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG), Kalachand Sain, said: “We’ve installed three seismic stations to provide us with a three-dimensional subsurface image to help conduct a detailed study and find the source of the problem. Experts obtained data from these stations.” He added “things would be clear in the next four to five days.”

‘FROM 540 LITRE/MIN
TO 163 LITRE/MIN’

Meanwhile, National Institute of Hydrology (NIH) and National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) which are involved in the probe, have handed over their findings to the state government, it is learnt. Secretary, disaster management, Ranjit Kumar Sinha, said that the decline in outflow of water has come as a “major relief.”

Experts suggest 4 nearby sites for rehabilitation

Dehradun: An expert team of the Geological Survey of India (GSI), which has been assigned the task of studying possible areas for the rehabilitation of Joshimath residents, has given its nod to four nearby locations—Koti Farm, Pipalkoti, Herb Research and Development Institute (HRDI) land and Dhak village. Two other places—Gauchar town and Selang village—are being surveyed, report **Kautilya Singh & Shivani Azad**.

Koti Farm is on revenue land, 12km from Joshimath. A route to Auli also leads from Koti Farm. Pipalkoti, 36km from Joshimath, has a vast stretch of land. The HRDI land is the closest to Joshimath, 9km away. Dhaki village is 12km away; the land belongs to the revenue department. Gauchar is 90km from Joshimath, and that could be a deterrent in relocating the displaced families to it. Selang village is 13km from the affected areas.

Meanwhile, the number of houses developing cracks exceeded 800 on Monday.

Social media crucial pillar of
democracy till misused: HC

Vaibhav.Ganajpure
@timesgroup.com



‘A BALANCE MUST BE STRUCK’

Nagpur: Applauding social media’s contribution, the Nagpur bench of Bombay high court observed that it has become an important pillar on which democracy stands, till it is not misused.

“Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, WhatsApp, and Telegram today have become a powerful medium for exchange of views, expressing opinions, counter opinions, and posting critical or satirical comments,” a division bench comprising justices Sunil Shukre and Manohar Chandwani said.

The bench warned that social media is good only till it is not misused by posting remarks and articles which constitute an offence, or which do not fall within the prohibited zone created in

terms of the Article 19(2) of the Constitution.

“One has to be careful when one expresses views or makes comments that the words used are not obscene or undignified or demeaning. A balance must be struck between the need for healthy use of social media and for preventing its misuse,” the bench added.

The HC’s observations came while hearing a plea by a 39-year-old man who was booked for posting filthy and abusive comments against a former state chief minister

after hacking Facebook page of MLA Ravi Rana. On the basis of allegations by Rana’s opponents, Rajura police station registered an offence punishable under Section 153-A of IPC against him, which he challenged in HC.

“Considering the essential ingredients of Section 153-A and the filthy language used to denounce a leader, we are of the view that this fine balance on which the social media stands is upset. It is a different matter that offence of promoting enmity between different groups punishable under the same section not made out in this case. But, that does not give licence to the petitioner to revile head of the state government to be bawdy,” the justices said, adding that they hope in future some restraint will be shown by both sides.

CAD-4529
ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED
OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha
CIN: U13100OR1956SGC000313, www.omcltd.in

Mining Happiness

E-auction Notice (17.01.2023 – 12th & 13th E-auction) IRON ORE CLO & FINES

The Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd intends to sell various grades of Iron ore CLO & Fines produced at Daitari and Gandhamardan Regions (Block – A & B) and Guali, Jilling Langalota, Tiringpahar, Khandbandh, Banspani, Unchabali (Mahaparbat) & Roida 'C' Mines of Barbil Region in Keonjhar District and Khandadhar/Kurmitar Mines under Koira Region in Sundargarh District, Odisha through e-auction which will be conducted by MSTC Ltd. The e-auction shall be held from 11.00 A.M. to 2.00 P.M on 17.01.2023.

For details, please visit the website of MSTC i.e. www.mstccommerce.com

GENERAL MANAGER (S&M)

OIPR-30005/11/0199/22-23

O-1640
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR.
AT/PO- NAYABAZAR, CUTTACK-753004, Tel No. 0671-2444488, Email-serw_pd@yahoo.com
No. Tender Online RCK-01/23 Letter No.- 115 Date - 12-01-2023

e-Procurement NOTICE

1. Name of the work : Tender for the road projects of Constituency wise R.D Roads developed under TRIP Scheme during 2022-23 in the Dist. of Jajpur.

2. Class of Contractor : As specified in the Column-6 of the Annexure.

3. Time of Completion : As specified in the Column-7 of the Annexure.

4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached

5. Other Details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur	Tender Online RCK - 01/23	17.01.2023 at 11.30 A.M.	31.01.2023 to 05.00 P.M.	31.01.2023 to 02.00 P.M.	01.02.2023 at 11.30 A.M.	To be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur
OIPR-25129/11/0050/22-23

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (WEST ZONE)
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, INDORE
Opp. Gayatri Mandir, Old Palasia, Indore- 452001
Email ID:- cepwdwest@mp.nic.in Ph. no. 0731-2491825

NIT No. 13/Gen/40/2022-23
Indore, Dated 06-01-2023
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Online tender in three envelope system are hereby invited for the following work. Details of works can be seen on the website <http://mptenders.gov.in>

No.	Portal no.	District	Name of work	Probable amount of contract (in Lacs)	Amount of EMD (In Rs.)	Cost of Tender form (In Rs.)	Time allowed for completion
1	2023_PWD RB_242277	Khargone	Construction of Bondraniya to Varnapur Road Total Length 11.980 km I/C shifting LT/HT line Distt. Khargone	1056.09	1000000/-	30,000/-	12 Months including rainy season
2	2023_PWD RB_242288	Khargone	Construction of Devaliya to Chholi Sirvel road total length 9.20 km	1011.96	1000000/-	30,000/-	12 Months including rainy season
3	2023_PWD RB_242322	Jhabua	Construction of Mohanpura Chavnya Sadeeda road length 10.44 km I/C shifting LT/HT line	929.73	929730	20,000/-	12 Months including rainy season
GRAND TOTAL				3027.76 LACS			

The document can only be purchased online from the above website after making online payment The last date & time for purchase of Document and Bid Submission online is Dated 23-01-2023 up to 17.30. Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on the above mentioned portal.

Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper. Submit all the mandatory documents online on above mentioned website. Do not submit any physical document in the office.

G-21694/22

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
कोरोना में सावधानी हटी, सम्झौ दूरटना घटी। P.W.D. West Zone, Indore

CAD-4532
ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED
BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA
PIN: 751012, Tel No.(0674) 2562020,
e-Mail: sec@odishaconstruction.com
GSTIN-21AAAC02571KZ2M
“e”- Procurement Notice No- 37/OCCCL/2022-23 (on-line)
On-line percentage rate tenders are invited for the following work:

Sl No	Name of Work	Bid Identification No	Approx value of work (Rs. In Crores)	Bid Security (through on-line transfer) (in Rs.)	Period of Completion	Availability of Tender (on-line)	Submission of tender (on-line)
01	Improvement of Service Road with black topping Right Main Canal from 41 Km to 83.70 Km and off-taking distributaries under RCD-1, Mukhiguda	OCCL-TSP/03/2022-23	Rs. 26.96 Crores	Rs. 26,96,000/-	09 (nine) calendar months	From 20.01.2023, 03.30 PM to 03.02.2023, 5.30 PM	From 20.01.2023, 03.30 PM to 03.02.2023, 5.30 PM
02	Improvement of Service Road with black topping Right Main Canal from RD 00 Km to RD 41 Km under RCD Division No.1, Mukhiguda	OCCL-TSP/04/2022-23	Rs. 15.41 Crores	Rs. 15,41,000/-	9 (nine) calendar months	From 20.01.2023, 03.30 PM to 03.02.2023, 5.30 PM	From 20.01.2023, 03.30 PM to 03.02.2023, 5.30 PM

Procurement Officer : Managing Director, OCCL
Date of Opening of the Technical Bid: 04.02.2023, 12.00 Noon
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: <https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>

Sd/-
MANAGING DIRECTOR
OIPR-34120/11/0034/22-23

A-1024
GOVT. OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER
CENTRAL IRRIGATION CIRCLE,
BHUBANESWAR
“e” Procurement Notice No. ACECIC - 05 / 2022-23

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work (Rs. In Lakhs)	Bid Security (R.M.D.) (Rs.)	Cost of Bid documents (Rs.)	Class of Contractors	Bid documents available online for bidding	Date of opening of Technical Bid	Period of completion of work
ACE, CEC, Shubha newar	PID-07/2022-23	Improvement to Daya left Embankment from RD-13.00 to 7.00 Km of Sakhipogal Branch Canal System	710.14	710200/- (On Line)	10000/- (On Line)	"A" & Special	18.01.2023 At 10.00 Hours	01.02.2023 At 17.00 Hours	12 (Twelve Calendar Month)
	PID-08/2022-23	Renovation of Sakul Distributary from RD 0.00 Km to 5.00 Km of Sakhipogal Branch Canal System	791.73	791800/- (On Line)	10000/- (On Line)	"A" & Special	18.01.2023 At 10.00 Hours	01.02.2023 At 17.00 Hours	12 (Twelve Calendar Month)
	PID-09/2022-23	Renovation of Sakul Distributary from RD 15.80 Km to 24.00 Km of Sakhipogal Branch Canal System	796.23	796300/- (On Line)	10000/- (On Line)	"A" & Special	18.01.2023 At 10.00 Hours	01.02.2023 At 17.00 Hours	12 (Twelve Calendar Month)
	PID-10/2022-23	Renovation of Budhanga Distributary from RD 0.00 Km to 7.00 Km of Sakhipogal Branch Canal System	798.32	798400/- (On Line)	10000/- (On Line)	"A" & Special	18.01.2023 At 10.00 Hours	01.02.2023 At 17.00 Hours	12 (Twelve Calendar Month)
	PID-11/2022-23	Improvement to Daya left Embankment from RD 6.00 Km to 13.00 Km from Village Kousalyapur to Bharatpur	507.28	507300/- (On Line)	10000/- (On Line)	"A"	18.01.2023 At 10.00 Hours	01.02.2023 At 17.00 Hours	12 (Twelve Calendar Month)

e-mail ID:- secic_dowr@yahoo.com
Further details conditions can be seen from Govt. website www.tenderorissa.gov.in

Additional Chief Engineer
Central Irrigation Circle
OIPR-32160/11/0008/22-23

Western Railway - Ratlam Division
(Gati Shakti Unit, RATLAM)
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Gati Shakti Unit of Ratlam Division (Western Railway) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for Empanelment of the consultants for providing consultancy services in connection with the preparation of Master Plan, Phase Plan including modernization of railway stations circulating areas, passenger amenities, facade improvement, roof plaza creation, modern entrance porches, Waiting Halls, Retiring Rooms, Toilet Complexes, Executive Lounges, Hoardings, Signages, KIOSKS, Station Approaches, Landscaping, Creation/improvement of second entry, platform shelters, drainage system, Cable trays/ducts, Wi-Fi access, escalators, lifts, divyangjan amenities, illuminations, CCTV etc. for the work of “Major Up-gradation of stations over Ratlam Division under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme”. Complete Details of EOI are available for downloading from Western Railways website www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in. EOI documents may also be obtained free of cost from the office of the Chief Project Manager, Gati Shakti Unit, DRM Office, Ratlam, Pin-457001 from 17.01.2023 to 24.01.2023 during office working hours. The EOI document should be submitted in the sealed envelope in the office of the Chief Project Manager, Gati Shakti Unit, DRM Office, Ratlam, Pin-457001 up to 12.00 hrs. of 24.01.2023. Date and time of opening of EOI document: 15.00 hrs. on 24.01.2023. This may please be noted that, this notification not a NIT/Tender. After Receipt of EOI from interested Firms, Empanelment of consultants shall be done by division for further invitation of limited tenders. Interested entities may contact on phone number 9109901837 for enquiry related to this EOI.

Chief Dy. Engineer (Gati Shakti Unit)
Western Railway, Ratlam

V/5/1/393
हम लाइक करें: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & PROJECT DIRECTOR
STATE PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT
WEST BENGAL MAJOR IRRIGATION AND FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROJECT
JALASAMPAD BHAVAN, 9TH FLOOR, SALT LAKE CITY, KOLKATA - 700 091
E-MAIL : ce.pd.wbmifmp@gmail.com Telephone : 033 23581315

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Procurement Notice for India - P162679
West Bengal Major Irrigation & Flood Management Project - IN-IWD-333604-CW-RFB (Funded by World Bank, AIB & Government of West Bengal)

Contract No.	Contract Title	Bid Security (Rs.)	Cost of Document (Rs.)	Period of Completion
Balance works of IRR-03/Lot-1, in Durgapur Branch Canal (DBC) from 0.00 km to 15.24 km including all its appurtenant canals within the reach - Package No.: IRR-19 - Comprising Two Lots.				
RFB No. : WBMIFMP/PD/NCB/22-23/IRR19/L-A	Lot- A: Balance works of IRR-03/Lot-1, in Durgapur Branch Canal (DBC) from 0.00 km to 15.24 km and JMMC from Ch.0.00 to Ch. 5.50 km including all its appurtenant canals within the reach .	INR 0.20 Cr. (Indian Rupees Twenty Lacs only)	NIL	04 Months
RFB No.: WBMIFMP/PD/NCB/22-23/IRR19/L-B	Lot-B: Balance works of IRR-03/Lot-1, in JMMC from 5.50 km to 29.50 km including all its appurtenant canals.	INR 0.15 Cr. (Indian Rupees Fifteen Lacs only)	NIL	04 Months

Procurement Officer
Chief Engineer & Project Director, WBMIFMP, I&WD, Govt. of WB

Availability of Bidding Document
The bidding document is available online on <https://wbenders.gov.in> at 10.00 hours (IST) From 17.01.2023 To 20.02.2023 upto 13:00 hours (IST)

Note:

(i) The bidders are required to submit (a) original bid security in approved form; and (b) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document with **Chief Engineer and Project Director, SPMU, WBMIFMP, 9th Floor, Jalasampad Bhavan, Western Block, Bidhannagar, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700 091, West Bengal** before the bid submission deadline, either by registered post/speed post/courier or by hand, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive and will not be opened.

(ii) The eligibility criteria for selection of Agency/Firms are provided below:

(a) The bidder should have a minimum construction Cash flow requirement as follows:
i) Lot-A: INR 4.30 Cr.; ii) Lot-B: INR 2.79 Cr.

(b) The bidder should have a minimum average annual construction turnover during the last five financial years i.e. from FY 2015-16 to FY 2021-22 as follows: i) **Lot-A: INR 12.90 Cr.;** ii) **Lot-B: INR 8.37 Cr.**

(c) The bidder should have satisfactorily, as a prime contractor, joint venture member, management contractor or sub-contractor completed at least one similar nature of work of one contract having minimum value between 1st April 2015 and bid submission deadline as follows: i) **Lot-A: INR 6.88 Cr.;** ii) **Lot-B: INR 4.46 Cr.**

(d) The bidder should have completed minimum quantity for
Lot-A: Ordinary/Standard concrete (M15 and above*) minimum 4161.00 cum.
Lot-B: Ordinary/Standard concrete (M15 and above*) minimum 2935.00 cum.

* (i) Standard / Ordinary concrete as specified in IS 456:2000 (ii) Nominal mix ordinary concrete executed with mix proportion of cement, sand and coarse aggregate by volume not less than 1:2:4, should be considered as equivalent to M15, if the grade is not explicitly mentioned in the specific construction experience.

Further details & corrigendum if any can be seen from the website: <https://wbenders.gov.in>

Sd/-
Chief Engineer and Project Director, SPMU, WBMIFMP, Government of West Bengal



CATE BLANCHETT SAYS AWARD SHOWS ARE A 'PATRIARCHAL PYRAMID': 'WHY DON'T WE STOP THE TELEVISED HORSE RACE'



JOHN LARROQUETTE CONFIRMS LONG-STANDING RUMOUR THAT HE WAS PAID IN WEED TO NARRATE '74 FILM 'TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE'

Flight data, voice recorders found from Nepal crash site

Search On For 3 Missing Flyers But Officials Do Not Expect Survivors

Pokhara: Search teams retrieved the flight data and cockpit voice recorders Monday of a passenger plane that plummeted into a gorge on approach to a new airport in Pokhara, officials said, as investigators looked for the cause of the crash. At least 69 of the 72 people aboard were killed, and officials believe the three missing are also dead. Rescuers combed through the debris, scattered down a 984-foot-deep gorge, for them.

On Monday evening, relatives and friends were still gat-



Inconsolable family members of crash victims in Pokhara on Monday



A pilot couple killed in crashes, 16 years apart

Kathmandu: In 2010, Anju Khatiwada joined Nepal's Yeti Airlines, following in the footsteps of her husband, a pilot who had died in a crash four years earlier when a small passenger plane he was flying for the domestic carrier went down minutes before landing. On Sunday, Khatiwada, 44, was the co-pilot on a Yeti Airlines flight from Kathmandu that crashed as it approached the city of Pokhara. "Her husband, Dipak Pokhrel, died in 2006 in a crash of a Twin Otter plane of Yeti Airlines in Jumla," airline spokesman Sudarshan Bartaula said, referring to Khatiwada. "She got her pilot training with the money she got from the insurance after her husband's death." A pilot with more than 6,400 hours of flying time, Khatiwada had previously flown from Kathmandu to Pokhara, Bartaula said. Khatiwada's remains have not been identified but she is feared dead. "She was flying the plane with an instructor pilot, which is the standard procedure of the airline," said an Yeti Airlines official. REUTERS

Why the crash in fair weather?

Pilots say Nepal can be a challenging place to fly, but conditions at the time of the crash were good, with low wind, clear skies and temperatures well above freezing. So why the crash?

QUESTIONS ABOUT PLANE

Even though ATR-72 has been involved in several deadly accidents over the years, several due to icing issues, it generally has a 'very good track record,' Bartsch said. Another pilot called ATR-72-500 an 'unforgiving aircraft' if the pilot isn't highly skilled and familiar with the region's terrain and wind speed.

AIRPORT CONCERNS

Some had expressed concern that the number of birds in the area—due to the habitat provided by two rivers as well as a landfill near the airport—could make it additionally hazardous. If the aircraft had suffered a bird strike as it was coming in to land, it is possible this would have prompted the pilots to discontinue their approach and go around again, which also could have led to a stall, Singh said. AP

DID THE PLANE STALL?

A video shot on a smartphone from the ground shows the last moments before the plane. The aircraft's nose is noticeably high before the left wing suddenly drops and the plane falls out of sight of the video, indicating a likely stall, said Amit Singh, a pilot and founder of India's Safety Matters Foundation. Ron Bartsch, an aviation safety expert and founder of Australia's Avlaw Aviation Consulting, said he also thought the plane appears to have gone into a stall. Its proximity to the ground possibly made it look to the pilots like their speed was greater than it was, he said.

by the ring he wore, and that he had yet to tell his wife, who just gave birth to their daughter.

It's still not clear what caused the crash. A witness who recorded footage of the plane's

her friend, Tribhuban Paudel, when she heard that his flight had crashed. "I can't believe it still," she said in tears. Bikash Jaiswal said he could only identify his wife's brother only

Crashed aircraft was once owned by Kingfisher Airlines

The crashed ATR-72 Nepalese passenger plane was previously used by the now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines owned by liquor baron Vijay Mallya, according to Cirium Fleets data. Cirium Fleets data, which tracks aircraft fleet, equipment and its cost, said the 9N-ANC aircraft was delivered to the Kingfisher Airlines in 2007. Six years later, it was bought by Thailand's Nok Air, before it was sold to Nepal's Yeti Airlines in 2019, it said. PTI

hered outside a local hospital, some shouting at officials to speed up the post mortems so they could hold funerals for their loved ones. Bimala Bhandari said was planning to meet

BBC under fire from PIOs over new series attacking Modi

Naomi Canton

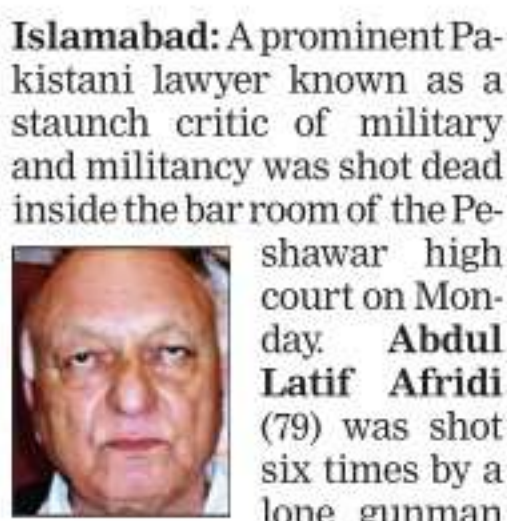
London: BBC has come under fire for a new two-part series it is launching on Tuesday called "India: The Modi Question" on BBC Two. The series description states: "A look at the tensions between Indian PM Narendra Modi and India's Muslim minority, investigating claims about his role in 2002 riots that left over a thousand dead."

Indian-origin users on Twitter reacted angrily to the series, with one suggesting BBC should run a series on the Bengal Famine called "UK: The Churchill Question". "One thing Indians hate more than all their problems is being told by outsiders, specially past colonisers," another wrote. The series will examine how "Modi's premiership has been dogged by allegations about the attitude of his government towards India's Muslim population" and "a series of controversial policies" implemented by Modi following his 2019 re-election, including "removal of Kashmir's special status", BBC says.

British-Indian Aditi Kothari, founding member of the India Society, who recently organised a rally in London outside BBC over its "anti-India bias", said: "Part of the purpose of the series seems to be to influence pockets of urban population in India in relation to the upcoming 2024 polls... The other part seems to be to portray Modi as intolerant... This is for BBC's consumption in UK as the British are sealing a trade deal with India." He added: "BBC has been anti-India for decades but in recent years it's shifted to being anti-Modi and anti-Hindu because the Indian PM doesn't fit into their definition of the English speaker."

Gunman kills lawyer on court premises in Pak

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN



Islamabad: A prominent Pakistani lawyer known as a staunch critic of military and militancy was shot dead inside the bar room of the Peshawar high court on Monday. Abdul Latif Afridi (79) was shot six times by a lone gunman when he was sitting with fellow lawyers in the bar room. The senior lawyer, who was also the former president of Pakistan's Supreme Court Bar Association, was moved to Peshawar's Lady Reading Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

Though a heavy police contingent is deployed at the Peshawar HC, lawyers are not body-searched on entry. "We have arrested the culprit from the crime scene," senior police officer Kashif Abbasi said, adding that the assailant, identified as Adnan Afridi, had dressed as a lawyer to gain entry to the premises.

The security arrange-

The gunman accused Abdul Latif Afridi of orchestrating the 2015 killing of his father, Samiullah Khan. Khan had represented Shakil Afridi, the Pak physician who helped the CIA find Osama bin Laden

nts have previously been questioned, especially after a US national of Pakistani origin — on trial on blasphemy charges — was fatally shot by inside a courtroom in 2020.

An AP report, citing a police officer, said the attacker, Adnan Afridi, had previously accused the lawyer of orchestrating the 2015 killing of his father, Samiullah Khan, who was also a lawyer. Before his killing, Samiullah Khan had represented Shakil Afridi, the Pakistani physician who helped the CIA find al-Qaida mastermind Osama bin Laden. The physician ran a fake vaccination campaign that helped locate bin Laden.

London cop pleads guilty to 24 counts of rape, dozens of other sex offences

London: A serving London police officer has admitted conducting a series of attacks on women including 24 counts of rape, making him one of Britain's most prolific sex offenders in a campaign that ran for more than 17 years. The Metropolitan Police apologised on Monday and said it should have spotted the pattern of abuse after David Carrick, 48, pleaded

guilty to a total of 49 charges relating to 12 victims, including 24 counts of rape between 2003 and 2020.

London's Metropolitan Police, which has been placed in "special measures" after it was hit by a series of scandals in the last year, said Carrick had abused his power as a police officer to control and intimidate his victims, telling them no one would be-

Man held in UK over uranium cargo package

Naomi Canton

London: A man has been arrested as part of an investigation linked to the discovery of traces of deadly uranium within a cargo package at Heathrow airport which was flown to the UK on a passenger plane from Oman but originated in Pakistan.

Officers from the London's Met's Counter Terrorism Command were called to Heathrow after the cargo package containing scrap metal was found to be contaminated with a small amount of uranium during routine screening on December 29. On Saturday counter-terrorism officers attended an address in Cheshire. A man in his 60s was arrested on suspicion of an offence under the Terrorism Act 2006, which refers to making or possessing a radioactive or nuclear bomb for terrorism purposes. He was later released on bail until April. Commander Richard Smith, who leads the Met's Counter Terrorism Command, said: "We're following every possible line of enquiry available, which has led us to making this arrest."

On Canusa Street, locals need passports to cross the road

At the US-Canada border, between the American state of Vermont and the Canadian province of Quebec, lies Canusa Street, where walking across the dotted yellow line down the middle of the road requires residents to report to a border crossing office first or face fines and prison time

Two Countries On One Street

With the border between the US and Mexico at the centre of America's immigration debate, the northern border with Canada seems to receive little attention. At nearly 9,000km, the US-Canada border is the world's longest international border with more than 100 border crossings, including 15 between the American state Vermont and Canadian province Quebec. Among the most frequently used crossings in this region is between the towns of Derby Line in the US and Stanstead in Canada.

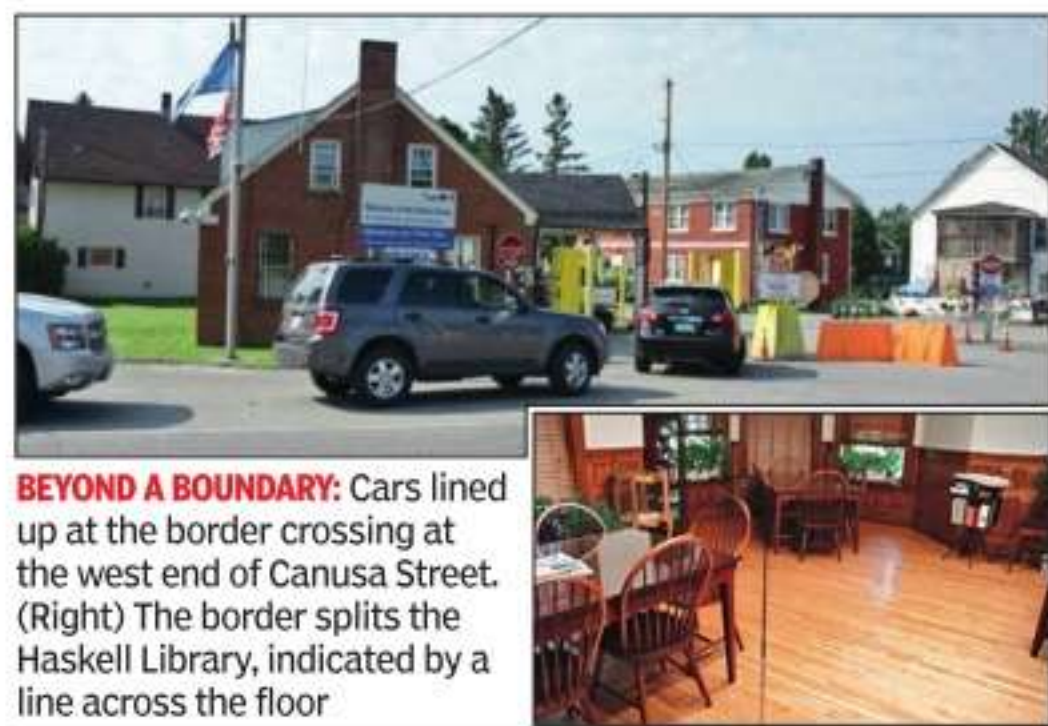
But in this area, not only does the border cut through homes and buildings, but for about half a kilometre it also runs directly down the middle of a road, now called Canusa Street, whose name is a reference to the countries it divides. It's the only part of the entire border that runs directly on a road. Here, your neighbours and you may not live in the same country.

How The Border Was Decided

After New France, the French colony in Canada, was captured by the British, the governors of the two colonial regions appointed a surveyor each to determine the border between them.

Between 1771 and 1773, surveyors laid down markers along the 45th parallel (the latitude 45° north of the Equator) to designate the border. Local legend has it that these surveyors, while drunk, ended up drawing a line that deviates considerably from the 45th parallel — at some places by more than 1.5km. No one knows for certain what went wrong but in 1783, after the American Revolutionary War, a treaty cemented this boundary.

In the early 1800s, surveyors discovered the mistake and realised the border should in fact be further south into the US. But in 1842, a series of border disputes between the US and British



BEYOND A BOUNDARY: Cars lined up at the border crossing at the west end of Canusa Street. (Right) The border splits the Haskell Library, indicated by a line across the floor

colonies in Canada ended in a treaty that retained the incorrect border. In 1908, the UK and US set up the International Boundary Commission to survey and maintain the border. At several locations along the 45th parallel, officials were unable to find the border markers and, with locals having built structures over the line, it became difficult to identify the original boundary. Though the commission cleared a path to create a discrete border and fix past mistakes, some oddities like Canusa Street remained.

Life On Canusa Street

Local historians and residents say Americans and Canadians peacefully shared the area for decades, frequently crossing the border without a second thought. Stanstead, for instance, provides water and sewage services to Derby Line, their fire departments work together, and children even crossed over to attend school.

But there have been drastic changes since 9/11.

Civilian deaths in Ukraine top 7000: UN

Geneva: As rescue workers continued to bring out bodies from the rubble of an apartment block struck by a Russian missile in the Ukrainian city of Dnipro on Saturday, the United Nations said on Monday that it had confirmed the deaths of more than 7,000 Ukrainian civilians in the 11 months since Russia invaded.

UN monitors in Ukraine said those killed included 2,784 men, 1,875 women and another 1,939 adults whose gender was unknown. Those known to have died included



Emergency workers on Monday continued to search for survivors at an apartment block damaged in a Russian strike in Dnipro

398 children, the monitors reported. The numbers include only those the UN has been able to corroborate, and the UN

Italian mafia boss held after 30 years on the run

Palermo: Italian police on Monday arrested Matteo Messina Denaro, the country's most wanted mafia boss who had been on the run since 1993, swooping on a private hospital in the Sicilian capital Palermo where he was undergoing treatment.

Prosecutors say Messina Denaro, 60, is a boss of Sicily's Cosa Nostra mafia. He had been sentenced in absentia to a life term for his role in the 1992 murders of anti-mafia prosecutors Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino. Police said they detained

him at Palermo's "La Maddalena" hospital on Monday morning. Images on social media showed locals applauding and shaking hands with police in balconies as a minivan believed to contain the suspect was driven away. Denaro also faces a life sentence for his role in bomb attacks in Florence, Rome and Milan which killed 10 people the following year.

The arrest comes almost 30 years since police arrested Salvatore "Totò" Riina, the Sicilian Mafia's most powerful boss of the 20th century. REUTERS

AROUND THE WORLD



Dancers perform at a lantern show in Nanjing, China

Australian man fakes abduction to spend NYE with his other girlfriend

An Australian man faked his own kidnapping to get away from his girlfriend on New Year's Eve so that he could spend it with his other girlfriend. The man went the extra mile to make his plan a reality. Paul Iera, 35, left his residence on December 31 informing his partner that he was going to meet his "money person". After he left his home, his girlfriend received a text message alleging that he had been kidnapped by a sex worker. Because of Iera's past experience with sex workers, his girlfriend belie-

German defence min quits after criticism

German defence minister Christine Lambrecht resigned on Monday, the culmination of growing criticism for failing to revive Germany's armed forces, despite a €100 billion (\$108 billion) special fund being agreed for that purpose after Russia invaded Ukraine. Her decision dealt a blow to Chancellor Olaf Scholz at a time when Germany is under pressure to approve an increase in international military aid for Kyiv, and Germany's defence capabilities have been called into question. REUTERS

Gina Lollobrigida, post WWII Italian film diva, dies at 95

Rome: Italian actress Gina Lollobrigida, a sultry Mediterranean diva who came to represent Italy's vibrant rebirth after World War II, has died aged 95, her lawyer said on Monday. The agent didn't provide details.

After a humble upbringing, Lollobrigida played opposite Hollywood stars such as Humphrey Bogart, Rock Hudson, Burt Lancaster, Tony Curtis and Frank Sinatra, becoming one of the most recognisable cinema icons of the 1950s and 60s. But "La Lollo", as she was affectionately known in Italy, never

clicked with the Hollywood studio system and her best known films remain those she made with Italian directors.

It was eccentric mogul Howard Hughes eventually brought Lollobrigida to the US. Besides "The World's Most Beautiful Woman" in 1955, career highlights included Golden Globe-winner "Come September" with Rock Hudson; "Trapeze"; "Beat the Devil"; a 1953 John Huston film starring Humphrey Bogart; and "Buona Sera, Mrs Campbell," which won Lollobrigida Italy's top mo-

vie award as best actress in 1969.

In Italy, she worked with some of the country's top directors following the war, including Mario Monicelli, Luigi Comencini, Pietro Germi and Vittorio De Sica. Two of her more popular films at home were "Pane Amore e Fantasia" ("Bread, Love and Dreams") in 1953, and the sequel, "Pane Amore e Gelosia" ("Bread, Love and Jealousy"). Lollobrigida was born on July 4, 1927 in Subiaco, a hill town near Rome, where her father was a furniture maker. She began her career in beauty con-



In 1975, she made a documentary film 'Portrait of Fidel Castro', and for years there were rumours that she'd had an affair with the Cuban leader

tests. A producer plucked her from the streets of Rome to appear on the big screen.

A portrait of the diva graced a 1954 cover of Time magazine, which likened her to a "goddess" in an article about Italian movie-making. More than a half-century later, Lollobrigida still turned heads with her brown, curly hair and statuesque figure, and preferred to be called an actress instead of a the gender-neutral term actor. Lollobrigida also started a hairstyle rage in the 1950s known as the "poodle cut." A spokes-

person for Sophia Loren, a superstar in her own right in Italy's post-war years, said Loren, 88, was "very shocked and saddened" by Lollobrigida's death.

When she stopped making films full-time, Lollobrigida worked as a photographer and sculptor and was also a goodwill ambassador for the UNICEF. In 1975 she made a documentary film "Portrait of Fidel Castro", and for years there were rumours that she'd had an affair with the Cuban leader. One of her last appearances was a cameo in an Italian film in 2011. AGENCIES



A thought for today

The most perfect political community is one in which the middle class is in control, and outnumbers both of the other classes

ARISTOTLE

Expand The Middle

India's middle classes need better public services. Only then will they grow faster & have meaningful impact

Nirmala Sitharaman recently said that she is from the middle class and therefore identifies with it. With her fifth budget speech scheduled on February 1, she pointed out that GoI had not levied new taxes on the middle class. Instead, it prioritised urban infrastructure such as metro projects. Given India's narrow income tax base, middle class aspirations and anxieties often come into focus ahead of the budget.

How large is the constituency? Thinktank PRICE pegs middle class households as ones that earn an income of Rs 5-30 lakh a year. PRICE estimated they make up 30% of all households in 2020-21. That's roughly in line with what tax data shows. In 2018-19, on an admittedly narrow individual income tax base of about 56 million returns filed, individuals with income in the range of Rs 5-25 lakh numbered around 19 million, or 34%. The data on the tax base is out of sync with consumption patterns, which suggests that the potential size of the middle class is much larger.



It leads to Sitharaman's second observation about investments in public infrastructure. There's a mismatch between what different levels of government show as investment and public perceptions about their quality of life. Plenty of anecdotal evidence suggests that an increasing proportion of the middle class rely on private provision of basic services such as transport, healthcare and education. This trend leads back to questions about the tax base as economist Divesh Kapur suggests that when middle classes "exit" and move towards private provision of basic services, it has an adverse effect on the inclination to pay taxes.

In a separate study on the middle class, Kapur and his co-authors tried to gauge the size of the middle class by asking people to self-identify. Almost half of India describes itself as middle class, a phenomenon that's sharper in urban areas. Poor urban governance architecture not only limits the impact this class can have on politics, it also makes it harder for individuals to cross the Rs 5 lakh income threshold. The middle, which benefitted from liberalisation, needs to grow faster.

Be Wise, Centre & SC

Better than court's stand & GoI's proposal is revising the collegium's memorandum of procedure

Union law minister Kiren Rijiju's letter to CJI DY Chandrachud seeking representation for GoI in the collegium, and consultations with states, signals another front being opened in the Centre-Supreme Court standoff. The collegium system is the outcome of the Third Judges Case of 1998, which envisioned procedures for appointment of SC and high court judges. Subsequently, a Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) was finalised following consultations between the Centre and SC. The only way GoI's new proposal can be implemented is if SC agrees to revisit the Second and Third Judges Cases. But this is a bad idea: It is Parliament that must do the law-making.

Making Parliament into a bystander while the executive proposes and the judiciary decides how to frame the law is bad form. This newspaper has argued for a National Judicial Appointments Commission and believes it deserves another chance. The constitution bench that scrapped NJAC did so without having the benefit of seeing it work. GoI, surprisingly, hasn't made another attempt to re-enact NJAC. Perhaps, SC can be persuaded this time to watch NJAC at work before inevitable legal challenges to it are taken up. After all, such wait-and-watch has been the SC modus to challenges against demonetisation, electoral bonds, Article 370, CAA, etc.

An alternative course is to revise the MoP as directed by the five-judge NJAC bench in a subsequent order. This order laid special emphasis on making the collegium more transparent through appropriate revisions to the MoP through recording minutes of collegium discussions including dissension, setting up secretariats for each HC and SC for better management of the process, clear eligibility criteria for appointment to HCs and SC, and a mechanism to deal with complaints against judgeship candidates. Since Centre's primary concern about the present collegium system appears to be the lack of transparency, the MoP revision, which has stalled for over six years over relatively minor disagreements, should be revived. The current standoff is creating unnecessary tensions, and mustn't affect filling of judges' vacancies. May wise judgment prevail.

Plane truths about us

Even the usual dose of in-flight entertainment is too overflowing for comfort

Kannan.Somasundaram@timesgroup.com



As the drama of mid-air male-violence continues to take stranger p-turns, it totally puts the regular oddities of our co-passengers in the shade. But these oddities are abundant. Indians are airborne like pollen these days, yet the sight of an airline bus inflames their basic Delhi Transport Corporation instincts from the 1990s. Then we used to dig painful elbows into each other while making a jagged line for the scarce bus. Now we create a bedlam of bags shoveling ahead amidst shouts and airport coffee spraying taints on designer shoes, with knees still ramming into bottoms as in yesteryears.

Many terminals do lie a fair distance from aircraft bays. But that's no excuse for jetsetters forgetting that this will not be like that Janakpuri to Lajpat Nagar journey. Dost, prithee don't fly into the seat-scavenging anxiety once provoked by DTC Route 711 when it is a 707 you shall be boarding.

Another micro-horror is the squatting mentality. Some will annex an aisle seat bought by somebody else, invoking fait accompli as fairgrounds for occupation. They will tell the legitimate seat-holder: 'Ab main already baith gaya. Besides, kya farak padta hai? My middle seat is literally millimetres from aisle, take that ok.' No, no, not ok.

Squatters sometimes use the medical condition card, like trouble with their legs. But when the seatbelt warning is switched off, they go down the cabin in Neil Armstrongy giant leaps to meet their friends. Then they launch an exposition on the quietness on foreign airlines - by slapping their thighs to mark their main points in bold, firing off supersonic sighs, and LOLing their complaints about Indian carriers deafeningly.

Talking of humour and quiet, some like their comedy desi and jet-engine loud. Once a gentleman equipped with guffaws but bereft of headphones sat next to me. He streamed a famous comic's show on his phone's speaker. I got one hour of dad jokes and boyish laughter. He even turned to me a few times to annotate the jokes. By way of reference material, he provided his own gags.

I would have willingly traded my aisle seat with the person who revels in international-grade wit, sauntering down the cabin, on magically restored legs, far away from me. You can call that person Neil Legstrong - my own dad joke. Why should I suffer alone?

Hills, Stop Copying The Plains

Joshimath shows we need a radically different growth model for Himalayan states

Chandra Bhushan



What is unfolding in Joshimath is a tragedy. But this tragedy is not due to climate change; climate change-linked extreme events may have exacerbated the situation, but the sinking of Joshimath is our doing.

The fact is this disaster is not unexpected; it was foretold. Over 50 years, the sinking of Joshimath has been documented by multiple committees of the Supreme Court and the Union and state governments. They warned against haphazard urbanisation, large-scale hydropower development and cutting of hills to widen roads. But time and again, their warnings were ignored.

The result is that the fate of Joshimath is sealed. Even with engineering solutions, a part of this historic city will have to be abandoned, and the rest will struggle to survive. So, how have we reached this stage, and how do we prevent many more Joshimaths in the future?

It is important to understand that Joshimath is a symptom; the disease is the strong push in the Himalayan states to replicate the development model of the plains - big infrastructure projects, wider roads, and high-rise buildings. It is this model that is seriously compromising their environmental security.

Let's look at the hydroelectric projects (HEPs) in Uttarakhand.

- The state presently has 39 large and small HEPs with an installed capacity of 3,600 MW.
- In addition, there are 25 HEPs worth 2,400 MW capacity under construction.
- So, in a couple of years, Uttarakhand will have 64 HEPs of 6,000 MW capacity.
- But what is existing and under construction is just a fraction of what is being planned.
- There are 180 HEPs of 21,200 MW capacity in the pipeline.
- Many have already obtained environmental clearances from the environment ministry and state agencies.
- Even if we assume that only half of these projects reach fruition, Uttarakhand will have 150 HEPs, and its hydropower capacity will increase



fourfold from the present.

- This is plainly unsustainable.

Scientists have warned against building hydropower without comprehensive studies, and government committees have recommended scrapping HEPs. Yet, many projects with questionable feasibility continue to be constructed. Take the case of the Tapovan Vishnugad HEP, which is blamed for the aquifer breach at Joshimath.

- Construction of the 520 MW Tapovan project began nearly 17 years ago and was scheduled to be completed in 2013.
- But, almost a decade later, the project is still 'under construction'.
- Its price tag has more than doubled.
- Moreover, this project has been damaged by floods twice - in 2013 and 2021.
- In 2021 floods caused by an unprecedented avalanche, nearly 200 people died, and many were workers at the project site.
- Tapovan Vishnugad exemplifies the risk of large-scale infrastructure development without proper assessment.

It is well-known that the Himalayas is one of the most unstable mountain ranges and is prone to natural disasters. On top of this, global warming is profoundly impacting the geology and hydrology of the region. Data shows that 90% of earthquakes,

In this era of climate change, Himalayan states can create a large number of jobs in the environment sector - biodiversity conservation, high-value organic farming, sustainable forestry, glacier and water body protection etc. And they can be incentivised by the rest of the country to do this

kes, most landslides and a large proportion of cloudbursts in India occur there.

With massive infrastructure development and more people living in vulnerable areas, the economic and ecological losses are mounting and will continue to grow unless we make fundamental changes in the development paradigm.

Change the model

The first change is to stop copying the plains. The domain of environmental science tells us that every place has a carrying capacity. Once this capacity is exceeded, ecological destruction ensues.

- Himalayas have a much lower carry-

ing capacity than plains and thus can sustain much lower human pressure.

- Therefore, better planning and enforcement are essential to ensure that the carrying capacity is not breached.
- But unfortunately, the institutions which can ensure this, like the town and country planning (TCP) department and the environment department, are weak and ineffective in hill states.

In Uttarakhand, for instance, the TCP department is operating with minimal staff and resources, and the reorganisation of the department has not been done since the bifurcation from Uttar Pradesh. Without solid planning and enforcement, the Himalayan states are doomed.

The second is to practise an alternate model of development, an immediate requirement in the tourism sector. It is projected that 250 million tourists will visit these states by 2025; the number was 100 million before the pandemic. This massive growth will exacerbate water scarcity, worsen air quality and lead to forest and land degradation.

But there is an alternative to this unsustainable tourism - high-value sustainable tourism. We can follow the example of Bhutan, which has capped the number of travellers by imposing a sustainable development fee of \$200 per day. A part of this fee goes into environmental protection and enhancing livelihood for local residents. A similar sustainable tourism policy is required for our Himalayas too.

Lastly, in this era of climate change, Himalayan states can create a large number of jobs in the environment sector - biodiversity conservation, high-value organic farming, sustainable forestry, glacier and water body protection etc. And they can be incentivised by the rest of the country to do this.

This is because they are major water sources that sustain the plains, and their glaciers, forests and biodiversity are essential for the country's ecological security. While some progress has been made on payments for ecosystem services, a lot more needs to be done so that these states can develop and prosper without destroying themselves.

The writer is CEO, International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology (IFOREST)

Because Both Rich And Poor Countries Deserve Good Health ...

India's G20 presidency is creating a fairer global health architecture, writes Union health minister

Mansukh Mandaviya



India's vision of a healthier globe emanates from the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam that translates into One Earth, One Family, One Future. So, as part of India's G20 presidency, policymakers from member countries and experts from the medical fraternity shall unfold the foundation and framework of a Global Health Architecture (GHA) at a series of Health Working Group meetings, starting this month. GHA envisages equipping countries to face the next health emergency with robust healthcare systems.

World over, Covid made world leaders realise that a single country, however well-equipped with medical infrastructure, may not be able to turn the tide against a crisis like the pandemic. For low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), the situation in such times worsens as access to basic health is restricted and uneven. Prime Minister Modi has defined the central objective of India's G20 presidency as "healing, harmony and hope". He envisages a more human-centric globalisation where universal healthcare is a key priority.

Priority 1: Strengthen national capacities

For India, GHA rests on three key priorities. The first is strengthening national capacities to prevent, prepare for and respond to major outbreaks. The agenda will include a One Health approach to antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Partnering with multiple organisations like WHO, World Bank, G7, Access to Covid-19 Tools Accelerator, this effort will attempt to synergise existing strengths and identify bottlenecks in the system.

One Health approach is critical for addressing the linkages between human, animal and environment sectors to resist the impact of AMR on communities. Coupled with pandemic countermeasures that are affordable,

equitable and universal in access, G20 India Health Track aims to facilitate seamless interweaving towards a global health emergency architecture.

Priority 2: Strengthen pharma cooperation

The second priority of G20 is strengthening cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector in order to improve equitable access to quality vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics.

- Indian generics are valued across the world.
- In FY 2022, pharma products worth \$24.47 billion were supplied to 200 countries.
- India continues to provide affordable HIV drugs and anti-TB generics to several LMICs.
- India's role in addressing life-saving vaccine inequity has been appreciated worldwide.

While high-income countries raced to buy billions of doses of Covid vaccines, people from LMICs stayed unprotected and vulnerable for close to a year with no access to vaccines. Under the leadership of PM Modi, India provided critical doses to more than 100 countries during the most difficult phase of Covid through the 'Vaccine Maitri' initiative. This was accomplished without loss in quality or hiking the prices of vaccines and drugs.

With the aim to strengthen the pharma sector, the government has introduced production-linked incentive schemes. It has planned Bulk Drug Parks and Medical Device Parks. Building common facilities will reduce the costs of production and enhance availability and affordability of medical devices.

While Italy (2021 presidency) and Indonesia (2022 presidency) concentrated on setting up regional manufacturing and research hubs, India's G20 presidency proposes to address the gaps in the availability, accessibility and affordability of medical

countermeasures. It shall continue to prioritise global networks for R&D and manufacturing for medical countermeasures and end-to-end medical countermeasure platforms during its presidency.

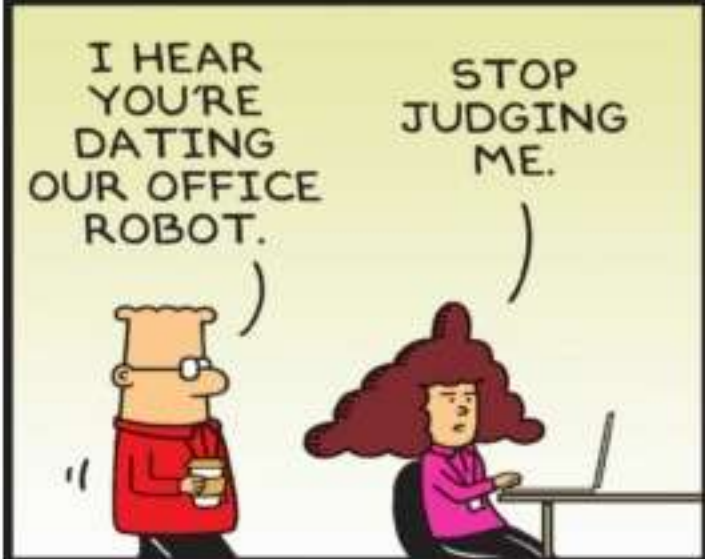
Priority 3: Digital solutions

The third priority is digital health innovations and solutions to aid universal health coverage. The global Covid experience has amply demonstrated how digital technologies can help in remote data capture, medical diagnosis and virtual care. The experience was transformative in India.

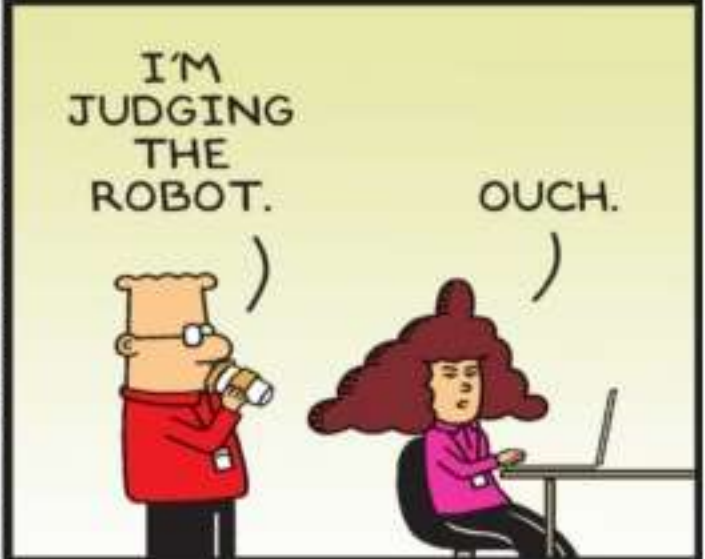
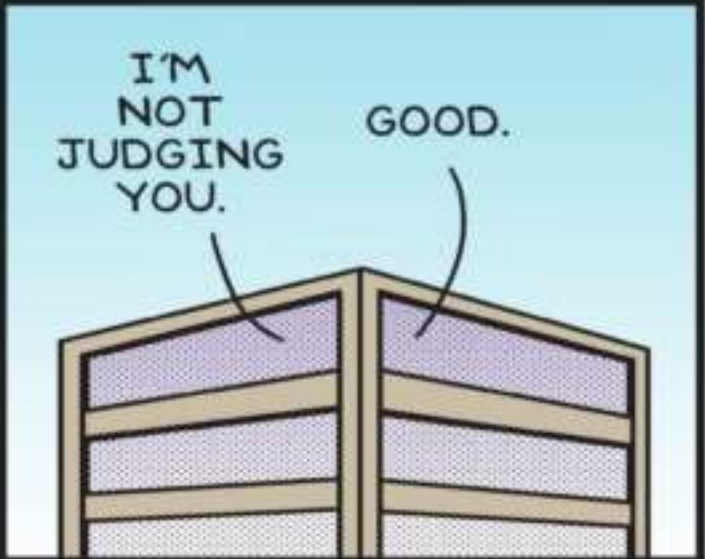
- Millions of citizens used the CoWin app to access vaccines; thousands moved to online medical consultations; in remote areas, tele-consultation proved to be life-saving.
- GoI's free telemedicine service, eSanjeevani, has recently crossed a remarkable milestone of 90 million tele-consultations.
- India is marching towards universal health coverage through initiatives such as Ayushman Bharat-PM-JAY where more than 500 million people are eligible for free-of-cost tertiary healthcare, backed by technology to make it portable, scalable and paperless across states.
- CoWin has been shared with several countries as a digital public health good.
- The collective efforts of G20 members will help create an ecosystem that provides open access to several LMICs for more equitable healthcare.
- India plans to draw a framework for the Global Initiative on Digital Health and harness the potential of artificial intelligence in building more resilient infrastructure.

When several countries endowed with better healthcare infrastructure have been challenged, India has demonstrated how timely planning, efficient management of cold chains, good R&D, focussed policy decisions and integrated implementation through strong Centre-state collaboration can achieve Covid vaccination of more than 2.2 billion doses. Enriched with this experience, the G20 presidency provides us the mandate to assume a leadership position for the Global South and propose a fresh vision of a healthier world order.

dilbert



The image is for representational purposes



Sacredspace

It's Only Words

Talk in everlasting words
And dedicate them all to me
And I will give you all my life
I'm here if you should call to me
You think that I don't even mean
A single word I say
It's only words and words are all I have
To take your heart away...

Bee Gees, Words

Here's The Key To Loving Interaction

Sant Rajinder Singh

In modern societies, much of the stress is not so much physical as it is mental. The challenges we face are mostly at the level of the mind. Often, in work situations, we have to find agreement with people who have different opinions and ideas than we do. We all have different ways of looking at the world.

Every day we are faced with choices. Are we going to take action that tears people apart or action that brings people together? Do our words cause division or do they bring people together? Loving, caring words that make people feel comfortable bring people together. But we seldom think about the words we say or the actions we take.

It's important to have a loving interaction with everyone that we

meet. Our words are very potent and have a long-lasting effect. So, it is imperative to pay attention to our words, and make an effort to genuinely listen to others, to have loving interactions that bring peace and calm into our surroundings.

In our jobs, we often have to work on committees or make policy decisions. Do we promote policies that show love and tolerance towards people, or do they perpetrate more prejudice, discrimination and bigotry? Do we go on autopilot saying and doing whatever pops into our heads, the moment someone does something we don't like, and do not think of the effect our words and deeds have?

Words, once spoken, cannot be

retracted, and it is for this reason that we must think twice before we say something. Additionally, when we bring pain to someone with our words, we influence their outlook on life, and this can in turn impact the lives of others that they interact with.

Our words, even if spoken in jest, have the power to heal or to harm, and we have full control over the words we speak.

In the same vein, we are also responsible for the impact and outcome of our words, regardless of what our original intent might have been. We should be very careful about the words that we use to ensure that we bring joy and happiness through them. As we resolve to do so, we will find that we bring peace to ourselves and to our surroundings.



THE SPEAKING TREE

As we become peaceful ourselves, we will have a radiating effect on others in our orbit. To be peaceful, we need to turn to our own source of stability, calm and peace which is within us. We can do so as we go within through meditation.

When we meditate on the inner Light and Sound of God, we come in contact with His love within us, which fills us with inner peace, joy, bliss and happiness. As we spend time in meditation, we create a calm haven in which we restore equilibrium and peace to our mental functioning.

The joy and happiness we feel in meditation lingers long after we emerge from our sitting. It can stay with us throughout our day. Thus, while our mind is engaged in our work, we have an underlying peace that guides our thoughts, words and deeds. We can then act from a higher place, from a place of peace and calm.

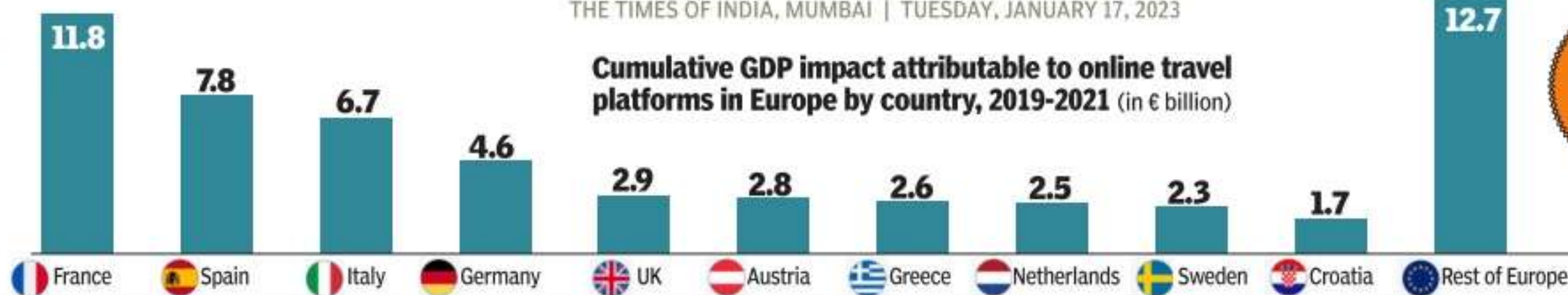
France Benefits Most From Online Travel Platforms In EU

France is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world. And even within the European Union, its popularity is almost unmatched. According to an Oxford Economics analysis of the European tourism market, online travel platforms contributed €11.8 billion to France's GDP in 2019-2021



TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, MUMBAI | TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023



In the same timeframe, 42 million additional hotel night bookings at French accommodations were attributed to online travel platforms

Source: Statista

RBI red-flags return to old pension scheme by states

Calls For Higher Capex By States, Creating Buffer For Downturn

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

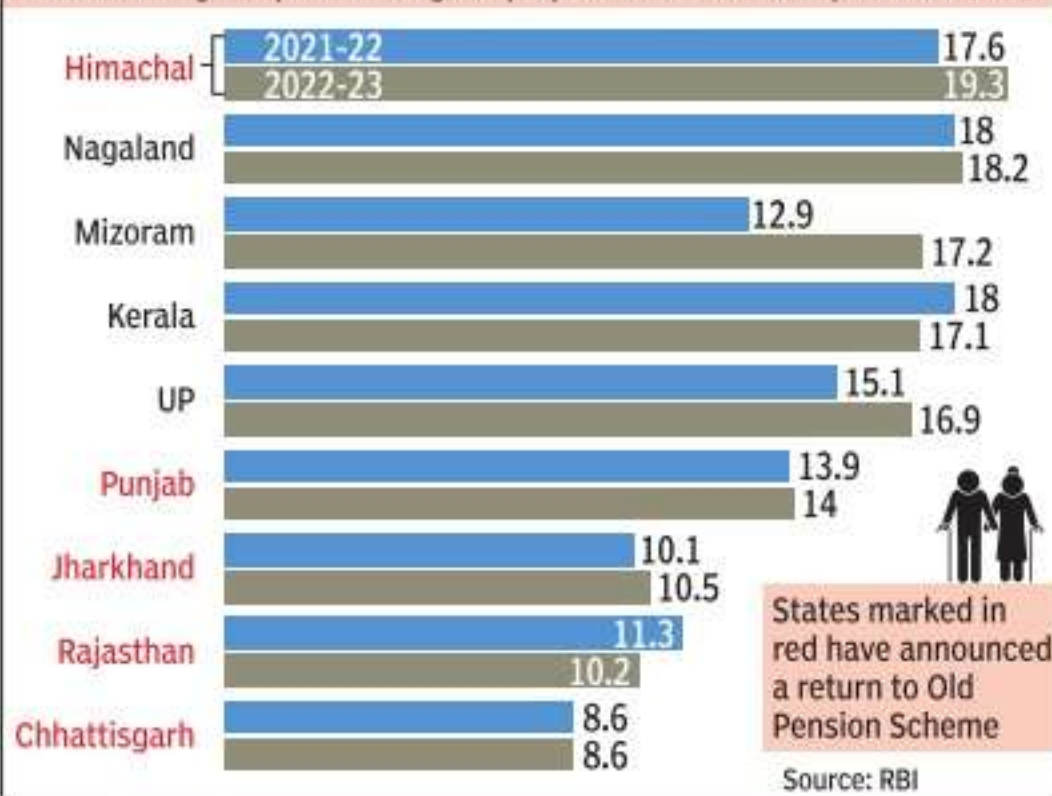
New Delhi: The RBI on Monday red-flagged the return to the old pension scheme (OPS) by some states as a major concern on the sub-national fiscal horizon, while calling for higher capital expenditure in sectors such as health, education, infra and green energy.

"The annual saving in fiscal resources that this move entails is short-lived. By postponing current expenses to the future, states risk accumulation of unfunded pension liabilities in the coming years," the RBI said on OPS in its latest report on state finances.

Several opposition-ruled states, including Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Punjab, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan have announced a return to the defined benefit scheme, promising retired government

HOW STATES FARE ON PENSION PAYMENTS

States with highest pension outgo as proportion of revenue expenditure (in %)



ment employees 50% of the last pay drawn as the monthly pension. The move signals a reversal in the shift to the National Pension System, imple-

mented by the Manmohan Singh government in 2004, where government employees contribute 10% of salary with a matching contribution

from employer. Several economists, including Singh's key aide Montek Singh Ahluwalia, have criticised the move by the states. In several cases, the pension outgo is already high (see graphic).

In the report, the RBI has noted that improvement in the fiscal situation across states as well as a recognition of the off-budget borrowings, something that the Union finance ministry had taken up with the state governments.

The RBI has suggested states should focus on higher capital expenditure, arguing that it benefits the state GDP for at least two years. It went on to suggest setting up of capex buffer funds, where money is set aside during "good times" when revenue flows are strong so that spending is not impacted during periods of economic slowdown.

Govt probes low invoicing of imports from China

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The government has launched a probe to examine instances of under-invoicing of Chinese goods imported into the country, with customs authorities reworking the risk-assessment mechanism, top government officials said on Monday.

Under-invoicing of imports is done to evade customs duties and GST as well as to avoid requirements for imports over a certain value. These goods have an unfavourable price advantage in domestic market by paying lower duty. For long, the government has suspected that Chinese businesses resort to unfair trade practices, with some of the top telecom companies also under the scanner of customs authorities.

AVOIDING DUTIES, GST

The issue was flagged by the commerce department to the finance ministry and the customs officials have increased the risk profiling, which has resulted in some seizures, following a check on the cargo coming from across the border, a senior officer said.

During April-December, imports from China have gone up by around 12% to close to \$76 billion, while exports have contracted 36% to \$11 billion, according to commerce department estimates. Latest data released by Chinese authorities have shown that in 2022, India's trade deficit with China crossed \$100 billion for the first time, raising fresh concerns at a time, when the government is seeking to reduce shipments.

Officials said Covid restrictions in China cut exports. But with India dependent on key inputs, such as basic drugs to manufacture medicines, imports had not come down.

Exports shrink over 12% to \$35bn in Dec

Govt Blames Slowdown In West, Trade Deficit Widens As Imports Fall By 3%

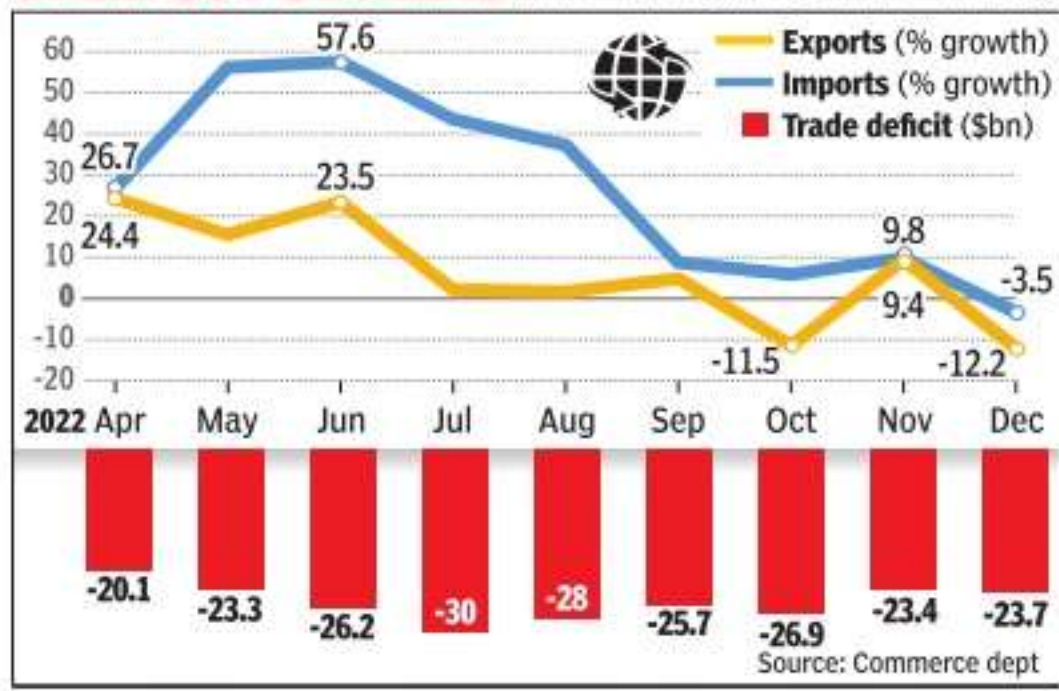
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India's exports fell over 12% to \$34.5 billion in December 2022, while imports dipped 3% to \$58.2 billion, resulting in a widening of the trade deficit.

Commerce secretary Sunil Barthwal told reporters the decline, fastest in two years, was due to global headwinds as several countries are in the midst of a slowdown as also due to the high base in December 2021, when exports of \$39.3 billion were the third highest on record.

Exports have slowed down in recent months after booming to a record \$422 billion during the last financial year. Barthwal said that the commerce department has undertaken a detailed analysis and is also focusing on countries that are growing faster, but is currently sticking to internal projections of \$470 billion for the year. "India's exports have held its head

STEEPEST DECLINE IN EXPORTS IN 2 YRS



high. There are recessionary trends globally. So, we are facing a lot of headwinds," the secretary said, adding that services exports will soar to new highs this year.

Official numbers released by the commerce department pegged services exports at \$27.3 billion, 5% higher than a year ago, while imports went up by around the same level to \$15.6 billion.

The decline in December goods exports was led by oil products (27% lower at \$4.9 billion) and engineering goods (down 12% to \$9.1 billion), the two largest items. Among the top 30 export items, electronics goods were the star, rising 37% to \$2.3 billion. The decline in imports was driven by a 75% slump in gold (to \$1.2 billion), chemicals and gems.

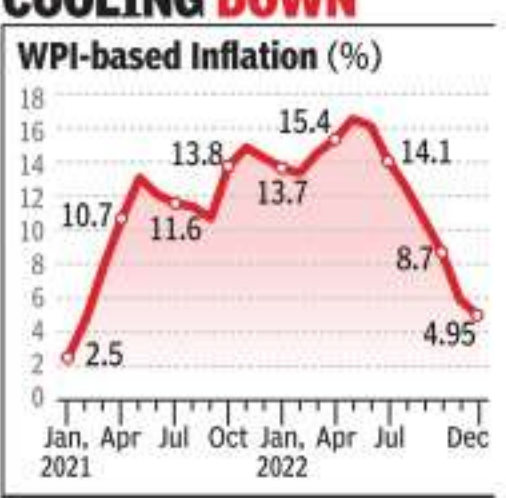
WPI inflation dips to 22-mth low of 4.95%

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Wholesale price inflation slowed to a near 2-year low in December on the back of moderating food, mineral oils and crude petroleum prices, adding to the relief provided by easing retail inflation numbers.

Data released by the commerce and industry ministry on Monday showed inflation, as measured by the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), rose an annual 4.95% in December, lower than the 5.9% in November. Decline in the rate of inflation in December 2022 is primarily accounted for by the fall in prices of food articles, mineral oils, crude petro-

COOLING DOWN



leum & natural gas, textiles and chemicals & chemical products. WPI-based inflation has slipped below the 5% mark for the first time in 22 months after staying in double digits for 18 consecutive months. It started easing in October.

The moderation in WPI followed the easing in retail inflation in December. Retail inflation moderated to a 12-month low of 5.7% in December on the back of softening food prices. The WPI data showed vegetable prices fell nearly 36% during the month while crude petroleum prices rose 21.9%, slower than the 51.4% recorded in December 2021. Cereal prices remained robust, rising 14%, while wheat prices rose 21%.

Inflation had emerged as a major policy challenge with both CPI and WPI inflation surging last year, prompting the RBI to increase interest rates sharply. Economists said the central bank may adopt a

wait-and-watch approach and most likely pause its rate increasing cycle after February.

"While we acknowledge that inflationary risks are receding, the RBI is unlikely to find much comfort in the details of inflation, with core still elevated above 6% and the decline in price pressures coming mainly from volatile components, such as vegetables," Barclays said in a note.

"Still, with CPI inflation returning within the target band for two months, we expect headline inflation to fall further in the coming months, which should allow the RBI to pause beyond February, and reassess the need for further tightening," the note added.

Russia 4th largest source of imports; \$50bn seen in FY23

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Imports from Russia have jumped five times to \$32.9 billion during April-December, making it the fourth largest trading partner. If current pace of increase persists, Russia's imports could hit \$50 billion, just shy of the value of goods shipped from the US, which is the third largest source of

imports for India.

At the same time, if the US and the UAE maintain their pace of growth during the last quarter of the current financial year, they could end the year with exports to India adding up to \$56 billion and \$54 billion, respectively. During April-December 2022, the two countries saw exports to India rise by around 25% each.

Russia has moved up from

being India's 20th largest source of imports last financial year due to the massive surge in crude petroleum flows as the government went bargain hunting to contain the cost of fuel, while also seeing this as an opportunity to push export of petrol and diesel to countries such as the Netherlands and Brazil. Fertilisers are the major contributor to higher imports from Russia.

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NARCL to take over its 1st bad loan this week

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Lenders will transfer this week their Jaypee Infratech loans to the government-sponsored bad bank — the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL). This is the first non-performing asset (NPA) to be acquired by NARCL and will formally kick off its bad debt consolidation.

According to bankers, there were issues regarding the format of the government guarantee for the security receipts to be issued by NARCL to the banks. This has been sorted out and the transaction is expected to be concluded soon.

The Jaypee Infratech deal will result in the transfer of Rs 9,234 crore of stressed loans. The NARCL had offered a Rs 3,570-crore bid for the loans held by public sector banks, which would mean a recovery of close to 40%.

The NARCL plans to buy bad loans of about Rs 40,000 crore from public sector banks.

While the sale will not result in major gains in the bottom line of banks, it will improve financial ratios substantially. The NARCL has an edge over private ARCs as security receipts that it issues in place of cash is backed by government guarantee. And private ARCs will have to pay upfront cash to match bids made by NARCL.

SC to Google: Will you follow EU practices?

Tech Giant Paid \$4Bn EU Penalty, But Is Questioning CCI's ₹1,338Cr Fine: Centre

Dhananjay Mahapatra
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Putting Google in a quandary, the Supreme Court on Monday asked the world's leading tech giant to inform in two days its readiness to employ the trade practices it adopted in European Union (EU) countries after being fined \$4 billion last year for using its Android mobile operating system to kill competition and further its monopoly.

Before A M Singhvi could justify Google's appeal against NCLAT's order refusing to stay the CCI's October 20 decision slapping a Rs 1,338-crore fine on the tech giant for anti-competitive Android operating system, additional solicitor general R Venkataraman said Google was prompt in paying up the \$4-billion fine imposed by the European Commission, but is using litigation in India to thwart the CCI's order pen-



listing it for similar anti-competition trade mischief.

Venkataraman told a bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, and Justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala, "Google is fully compliant with the EU laws after paying up the fine. There must be uniformity in the digital world. It is litigating instead of paying up the CCI-imposed fine just because India is not a developed country."

The bench, which initially wanted to send the matter back to the NCLAT for a decision on Google's plea for inte-

rim stay on the fine, turned around and asked the tech giant to inform by Wednesday whether it was ready to "abide in India a regime that is in place in EU countries".

When Singhvi argued that the case in India has no similarity with the EU case, the bench said, "Answer by Wednesday what steps Google has put in place in EU countries after the EU court upheld the \$4-billion fine on it."

Singhvi argued that the NCLAT's decision on January 4 to post Google's appeal for hearing on April 3, without going into the prayer for interim stay, made the paying up of the fine a fait accompli. That is the reason why Google moved the SC, he said. The CJI-led bench said, "The CCI passed an order on October 20. You (Google) have a battery of lawyers. But the appeal was filed in NCLAT in January to create contrived urgencies to force the tribunal to extend time."

NFRA backs transparency report for audit firms

New Delhi: In a first-of-its-kind move aimed at improving audit quality, the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) on Monday proposed to introduce annual transparency reports' requirement for audit firms.

The watchdog has come out with draft requirements to be followed by auditors and audit firms for preparing annual transparency reports (ATRs). According to the NFRA, the effort is aimed at enhancing the transparency about management and governance of audit firms and their internal policy framework to ensure high quality audits and preventing conflict of interest by maintaining independence.

"The ATR requirements are proposed to be implemented in a gradual manner for PEs (public interest entities) starting with statutory auditors of top 1,000 listed companies (by market capitalisation) with effect from the financial year ending on March 31, 2023," the regulator said in a release.

Audit firms will have to publish ATR within three months from end of fiscal. "Transparency report containing critical information about the auditor's operational activities, management, governance and ownership structures, and policies and procedures necessary to deliver high-quality audits, etc. The information in the ATR will be useful to investors, audit committees, independent directors and public at large." Public comments have been sought till February 16. AGENCIES

As startups restructure, about 20,000 laid off

Cos Cite Changing Mkt Situation, Rising Rates, Recession Fears In West For Rationalisation

Veena Mani & Shilpa Phadnis | TNN

Bengaluru: Indian startups are estimated to have laid off almost 20,000 employees in the past year. Among those who have rationalised their workforces include unicorns like Byju's, Ola, Oyo, Meesho, Unacademy and Vedantu. ShareChat on Monday announced it is laying off about 20% of its staff — that's about 500 people.

The major reason cited by these companies is the changing market situation. The pandemic and resultant lockdowns led to a surge in online transactions, leading all of these online-focused companies to hire aggressively to meet demand during that period. But the past year has seen consumers increasingly moving to physical options, and limiting online spends.

Simultaneously, interest rates have risen, and recessionary fears have grown in the West, leading to venture capital and private equity funders turning cautious. That has adversely impacted startups' ability to keep raising equity funding, and so the focus is shifting to profitability.

ShareChat said, "As capital becomes expensive, companies need to prioritise their bets and invest in the high-impact projects only. Over the last six months, we have aggressively optimised costs across the board, includ-

ing in marketing and infrastructure, among other cost heads, and ramped up our monetisation efforts. The decision to reduce employee costs was taken after much deliberation and in light of the growing market consensus that investment sentiments will remain very cautious throughout this year."

Indian startups went through a funding winter in 2022, and the same might continue through 2023. Funding

ments, those are more skewed towards debt financing than equity funding, as founders don't want to expose their firms to lower valuations. Founders who couldn't build businesses with sufficient funding should brace to revisit their businesses focusing on the fundamentals," she says.

Human resources firm CIEL HR estimates that there was a 44% decline in hiring towards the end of 2022, in

DROP IN FUNDING BY VCs & PEs

► Byju's, Ola, Oyo, Meesho, Unacademy, ShareChat and Vedantu among those who laid off staff in past few months

► Slowdown in online consumer spends has impacted a number of cos

► Drop in VC/PE funding has forced startups to focus on profitability

► Funding for startups is estimated to have dropped 31% in 2022

for Indian startups in 2022 was about \$24 billion, a drop of 33% in comparison to 2021, according to PwC's Startup Deals Tracker - CY22 report.

Shanti Mohan, founder of LetsVenture, an online platform enabling angel investment in early-stage startups, said the layoffs are not necessarily about the long funding winter, but bad hiring decisions by some of the founders who raised money. "They over hired and the rationale of building frugality into the business model was completely missing. If you see the recent announce-

contrast to the spike in hiring at the beginning of the year.

Sudhakar Raja, founder & CEO of TRST Score, an HR risk management firm, says people getting laid off are those who bagged hefty offers in the last three years due to the surge in demand in tech-based startups. "First, they hired people because there was a need. Companies gave out salaries that people demanded. Now they are seriously looking at unit economics and performance appraisal. That is where a lot of people are losing their jobs," Raja says.

Green light must before stake buy in banks: RBI

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The RBI has come out with new regulations for acquisitions and holding a significant equity stake in a bank. The new norms prescribe getting 'fit and proper' clearance before buying a stake in a bank, and the rules for persons acting in concert have been tightened. There is also a minimum lock-in period for strategic shareholders and a time limit for buying shares after the RBI nod.

The new norms come ahead of the government's proposed stake sale in IBI Bank. Investors who have submitted their expressions of interest for the bank will need to get themselves certified as 'fit and

proper' from the RBI before buying shares. Under the new norms, if the bank's board feels that a shareholder is looking to get a strategic stake, the board has to inform the RBI even if the shareholding is less than 5%.

Where the shareholding is not compliant with RBI's norms, banks must submit

TIGHTENING M&A NORMS

an action plan for diluting shares within six months. The RBI has placed the onus on the bank's board to ensure that the bank establishes a continuous monitoring mechanism to ascertain that a major shareholder has obtained prior approval of the RBI for the sharehol-

ding/voting rights.

The guidelines require any person intending to be a major shareholder to make an application to assess their 'fit and proper' status. The RBI has said that the 'fit and proper' status can be conditional and valid, subject to the acquisition being completed in a specific time frame. The permission is also limited to one transaction and must be taken afresh for new purchases if the shareholding drops below 5%.

The guidelines also bar investors from countries not compliant with financial action task force (FATF) rules. Currently, 38 countries are compliant, while others are at various levels of non-compliance.

Federal Bank Q3 net up 54%

Mumbai: Federal Bank has reported a net profit of Rs 804 crore for the quarter ended December 2022, an increase of 54% from Rs 521 crore in year-ago period. Profits rose following a 39% increase in net interest income to Rs 1,274 crore.

Total deposits of Federal Bank grew 7.2% to Rs 2,01,408 crore at the end of the quarter from Rs 1,75,432 crore as on December 31, 2021. TNN

Maruti hikes car prices

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki hiked prices of its vehicle line-up by about 1.1% due to increase in cost of inputs. Other companies such as Honda, Tata Motors and Hyundai are also expected to initiate similar steps to offset higher manufacturing costs.

For Maruti, this is the second price hike that the car-maker is undertaking in the

ongoing fiscal year, after increasing it in April 2022.

In December last year, the company said it would hike prices to offset the impact of

OTHERS TO FOLLOW SUIT

rising input costs and make provisions to update the model range to conform to stricter emission norms, which will kick in from April 2023.

"An estimated weighted average of increase across models stands at around 1.1%. This indicative figure is calculated using ex-showroom prices of models in Delhi and will come into effect from January 16," Maruti said.

It sells a range of vehicles starting from entry-level small car Alto to SUV Grand Vitara, which are priced between Rs 3.4 lakh and Rs 19.5 lakh (ex-showroom, Delhi).

JUST LIKE THAT

AJIT NINAN



Equestrian 2023

1st lot of women officers cleared for Colonel-rank

New Delhi: The first lot of Army women officers have been cleared for the rank of Colonel (selection grade) by a special promotion board that is currently under way at the Army headquarters here.

These women officers from "combat-support arms" and services will go on to command units in the Corps of Engineers, Signals, Ordnance and EME and other such branches, sources said.

As was reported by TOI last week, 108 of the 244 women officers being considered for the rank of Colonel (selection grade) in the board are expected to make the grade as per the number of vacancies. "The results of all the candidates will take time to be declassified. Another special promotion board will be held later," the source said.

After permanent commission was granted to women in 2020-21, few women became Colonels. Apart from legal and education branches, women now get permanent commission in Army Air Defence, Signals, Engineers, Army Aviation, EME, Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps and Intelligence Corps. TNN

Family of 4 dead in Hyd; had tiff over relocation

Hyderabad: In a suspected murder-suicide, a bank manager and three of her family members were found dead in their flat in Hyderabad's Tarnaka on Monday. There was no suicide note. Police suspect a marital tiff led to the deaths.

Sindhura (32) was a loan recovery section manager in a bank. Her husband, Pratap (34), was a design engineer with an automobile major in Chennai. Sindhura, four-year-old daughter Aadhyaa, and Pratap's mother Rajathi (65) lived in Hyderabad. Pratap wanted to move his family to Chennai but Sindhura was against it.

Police suspect that Pratap died by suicide by hanging himself after poisoning his family members. TNN

BJP already in election campaign mode: Nadda

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: BJP president JP Nadda said the party is already in campaign mode, determined to win the states which are not with it, having already expanded its booth-level presence across the country.

Senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad told the media that Nadda, in his address, had asked cadres to tighten their belts and ensure the party's win in the coming assembly polls. He said the party's loss in Himachal Pradesh, incidentally his home state, did not take away from the comfortable scenario as the party had lost by a margin of less than 1% (37,000 votes in absolute terms).

It was clear that BJP's confidence is based on its estimate of the PM's popularity, with the mammoth victory in Gujarat only fortifying belief in their talismanic leader.

BJP strategists have set a goal of winning the 2024 Lok



PM Modi during BJP's national executive meeting in Delhi on Monday

Sabha polls as a victory will make PM Modi equal Jawaharlal Nehru's record of three terms in a row. The party, though, believes that Modi's achievement would stand on a separate footing. "Nehru benefited from the absence of opposition... In contrast, BJP started as a challenger and still remains so with the entire old establishment against it. Its ideology questioned the dominant ideology," one of the delegates told TOI.

"Unfounded allegations

were levelled against PM Modi but the crushing legal response exposed the Opposition," finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

The party is likely to come up with another resolution on Tuesday when the PM will deliver the valedictory speech. Besides, there is a possibility that a resolution will be passed endorsing extension of JP Nadda's tenure for another term. Sources said the parliamentary board has already endorsed this move.

Eye on 2024 polls, party identifies 160 LS seats for special campaigns

Akhilesh Singh
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New Delhi: BJP president J P Nadda on Monday exhorted party members to pull out all the stops to ensure victory in nine assembly polls due this year, underlining their political importance in the run-up to 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Karnataka, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana will go to polls this year. In his nearly 45-minute closed-door address, Nadda highlighted the representation of OBCs, SCs and STs in the BJP governments in states and at the Centre, besides in constitutional positions. He noted that in President Droupadi Murmu, India has got its first tribal per-



PM Modi with Nadda at NDMC Convention Centre in New Delhi

son at the top constitutional post. "The party is getting votes of the backward classes, SCs and STs and is giving them representation. This shows our resolve of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, and Sabka Prayas,'" he said, stressing on the expanding voter base of the party since Modi led it to victory in 2014 and 2019.

Nadda praised the party's win in the recent Gujarat assembly polls as "extraordinary and historic", saying win-

ning more than 150 seats in the 182-member assembly is a great achievement.

Showing no semblance of complacency, the party has identified 160 constituencies to take out special campaigns to consolidate its prospects for which more than 1 lakh booths had been identified.

"Earlier too, following the instruction of PM Modi, the party president had issued a directive to strengthen the party at 72,000 booths where it was weak. Today, our party president said party workers have already covered 1.3 lakh booths," Senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad said.

The party members have to work to bring it to power in states where it is in opposition and to make the states, where it is in power, its "impregnable fort", Nadda said.

Rijiju proposes BJP resolution, a testimony of his elevated status

Akhilesh Singh
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New Delhi: BJP on Monday chose to assign law minister Kiren Rijiju to propose the party's political resolution on day one of its national executive meeting, symbolising party's stakes in the northeast and the growing stature of the Union minister, who has been dealing with contentious issues, the latest inclusion to which is the collegium system of selecting judges in higher judiciary.

The assignment of moving the proposals at the national executive meeting is seen as significant showing not only of the growing importance of Rijiju but also the political priorities of the party.

BJP had a tradition of choosing party veterans (like LK Advani) to move its political resolution. This was later done by Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh in acknowledgement of their elevated status in the party's hierarchy. UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath proposed the political resolution last year, which was seen as an important move in view of the timing of the assembly polls in UP.

Rijiju of late has emerged as the party's and government's voice on important issues including his strong observations against the continuation of the collegium system and also justifying the decision to abrogate special status to J&K under Article 370.

Besides, the party's move is yet another bid to acknowledge its growing footprint in the northeast, which used to be an unfriendly territory for the party until the past few years. The north-eastern states constitute 24 Lok Sabha seats and BJP knows their importance in maintaining its winning streak in 2024. While Rijiju proposed the resolution, Uttar Pradesh deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya and Karnataka minister Govind Karjol seconded it.

‘Damaged line straight, appears like a depression’

Kautilya Singh & Shivani Azad | TNN

Dehradun: In light of the Joshimath land subsidence issue, Chamoli district magistrate Himanshu Khurana has been directed to inform the stakeholders that the damaged structures are to be removed at the earliest. The structures would be mechanically razed on the lines of the proposed demolition of the two hotels at Joshimath—Mount View and Malari Inn.

Speaking on the latest development, Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority secretary Ranjit Kumar Sinha said: "To get a better and clearer picture of the situation, this time we went to the other side of Joshimath—towards Haathi Parvat—and tried to find out the depression and its likely solution."

During the recent inspec-



Residents evacuate an 'unsafe' building in Joshimath on Monday

tion, a team led by Sinha, comprising experts of various state agencies, found that one side of JP Colony in Marwar ward is damaged in a straight line. "Areas above Joshimath on the same line like Singdhar and Sunil—which are on the upper side of the hill town—are also damaged. The damaged line is clearly visible and appears like a depression. It looks like a stream, 'Singdhar dhara', was earlier flowing through the area and the water has leaked in the same

line," Sinha said.

The official added: "Though it is only an estimate, it looks like the likely reason for the situation. Structures which are beyond repair are acting like a dead weight on this slope. Therefore, we have decided that the areas of J P Colony which are beyond repair need to be mechanically demolished."

Meanwhile, residents are being asked to move to safer locations based on the scientific analyses of expert teams on the ground. They are trying to find the source of the water and the fissures. "Experts have brought drills, drones and other technical equipment. They are investigating over 100 m below the surface to ascertain whether the area or the houses there are safe to stay in or not," said Shalendra Panwar, chairperson, Joshimath municipal council.

‘4 UP men took the flight at last minute’

Rajeev Dikshit & Arvind Chauhan | TNN

Varanasi/Dharwa: The four friends from UP killed in Sunday's plane crash in Nepal had initially planned to travel to Pokhara from Kathmandu by road. The decision to take a flight instead was taken at the last minute, their friends said.



The quartet were to return on Abhishek's (in orange) birthday

Family members of the quartet left on a 415-km road journey on Monday to bring back the bodies. Accompanying the bereaved family members was the village head of Chak Zainab, from where two of the victims hailed, and a couple of officials deputised by the UP government to offer whatever assistance they might need. "We are in constant touch with the families," Ghazipur DM Aryaka Akhauri said.

Divisional commissioner Kaushal Raj Sharma sa-

id an ambulance each would be provided by the state government to ferry the bodies from the border to their native villages. In Dharwa village, Abhishek's friend Zafar Abbas bemoaned that the happy responsibility of planning a "surprise birthday bash" for the 25-year-old on his scheduled return home on Monday had been replaced by the pain of waiting for his body to arrive. "He was to be back today, his birthday. Who would have thought we would be mourning his death instead."

K'taka contractors level bribe charge, BJP MLA denies it

Bengaluru: The Karnataka State Contractors' Association, which had levelled charges of 40% kickback in government contracts about 18 months ago, has renewed its fight with claims that Rs 90 lakh in bribes had been paid to BJP MLA GH Thippareddy.

"Since 2019, I'm paying Thippareddy a bribe of Rs 90 lakh to clear my Rs 6 crore in pending bills. He is demanding more to clear those bills," alleged association working president R Manjunath on Monday, adding that the association had audio clips and documents to back its assertions.

Association president D Kempanna said: "We will release more clips if the government fails to respond and meet our demands, including a judicial probe into the charges of 40% kickback." However, Thippareddy dubbed the allegations "a big lie", adding he may file a defamation case. TNN

BALL'S WOBBLY, YET IT SEAMS LIKE A DREAM

Siraj's Stocks Go Up With New Delivery As He Rises To The Challenge In Bumrah's Absence In White-Ball Cricket

Prasanth.Menon@timesgroup.com

Thiruvananthapuram: Not often do you see a fielding captain deploying four slips and a leg slip in white-ball cricket, especially in Indian conditions. And that too on a pitch where the team batting first has scored close to 400 runs.

But on Sunday evening at the Greenfield stadium here in Thiruvananthapuram, Indian skipper Rohit Sharma decided to place such an attacking field in the final ODI of the three-match series because Mohammed Siraj was causing havoc among the Sri Lankan batsmen.

Siraj, who looks to be in fine rhythm while running in and was the most impressive bowler in the first two ODIs against the Lankans, had reserved his best for last. In an inspired opening spell, he plotted the downfall of the visitors by showcasing the quintessential abilities of a new-ball bowler: he managed to take the ball away from the batsmen, hold its line and bring it into them too.

The 28-year-old, who finished with career-best figures of 4/32 and emerged as the top-wicket-taker in the series with nine wickets, attributes his success to his ploy of attacking the batsmen in his opening burst. "My plan was to take as many wickets as possible with the new ball and put the opposition under pressure. Even if I concede boundaries, I am okay with it as long as I am able to claim a couple of wickets and put the opposition on the back foot," he said.

WHAT IS A WOBBLE SEAM DELIVERY?

When a fast bowler bowls such a delivery, the seam will wobble slightly from side to side, unlike a conventional pacer's delivery, where the seam stays upright. If the bowler bends his back and hits the deck hard, the ball tends to deviate unpredictably off the pitch. England's James Anderson is credited with inventing the delivery, which he says he developed after watching Mohammad Asif up close on Pakistan's tour of England in 2010. It is usually bowled by holding the ball as one would for a regular seamer's delivery, with the ring and middle finger on either side of the seam, but much wider apart so that the seam is more visible. The trick lies in how the ball is released, with the wrist 'locked' so the ball is not 'pushed' out of the hand like an usual delivery.

His plan seems to be working well as he had the most wickets (15) for an international bowler in the powerplay in ODIs last year. For that, he credits the wobble-seam delivery that he has managed to develop. "With wobble seam, neither I know nor the batsmen knows how much the ball tends to move. Sometimes, the ball might hold its line, sometimes it moves into the batsman. I take a lot of wickets with wobble seam. For me, it is effective. I have got success with it and trust wobble seam more," revealed Siraj.

The Hyderabad pacer made his

T20 debut for India back in 2017 before getting a maiden ODI call-up two years later, and was rewarded with the Test cap the next year. But his journey as an international pacer has been a fascinating tale. "I had inswing first then I lost it after a while. So I developed the outswinger. Since I couldn't bowl the inswing anymore, I developed the wobble-seam delivery. It took a lot of time for me to be effective with wobble seam. Now both the outswing and wobble-seam deliveries are proving to be helpful.

"The seam position I use is for a natural outswinger. When I use the wobble seam, the ball position tilts towards fine leg. I try to hit the deck hard when I use wobbled seam because it is more effective," Siraj said.

Though he made his international debut in T20s, where his economy rate proves to be his undoing, the pacer seems to be on his own in the ODIs and Tests and has risen to the occasion in Jasprit Bumrah's absence. While the expressive pacer's intent can be gauged by the way he runs in to bowl, he seems to have found a way to surprise the batsmen.

"If I execute my line and length properly, it will be difficult for the batsmen to hit. Whether it is Tests, T20s or ODIs, if you keep bowling in the right areas, rewards will come," he said.

With the crucial Test series against Australia and the ODI World Cup to be held in the country later in the year, Siraj's ability to provide breakthroughs with the new ball will be crucial for the Men In Blue.

9 Wickets taken by Siraj at 10.22 runs apiece in three matches against Sri Lanka, his best performance in a bilateral series as well as the best on either side in the recent series. Siraj is now the first Indian bowler to bag nine wickets in a three-match series vs Sri Lanka.

—Stats: Rajesh Kumar



Mohammed Siraj has taken the most wickets in the powerplay in ODIs (15), since 2022

SL TEAM MANAGER ASKED TO SUBMIT REPORT ON RECORD LOSS IN 3RD ODI

Colombo: Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has given the manager of the team touring India five days to submit his report on the world record defeat at the hands of Rohit Sharma's side in the third and final ODI at Thiruvananthapuram. India annihilated a clueless Sri Lanka by a record 317 runs to sweep the three-match series on Sunday.

Opener Shubman Gill scored a century to complement Virat Kohli's unbeaten 166 as the duo helped the hosts to a massive 390 for 5 in 50 overs.

Sri Lanka were then dismissed for 73 in 22 overs, with Mohammed Siraj taking four wickets.

"Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has directed the Manager of the National Team to submit a report pertaining to Sri Lanka's heavy defeat faced against India in the 3rd ODI, which was played on the 15th January 2023 at Thiruvananthapuram," said a statement issued by SLC on Monday.

"The report should consist of views of the Captain, the Head Coach, and the selection panel and also the team manager pertaining to the loss," added the statement.

The statement added that the report would help SLC "understand the background" for the team's poor performance.

'Pacer's progress not short of a miracle'

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Hyderabad: From being a 'maidaan' cricketer with First Lancer, which is nestled on the edge of the posh Banjara Hills, to becoming the mainstay of the Indian cricket team, Mohammed Siraj's career has seen phenomenal growth. With Jasprit Bumrah out with injuries and Mohammed Shami not being consistent, Siraj has grown out of their shadow in the last one year to become the go-to man for the Indian team. His ability to get early breakthroughs is a big reason for India's domination.

In many ways, Siraj is 'destiny's child', but a couple of 'farishtas' (angels) have helped him achieve his dream of playing for India. Though passionate about cricket, Siraj bowled with a proper cricket ball only in 2015. Till that time, he had bowled only with a tennis ball. Given an early break by Mohammed Mahboob Ahmed of Charminar Cricket Club in the HCA league, Siraj, who didn't even have proper cricket shoes,

seems to have been destined for it and has always had luck on his side," Azeem, who was the coach when Siraj made his Ranji Trophy debut for Hyderabad, said.

An ever-modest Azeem said Siraj got the break thanks to former Hyderabad captain P Akshath Reddy. "It was Akshath who said that Siraj should be included in the Hyderabad squad for the knock-out game against Services in 2015. GH Vihari too seconded it and I spoke to Arshad (Ayub), who was the HCA president, about it. He agreed and Siraj got to make his debut in that game," Azeem added.

Though it was an ordinary debut, luck was on Siraj's side as Hyderabad roped in former India player Bharat Arun as the coach next season. The Hyderabad medium-pacers—Siraj, M Ravi Kiran and CV Milind—prospered under Arun, with Siraj claiming 41 wickets in 9 matches that season, which earned him an IPL contract. "Being a fast bowler, Arun was of great help in shaping Siraj

"HIS MOTHER, WHO USED TO WORK IN OUR HOUSE AS A MAID, HAD BEEN PESTERING ME TO HAVE A LOOK AT SIRAJ'S BOWLING. BUT WHEN I SAW HIM FOR THE FIRST TIME AT THE NETS, HE LOOKED QUITE ORDINARY. I TOLD HIS MOTHER THAT HE WILL HAVE TO WORK HARD AND PERFORM TO GET A BREAK. TO SEE HIM GROW INTO SUCH A PHENOMENAL BOWLER IS NOTHING SHORT OF A MIRACLE. THERE IS NO ORDINARY EXPLANATION FOR IT. HE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN DESTINED FOR IT."

—Abdul Azeem, former Hyderabad opener on Siraj

showed immense spunk to catch the attention of cricket officials.

"His mother, who used to work in our house as a maid, had been pestering me to have a look at Siraj's bowling. But when I saw him for the first time at the nets, he looked quite ordinary. I told his mother that he will have to work hard and perform to get a break," former Hyderabad opener Abdul Azeem told TOI on Monday.

"To see him grow into such a phenomenal bowler is nothing sort of a miracle. There is no ordinary explanation for it. He

and turning him into a match winner. To Siraj's credit, he was a quick learner and worked hard," Azeem said.

"When he was playing for the Hyderabad U-23 team, he was at the HCA academy. He was pretty quick and I was impressed," said former India player MV Narasimha Rao, ex-director of the HCA academy.

Siraj broke into the India T20I side against New Zealand. He made his ODI debut against Australia in Adelaide in January 2019 and his Test debut against Australia in the 2020 Boxing Day Test at MCG.

Kohli credits India throwdown specialists for success

Thiruvananthapuram: Indian run-machine **Virat Kohli** has credited the team's throwdown trio of D Raghavendra, Nuwan Senewiratne and Dayanand Garani for making a "big difference" to his batting. The throwdown specialists use a sidearm, a cricketing equipment in the shape of a long spoon, to hurl the ball at high speed (in the range of 140-150kmph) to test the batters at nets.

"All three of them have given us world-class practice every time we play. They challenge us in the nets like any 145 or 150kmph pace bowlers. They always



try to get us out and make sure that they test us regularly," Kohli told young Indian opener Shubman Gill in an interaction on *BCCLi* after the third and final ODI against Sri Lanka here.

"At times, it feels very intense. For me that has been the difference in my career, to be very honest... From where I was as a cricketer before I started getting this kind of practice to where I am today," India thrashed Sri Lanka by 317 runs in the final ODI to sweep the series 3-0, with Kohli notching two hundreds from three matches.

Tournament To Feature 22 Games With Five Teams



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Mumbai: The decks are finally getting cleared for the inaugural edition of Women's IPL—the BCCI's most ambitious project in recent times. On Monday, BCCI secretary Jay Shah announced that Viacom 18 has secured the media rights for the upcoming Women's IPL for Rs 951 crore for five years (2023-2027). Viacom 18's bid means it will pay Rs 7.09 crore per match, Shah said.

"Congratulations @viacom18

₹7.09
Crores that per match of the WPL has been sold for.

for winning the Women's @IPL media rights. Thank you for your faith in @BCCI and @BCCIWomen. Viacom has committed INR 951 crores which means per match value of INR 7.09 crores for next 5 years (2023-27). This is massive for Women's Cricket," Shah tweeted.

The sealed bids were opened at a five-star hotel here on Monday. The only other bidder was Disney Star.

Going through the same procedure, which will involve opening sealed bids, the BCCI will announce the names of the five WPL franchises on January 25. TOI has learnt that the bidders will be given a choice of 10 cities, from which the franchises will be chosen. "This list includes 7 cities which have IPL franchises—Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata,

Bangalore, Ahmedabad and Lucknow—and three other cities—Dharamshala, Guwahati and Indore," a source told this paper.

Apparently all the 10 IPL franchises have bid for owning a team in the WPL.

Inaugural edition likely to be in Mumbai across 3 venues

The inaugural edition of the WPL is likely to be in Mumbai only. "The matches are likely to be held in just three stadiums—the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai,

Brabourne Stadium at the Cricket Club of India and the Wankhede Stadium in Churchgate. All the stadiums will stage double headers on most days," a source revealed. "The tournament, which will have 22 matches, is likely to last not more than 15-20 days. It will start on March 5 or 7, and culminate on March 23, in all likelihood, just before the start of IPL-2023. There will be 20 league games, one qualifier and the final," he informed.

Like in the IPL, the franchises

will buy the players through an auction. The base price of the capped players has been kept at Rs 20 lakhs, Rs 30 lakhs and Rs 50 lakhs. There will be no icon player. "Somehow, the Australian players need to play, otherwise it won't work, as they are the undisputed champions of women's cricket—they have the top allrounder, batter, bowler, fielder, everything. You need to ensure that they are paid well. A top player earns between Rs 60-70 lakh in a season of the Big Bash," a source said.

GALLERY

Road to recovery has begun, tweets Pant

Premier India wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant, who survived a horrific car crash on December 30, on Monday said he is on the road to recovery after undergoing three successful surgeries. "I am humbled and grateful for all the support and good wishes. I am glad to let you know that my surgery was a success. The road to recovery has begun and I am ready for the challenges ahead," Pant posted on his official Twitter handle.

Conrad, Walter named as coaches

Cricketer South Africa on Monday announced Shukri Conrad and Rob Walter as coaches of the country's Test and limited overs teams respectively. Conrad, 55, a former first-class cricketer, has worked with many of South Africa's leading players as head coach of the South African Academy since 2014.

LeBron 2nd player to 38,000 points

LeBron James became only the second player in NBA history to score 38,000 career points on Sunday as he inches closer to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's all-time record. James, playing in his 20th NBA season, needed 11 points to reach 38,000 points. But it was a bittersweet night as the Lakers lost 113-112.

ACTION TODAY

CRICKET: Ranji Trophy: Har vs Ben, D1, 9.30 am (Star Sports 2); Under-19 WWC: NZ vs Ire, Zim vs Rwa, 1.30 pm; WI vs Ina, Eng vs Pak, 5.15 pm (FanCode.com); SAT20, 5 pm & 9 pm (Sports18)

HOCKEY: World Cup: Kor vs Jpn, 5 pm; Ger vs Bel, 7 pm (Star, Hotstar, Fan-code.com)

TENNIS: Australian Open, 5.30 am & 1.30 pm (Sony Network)

Rahane 'turning back the clock' with rampaging youngsters

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New Delhi: Ajinkya Rahane doesn't like being called a veteran yet. Over a decade of international cricket and 82 Tests later, Rahane is all about turning back the clock while shepherding a young bunch of rampaging Mumbai batters in the Ranji Trophy. "Mumbai will always play like Mumbai," he said on the eve of their match against Delhi here at the Ferozeshah Kotla. At 34, Rahane finds himself in a rather awkward situation. Technically, he is in the same place as the likes of Sarfaraz Khan, Prithvi Shaw and Yashasvi Jaiswal, all pushing for a place in the Indian team. Essentially, Sarfaraz is his competitor for a spot in India's Test middle order.

In such a scenario, revisiting his younger days is his way to claw back into national reckoning. "I was thinking about old times and when I first came into the Ranji team (back in 2007). How I used to play, what was my thought process. I have gone back to the drawing board and I am trying to be the Ajinkya I used to be in my initial days," Rahane told reporters on Monday. "You have to evolve continuously as a player and continue to work and improve upon your strategies. No major changes but small changes, skill wise. Now, I have to be in the moment, thinking for Mumbai and doing well for them. That's on my mind completely," he added.



Ajinkya Rahane is hoping to keep Mumbai in the hunt while ensuring that he remains relevant as a batsman for larger goals

Mumbai's batting lineup has been firing on all cylinders this season. This is something that was a regular feature when Rahane and Rohit Sharma were coming through the ranks in their younger days. "These boys are all young. Mumbai team was going through a transition. It's important to stick to a core group. They have got the experience now," Rahane explained.

In contrast, Delhi's batting has never looked as undercooked and vulnerable. It's just Dhruv Shorey, country's lead-

ing run-scorer this season, who can match up to the might of Mumbai's batting. Young captain Yash Dhull has looked unsure and has been reluctant to come out to bat in tricky situations. Dhull has been unwell for a couple of days and hasn't turned up for practice in the lead-up to the game.

While Delhi are looking for people to put their hands up, Rahane knows he has a few batters who are getting eager and anxious to get an India call-up. Rahane too experienced a similar phase in his early 20s. "You have to put your arm around guys who are going through a rough patch. Important to give them freedom to express themselves not only on the field but also off it. The individual can come to me and talk to me about anything that's going on in his personal life," he said. Exactly two years to the day he captained India to a memorable Test series win in Australia, Rahane now know how to get the Mumbai boys together for a big match against Delhi.

Shetty replaces Thakur in Mum team

Seamer Deepak Shetty has replaced pace bowling allrounder Shardul Thakur, who will be on India duty for the ODI series at home against New Zealand, in the Mumbai squad for the domestic giants' penultimate Ranji Trophy match against Delhi at the Arun Jaitley Stadium from Tuesday, reports Gaurav Gupta.

Shetty played a Ranji match for Mumbai nearly three years back against MP in February 2020. The tall pacer has taken 7 wickets in 3 first-class games@23.85. While Mumbai will miss Thakur—he took 6-122 to play a key role in their innings & 128-run victory over Assam at Guwahati—they will be encouraged by the return of experienced fast bowler Tushar Deshpande.

Shafali, Shweta guide India to huge victory

Benoni (SA): India racked up the biggest team score of the tournament so far to overpower UAE in a morning game on the third day of the ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup 2023 in South Africa.

UAE were at the receiving end of some brutal hitting from opening pair **Shafali Verma** (78 from 34 with 12 fours and four sixes) and Shweta Sehrawat (74* from 49 with 10 fours) as the duo used all their experience to amass 111 runs in merely 51 balls in their opening stand.

Shafali's dismissal brought little relief, as the incoming batters kept going for their runs. UAE was not helped by their poor fielding effort, which saw them drop Richa Ghosh (49 from 29 with five fours and two sixes) on four occasions.

India finished the innings at 219/3 in their 20 overs, the first-ever 200-plus total in the tournament.

Chasing a mammoth total of 220 runs, UAE went big early on but India put a brake on their scoring rate after dismissing Theertha Satish (16 from 5). Thereafter, disciplined bowling from India ensured that UAE never came close to winning the game.

Brief Scores: India U-19 219-3 (Shweta Sehrawat 74, Shafali Verma 78, Richa Ghosh 49) bt UAE U-19 97-5 (Lavanya Keny 24, Mahika Gaur 26; Shabnam I-21, Titas Sadhu 1-14, Mannat Kashyap 1-14, Parshavi Chopra 1-13).

Indian shuttlers pitted against countrymen

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New Delhi: Call it fate, coincidence or AI (Artificial Intelligence) shenanigans, India's top-2 men's singles shuttlers will be facing each other in the early rounds of marquee tournaments far too often!

Last week at the Malaysia Open, HS Prannoy, India's highest-ranked (at world No. 8) men's singles player, faced 2022 Commonwealth Games gold medalist and world No.10 Lakshya Sen. Prannoy had emerged victorious that time in a hard-fought three-set battle.

INDIA OPEN

Quite startlingly, the India Open Super 750—from January 17 to 22—will also see Prannoy face Lakshya in the first round. The Badminton World Federation's software is working in some strange way—Prannoy and Lakshya can't find themselves in different quarters.

The men's singles draw also has another top Indian in the same half as Prannoy and Lakshya. K Srikanth will take on world No. 1 and the man-for-big-tournaments, Viktor Axelsen of Denmark, in the first round. Srikanth trails Axelsen 3-9 in the head-to-head and the Indian will have to raise his game by several notches to get past the current World and Olympic champion.

Lakshya is the defending India Open men's singles champion. This was when the tournament was a Super 500 one. Now it is upgraded to a Super 750 tournament and the competition is much tougher.



HS Prannoy won his last clash with Lakshya Sen at Malaysia Open

"I'll try and defend my title. Every match in a Super 750 or Super 1000 tournament is tough. There are no easy days," Lakshya said. "It's just unfortunate that we (him and Prannoy) are always facing each other so early in big tournaments. But that's how the draw goes and I'll have to take this match like any other and not take too much pressure."

Except for Olympic silver medalist Tai Tzu Ying, the tournament will have all the top players of the world in full attendance.

In the women's singles, India's challenge will be led by double Olympic medalist PV Sindhu, who will face Supanida Katethong of Thailand. Saina Nehwal will try to shrug off her Malaysia Open rustiness in her opening round encounter against Mia Blichfeldt of Denmark. Saina had crashed out in the opening round at Malaysia Open.

Interestingly, if Saina and Sindhu win their first two rounds, they'll clash against each other in the quarterfinals. The Sindhu vs Saina encounter, however, is unlikely as Saina will most probably face world No. 2 Chen Yu Fei of China, if she wins her first round.

Conceding too many PCs a worry for India



WINGSIDE VIEW
ZAFAR IQBAL

Defender Surender Kumar's penalty corner save just 19 seconds ahead of the hooter ensured that India were able to split points with England in the preliminary league encounter of the FIH Odisha Men's World Cup at Rourkela. It was a fine show by the defenders that kept alive India's challenge after withstanding waves of rival attacks that tested the home team's resolve.

Before the final-minute penalty corner, England's flickers were frustrated by fine runs from Manpreet Singh and Amit Rohidas that saw the Indian defenders rush out to block the penalty corner shots and did not require much work by their goalkeepers. That was an inspiring performance from an encounter where the Indian strikers were also confronted by a solid defence at the other end of the pitch.

Inspiration for the Indian strikers should come from the manner in which they dominated the third quarter, but discovered England's young goalkeeper Oliver Payne to be a resolute defender. Payne's sterling performance earned him the player of the match award. He was also the reason India could not earn full points from a game which could have taken India to the top of the group standing.

Conceding so many penalty corners ought to be worrying the Indian team management. The choice of shot selection inside the striking circle is also something the Indian players need to look into when they review the England match.



Ferreiro's Wonder Goal Not Enough To Give Argentina A Win

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Bhubaneswar: Martin Ferreiro scored one of the best goals of the tournament but still couldn't take Argentina past Australia in their Group A game which ended 3-3 at Kalinga Stadium here on Monday.

After collecting the ball at the edge of the D, he spun around with a defender on his back, took the ball away from him and on the dive played it through the legs of another defender into the net. That put Argentina 3-2 up in the 49th minute.

It was all Australia after that, but Argentina absorbed all the pressure, and it seemed the South Americans would walk away with a win.

But it wasn't to be as Blake Govers had something else on his mind.



Australia's Jake Harvie is surrounded by Argentina players during the match

With just two minutes left, Govers, playing his first match of the tournament, blocked an aerial shot off Facundo Zarate just outside Argentina's D, took the ball down, entered

the D diagonally and slammed it into the net past the Argentine goalkeeper to make it 3-3.

It was frustrating for the Argentines. The force with which

their coach Mariano Ronconi slammed his headset down during the press conference, showed how upset he was with the result.

The result helped Australia stay on top of the table while Argentina remained in the second spot.

Earlier, Jeremy Hayward continued from where he had left off in the match against France and put Australia in the lead when he scored from their first penalty corner in the 10th minute.

In another match in Bhubaneswar, Victor Charlet converted two penalty corners to help France beat South Africa 2-1 and avenge their Nations Cup defeat.

The French captain opened the scoring in the 8th minute, but Connor Beauchamp equalized through a PC after South Africa won a referral even though the hooter had gone off for the first quarter.

Netherlands, Malaysia win

In the Pool C matches in Rourkela, three-time champions Netherlands thrashed New Zealand 4-0, while Malaysia eked out a 3-2 win over Chile. Brinkman Thierry scored two field goals in the opening quarter while Bijen Koen and Hoedemakers Tjep added two more goals to help Netherlands inch closer to a quarterfinals spot.

Earlier, Rahim Razie, Hamsani Ashran and Sumantri Norsyafiq scored for Malaysia, while Amoroso Juan and Rodriguez Martin registered their names on the scoring sheet for Chile. "We are happy with the win. It wasn't the perfect game, we could have played much better. But it's three points and that was what we needed today," Malaysia captain Marhan Jallil said.

Having won both their games, Netherlands lead Pool C with six points. New Zealand and Malaysia are second and third respectively with Chile in fourth place. AGENCIES

Dohmen shuns illness woes as Belgium take on Germany

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Bhubaneswar: In 2018, when Belgium lifted the Hockey World Cup in Bhubaneswar, John-Dohmen was fighting for his life at a hospital in Bangkok. First thought to be bronchitis, it was in fact a case of eosinophilic pneumonia and one of the best defenders in the world had to leave after two matches and could only watch on from the hospital bed as his team lifted their first major trophy.



Cut to 2023, Dohmen — playing his third World Cup — missed Belgium's first match against South Korea because of a bout of flu and he couldn't have been more frustrated. "To play here after 2018 is a bitter revenge. I really want to play. That's why I was very disappointed on Saturday to be sick. It's not the same but I want to get my revenge," said Dohmen, who is confident of playing the next game against Germany on Tuesday.

What happened in 2018, however, is not something he can still forget. "I had to take strong medication that was hard for the body. It took nearly six months to come back and it was hard. I almost couldn't run normally and it was very difficult," said Dohmen.

"But I worked a lot and stayed patient. Then I came back just in time for the European Championship in 2019 and we won. It was very important for my confidence and I could prove to myself that I can still play well and win something."

Not only the Euros, Dohmen then went on to win the Olympics as well as the second edition of the FIH Pro League.

He recently also went past Barry Middleton's record of 432 caps and is currently on 436 and has his eyes on Dutch legend Teun De Nooijer's world record of 453 caps. Asked what's after that, the Belgian said, "It will be good if I get there and after that, I will see if I can have more."

England saviour Payne played his first match for a women's team!

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Rourkela: As a 13-year-old rookie, Oliver Payne's first competitive match was for the Dart Hockey club's women's team. A mixed community club, the Dart outfit is based out of Totnes, a quaint town known as much for its cultural heritage as for its monuments, around 350 km from London. Oliver was asked to fill in for the goalkeeper by his mother Suzanne, a member of the squad. A decade on, the 23-year-old is the mainstay goalkeeper of the England team, having replaced the seasoned George Pinne and Harry Gibson. Payne, who was named the goalkeeper of the tournament at the Sultan Johor Cup in 2019, came to the forefront in July 2020 and has since been England's go-to custodian. The youngster showed nerves of steel and heart of a lion in the goalless draw against India here on Sunday night. He denied India a win with a series of blockbuster saves.

Talk about Dart HC and Payne's face lights up. "It is where it all began," he said. "That women's match I played taught me so much. From positioning, to covering angles and

I had never played in front of such a large crowd. So, I told myself, it was important to enjoy the moment and I did that. Also, I'm usually loud and keep shouting out to the team, but the crowd silenced me today. There was no way my teammates could have heard me above the din."

— Oliver Payne

competitive spirit," he told TOI.

The spectator count at the Bisra Munda hockey stadium was a staggering 21,800, complete with foot-tapping Bollywood music, Mexican waves and ear-splitting support for India. Yet, none of it played on Payne's nerves. "For me, it was more about excitement. I had never played in front of such a large crowd. So, I told myself, it was important to enjoy the moment and I did that. Also, I'm usually loud and keep shouting out to the team, but the crowd silenced me today. There was no way my teammates could have heard me above the din," pointed out the product of Durham University.

Before the match, to stay in a positive and happy state of mind,

Payne listened to popular British rapper Dave's songs.

Payne was under the bar when India and England played out a 4-all draw in the league stage of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games last year. Asked if that weighed on his mind, the young Olympian said, "Once lessons are learnt from a match, I don't look back. I only look ahead."

Under coach Paul Revington, England played an aggressive brand of hockey and Payne added that the Three Lions Outfit, want to make the most of the opportunity.

"For many of us in the team, this is the first World Cup. We want to return with experiences, memories and of course the Trophy," signed off the youngster, who is fast emerging as one of the best in business.

Hardik unlikely for Wales match

In a huge blow to the Indian camp, attacking midfielder Hardik Singh, who picked up a hamstring injury against England on Sunday, is unlikely to feature in the last league engagement against Wales on Thursday. Hardik, who arrived in Bhubaneswar with the team on Monday, underwent a scan.

WILL REVIVE HOCKEY CULTURE IN REGIONS WHERE THERE HAS BEEN A DECLINE: TIRKEY

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Rourkela: Dilip Tirkey, the president of Hockey India, is a proud man as Sundargarh district, where he hails from, is hosting its maiden World Cup, a moment he hadn't imagined. The former ace defender spoke to TOI on the World Cup, hockey beyond Odisha and more. Excerpts:

Odisha has hosted two consecutive World Cups, what has the journey been like?

As a regular in the Indian camp, when I came to Bhubaneswar during breaks there was no ground for practice. So, I would just train or do fitness routines during my visits. In 2003, I got an opportunity to sit next to the chief minister during a youth program. I used that opportunity to tell him that an artificial turf in Bhubaneswar would be of great help. He thought about it for two minutes and told me to give a written proposal. My thinking wasn't big, I was looking at a ground for us to train, but clearly his vision was different. He said it should be one of the best stadiums in the country. And here we are 20 years later, with world-class facilities. Growing up, did you think Rourkela could host a World Cup?

I never thought that such an infrastructure could come up in Rourkela. A world-class stadium with 20,000+ capacity, five-star accommodation for the



players and an airport nearby. I never dreamt that the city would host a World Cup. Given the craze of people here for hockey, I guess God just answered their prayers. This has been made possible because of the support of our chief minister Naveen Patnaik. I'm proud to say that the two best stadiums in the country are in Odisha.

In a city like Rourkela, with limited connectivity, how sustainable will such infrastructure be?

The Kalinga stadium in Bhubaneswar is an example. It has been in existence for a few years and has been utilised well. Apart from premier events, the facility has hosted national camps, friendly matches and tournaments at all levels. In Rourkela too, we intend to replicate the module. Our plans include national camps for all age groups. Also, the Bisra Munda stadium here will host the Pro League next month. We will ensure the stadium is not underutilised.

Beyond Odisha, what are the plans for places like Karnataka, Mumbai and Tamil Nadu, where there has been a decline in hockey?

The current state of these places is very sad. More so because they are the land of legends. We will work towards reviving hockey culture in regions where there has been a decline. At Hockey India, we are planning to visit state associations and will ask them to put together definitive programmes from the grassroots level. If required we will go to the chief ministers / sports ministers and seek their assistance.

NADAL SURVIVES JACKHAMMER

Takes Young Briton Draper In His Stride; Injured Djokovic Hits Practice Court



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Jack Draper stands at a strapping 6 ft 4 inches in his tennis shoes but walking out on a packed Rod Laver Arena he appeared almost microscopic.

Rafael Nadal followed the Briton onto the middle, at once dwarfing the storied facility. Maybe it was the roar that accompanied the Spaniard's entry, or the little dance he did, shuffling from side to side, as he shrugged off his jacket and pulled out his racket. Maybe it was the five hours and 24 minutes he was on court 12 months ago, struggling, straining, but never giving in to clinch a historic second Australian Open title. Maybe it was his stature crowned by that indefatigable spirit but suffice to say that at almost 37 years of age, Nadal towers over it all. Brick and mortar included.

Nadal, who had lost both matches he had played this year, in the United Cup, and taking it further back to November, he had just one victory in six hard court matches, was playing himself back into form as much as he was taking on the 21-year-old from Sutton in the battle of left-handers.

The veteran warrior came through 7-5, 2-6, 6-4, 6-1 against the debutant in three hours and 41 minutes. When Draper reflects on this first-round match, he'll understand that it was a lesson in every sense of the word. Nadal used the lines, varied length, angles and spin, he drilled on one flank and passed on the other. An ageing magician with a bottomless bag of tricks.

Late in the opening set, when the two were going toe to toe, Draper brought Nadal into the net and attempted to pass the top seed on his backhand side, but Nadal was all over the net, knocking back a volley winner and then turning to the crowd. Draper, who was struggling with cramps, was attended to by trainers at the change of ends, but he did well to comeback, breaking the defending champion in the opening game of the fourth set. Nadal responded by running away with the next six games.

"I needed a victory, that's the main thing. Doesn't matter the way (I won), the most important thing today is a victory against a tough opponent. To win against Jack, one of the toughest first rounds possible being seeded," Nadal underlined the performance against the world No. 38. "To win against Jack I need to do things well, no? I think I did things well. So, satisfied with the victory because that gives me the chance to play again."

Next up for the 22-time Grand Slam champion is American Mackenzie McDonald. Meanwhile, about the time Nadal was walking off the court, news that Novak Djokovic, who is scheduled to play late on Tuesday, had called off his practice session echoed across the grounds. The Serb, a nine-time champion here, is struggling with a hamstring injury, and has been given maximum time to recover as he plays Spaniard Roberto Carballes Baena in the second night match on Rod Laver Arena.

Later in the evening, Djokovic, with a heavily strapped left leg, hit the practice court.

Women's singles: 1-Iga Swiatek (POL) bt Jule Niemeier (GER) 6-4, 7-5; 3-Jessica Pegula (USA) bt Jacqueline Cristian (ROM) 6-0, 6-1; 6-Maria Sakkari (GRE) bt Yuan Yue (CHN) 6-1, 6-4; 7-Coco Gauff (USA) bt Katerina Siniakova (CZE) 6-1, 6-4; 10-Madison Keys (USA) bt Anna Blinkova (RUS) 6-4, 3-6, 6-2; 15-Petra Kvitova (CZE) bt Alison Van Uytvanck (BEL) 7-6 (7/3), 6-2; 17-Jelena Ostapenko (LAT) bt Dayana Yastremska (UKR) 6-4, 6-2; Bianca Andreescu (CAN) bt 25-Marie Bouzkova (CZE) 6-2, 6-4; Emma Raducanu (GBR) bt Tamara Korpatsch (GER) 6-3, 6-2; 22-Elena Rybakina (KAZ) bt Elisabetta Cocciaretto (ITA) 7-5, 6-3; 24-Victoria Azarenka (BLR) bt Sofia Kenin (USA) 6-4, 7-6 (7/3).



Defending champion Rafael Nadal came through a tough four-set battle against 21-year-old Jack Draper in the first round on Monday

Yuki gets second wind in doubles

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Melbourne: It was 14 years ago that Yuki Bhambri won the boys title at the Australian Open, he then went on to claim the world No. 1 ranking. It was a perfect summer. This year at Melbourne Park, his body bruised, and his spirit suitably stung, he made the switch from singles to the less-punishing format of doubles. But he's still gunning for Grand Slam glory.

The 30-year-old will feature alongside Saketh Myneni in the two-man act at Melbourne Park. The all-Indian pairing, wildcard entrants, will take on 14th seeds German Andreas Mies and Aussie John Peers in the first round later in the week.

Bhambri, who was in and out of the sport for almost four years between 2018 and 2021, courtesy tendonitis of the knees, didn't have much of a choice in crossing over. "I either had to be a part-time singles player, play some and be out for six-seven months or

play doubles, where the load is a lot less than in singles and have a longer career," he said. "For me, it was about moving forward."

"When you win a junior Grand Slam, you're thinking that you want to one day win the senior Slam," he said.

"You are world No.1 in the juniors and you want to be world No. 1 in the men's as well. As the years go by, you see that there are loads of players who haven't won Slams, competing in the era of Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic... The dream sort of goes from winning Slams to maybe top-10 to top-50 to top-100..."

"I did the best I could, I did justice to what I knew," Bhambri said. "I left no stone unturned in trying to improve my tennis career."

Bhambri and Myneni, who go by the moniker 'YukiSaki', are coming into the Australian Open after winning their sixth Challenger title in Nonthaburi, Thailand, on Sunday.



YUKI BHAMBRI

KYRGIOS WITHDRAWS DUE TO KNEE INJURY

Nick Kyrgios withdrew from the Australian Open with a knee issue. "Obviously this is bad timing, but that's life. I guess I can draw some inspiration from someone like Thanasi Kokkinakis who has had a bunch of injuries and has bounced back," said

Kyrgios. "I'm devastated. It's my home tournament."

An MRI revealed a lateral meniscus cyst growing in the left meniscus, the result of a small tear in his lateral meniscus. Kyrgios will undergo an arthroscopic procedure. TNN

Gavi-inspired Barca outclass Real 3-1 to clinch Super Cup

Riyadh: Barcelona's young players, leading by teenage sensation Gavi, were at the heart of the club's first trophy for nearly two years as they thumped rivals Real Madrid in the Spanish Super Cup.

FOOTBALL WRAP

Gavi, 18, scored and fashioned two more in their 3-1 victory on Sunday, including one for 20-year-old Pedri, while defender Ronald Araujo shackled Vinicius Junior and Alejandro Balde excelled on the other flank.

"A new era has started," yelled an ecstatic Araujo as he ran back to the dressing room with his medal. The ushering in of a new start for Barcelona is the club's fervent hope, after they lifted their first trophy in the 21st century without Lionel Messi being part of the squad. They signed Robert Lewandowski, who also netted against Madrid in the Super Cup triumph in Saudi Arabia, as well as Jules Kounde and Raphinha among others.



Gavi celebrates Barcelona's second goal against Real Madrid

Xavi has been working on reshaping a club which president Joan Laporta said was "almost dead" when he took over. There is a young core to Xavi's team, with Gavi and Pedri key to the reshaped midfield, while Araujo and Kounde are in their early 20s.

Spectator aims kick at Arsenal goalkeeper

A spectator climbed onto an advertising board and appeared to kick Arsenal goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale after

the team's 2-0 win over Tottenham in the Premier League. The incident took place moments after the final whistle at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium as Ramsdale went to pick up his water bottle from behind one of the goals. Ramsdale didn't seem hurt and was dragged away from the area by teammates. Interviewed after the game, Tottenham defender Eric Dier said of the incident: "It's unacceptable and shouldn't have happened."

Five in Indonesia go on trial over stadium disaster

Five Indonesian men charged with negligence leading to one of the worst stadium disasters in football history appeared in court by video link on Monday as their trial began. The stampede in October in the East Java city of Malang — which killed 135 people, including more than 40 children — came after police fired tear gas into packed stands when supporters invaded the pitch at the end of a match between rivals Arema FC and Persebaya Surabaya. AGENCIES

Pandey picks five in big Mahindra win

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Slow-left arm bowler Abhishek Pandey scalped a fifer while medium pacer Parth Rai picked four as Mahindra Logistics beat IPCA Sports Club by nine wickets in the The Times Cricket Shield 2022-2023 D Division semifinal.

Brief scores
IPCA Sports Club 52 in 21.5 overs (Mithilesh Nachare 12, Anley Mayekar 14*; Parth Rai 4-23, Abhishek Pandey 5-8) lost to Mahindra Logistics Ltd. 53/1 in 41 overs (Kushal Dawane 18*, Sarvesh Shiralkar 23, Ishaan Amin 10*) by 9 wks.
Chowgle Sports Club 79 in 23.5 overs (Pratham More 19, Kuldeep Yadav 25*, Samad Fallah 4-24, Amit Gavande 3-31, Umar Khan 2-10) lost to Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd- B84/1 wks in 13.5 overs (Soham Panwalkar 42*, Aditya Rajhans 35) by 9 wks.

Divyansh slams 250 for Mumbai Under-25

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Talented left-hander Divyansh Saxena slammed 250 (38lb, 29x4, 2x6) to put Mumbai in a strong position on Day Two of the CK

CITY SPORT

Nayudu Trophy (for Under-25) match against Saurashtra at the DY Patil Sports Academy in Navi Mumbai.

Vaibhav Kalamkar too chipped in with 74, as Mumbai put up 543 on board. In reply, Saurashtra were 89 for 5, as Mumbai's leg-spinner Khizar Dafedar took 2 for 13.

Brief Scores: Mumbai 543 (Divyansh Saxena 250, Vaibhav Kalamkar 74, Atharva Ankolekar 33; Ankur Panwar 6-97, Neel Pandya 3-119) vs Saurashtra 89-5 (Vishvarajsinh Jadeja 31; Khizar Dafedar 2-13).

Rutav gets top billing

Maharashtra's Rutva Samant has been given pride of place in the Boys Under-19 age category in the 4Star Willington JSW Junior Open Squash Tournament, which will be played from January 19 to 22, 2023.

In excess of 300 leading squash players, representing 13 States, will feature in this event, being promoted by SportsXL, under the aegis of SRFI and MSRA.

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