

DU-ST STEPHEN'S ROW

New teachers added to exam roster despite HC stay

NEW DELHI

AS the tussle between DU and St Stephen's College intensifies, with disagreements continuing on several administrative fronts, a fresh examination invigilation roster includes newly recruited teachers despite a university probe and a stay order on the recruitment process, an official said.

A Delhi High Court order dated May 13 directed the college to halt recruitment pursuant to the recommendations of the selection committee after four assistant professors of St Stephen's College approached the court seeking regularisation of their services at the college, where they have been working on an ad-hoc or guest basis since 2018-2021.

"Having regard to the aforesaid circumstances, this Court is of the view that the Petitioners have made out a prima facie case for grant of interim protection. Accordingly, it is directed that the services of the Petitioners with Respondent College shall not be discontinued till the next date of hearing. It is further directed that the



report/recommendations of the Selection Committee pursuant to Advertisement No. SSC/04(4)/TS/2025 (for recruitment) shall not be implemented without leave of this Court," the order mentioned.

The four college professors also sought consequential reliefs, including regularisation from their initial dates of appointment, continuity of service, pay fixation, seniority and other benefits available to regular employees, besides interim protection against termination or displacement during the pendency of the case.

On Saturday, a college official told PTI on condition of anonymity, "A fresh examination roster was sent to professors on Friday.

The roster included the names of some newly recruited teachers as well."

"While a previous roster issued on May 15 also had new names, this subsequent roster has several additional names.

The appointment letters were sent out on May 11 but following the court order, there is some ambiguity regarding the teachers joining," the official added.

The examination roster for May 28-31, as seen by PTI, has been signed by the superintendent, superintendent of examinations and deputy superintendent of examinations on Thursday, along with John Varghese, whose signature continues to appear as principal of the college. Meanwhile, the website of St Stephen's College now lists Varghese as a faculty member in the English department, while the principal's page remains blank.

Rekha gupta inspects air pollution mitigation devices



NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday inspected some of the newly installed air pollution mitigation devices in parts of the city under the government's 'Innovation Challenge'.

Gupta, along with Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa, inspected pole-mounted dust catchers installed near the Kirti Nagar industrial area and central verge air purifiers set up at the Kirti Nagar fire station.

Last year in October, Sirsa launched the challenge for pollution reduction solutions, inviting individuals, startups, and research institutions to submit ideas aimed at reducing particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10) emissions. During the inspection, Sirsa explained that dust

keeps getting collected in the device, and after about 15-20 days, the backend technology alerts authorities once the units are full. "The device can collect dust from a radius of 400 square metres," he said. Explaining to Gupta, Sirsa further pointed out that the device would be enclosed within an iron frame for protection. The devices inspected on Saturday are among the 22 shortlisted innovations currently undergoing trials in the next phase of the government's innovation challenge to assess their effectiveness.

"Around 15-16 such pilot projects have been installed in parts of Delhi. Our aim is that if we find any such innovations and technology that can help clean Delhi's air, then we will keep working on them," Sirsa said.

Showroom gutted in northwest Delhi fire

NEW DELHI: A major fire broke out at a showroom in Kingsway Camp Market on Saturday morning, and large quantities of stock were gutted, causing substantial financial losses, police said. Police received a PCR call regarding the blaze at the Bata showroom in Mukherji Nagar around 6:52 am in northwest Delhi. Soon after receiving the information, police rushed to the scene and found that the fire initially erupted on the showroom's ground floor. Police said the flames quickly spread to the first and second floors because the shop's shutter could not be broken open immediately, delaying fire-fighting efforts initially.

Officials said the shop housed a huge stock of shoes packed in paper boxes, which intensified the fire and made the operation more challenging. The fire caused heavy financial losses to the showroom due to damage to stock and property, police said. "Dense smoke engulfed the market area during the operation, drawing a large crowd and shopkeepers, police said.

Police cordoned off the area and ensured no one entered the affected premises during the fire-fighting.

One of the biggest drug hauls at IGI
Hydroponic weed worth Rs 48 cr seized

NEW DELHI

IN one of the biggest narcotics seizures at IGI Airport in recent times, Customs officials have seized suspected hydroponic weed worth around Rs 48 crore from two Thai nationals who arrived from Bangkok, officials said on Saturday.

Delhi Airport Customs Commissioner Arvind Saran told PTI that the seizure was perhaps among the largest narcotics recoveries made at any international airport in the country in recent years. "Customs officials at

TWO THAI NATIONALS ARRESTED



the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport are maintaining strict round-the-clock vigil to check attempts to smuggle drugs and other prohibited

items," Saran said.

Concerted efforts were also being made to curb gold smuggling, he said. Hydroponic weed is a high-potency form of cannabis

cultivated in nutrient-rich water instead of soil.

According to an official statement, the two passengers landed in Delhi on May 22 and were intercepted after crossing the Green Channel at the airport.

"Acting on specific profiling inputs and suspicious travel indicators, Customs officers subjected the baggage of both passengers to detailed examination," the statement said.

During a physical examination of the baggage, officials recovered six vacuum-sealed packets suspected to contain hydroponic weed. Of the total seizure, four

packets weighing around 29 kg were recovered from one passenger, while two packets weighing around 19 kg were recovered from the second passenger, officials said.

"The total quantity of the suspected narcotic substance recovered in the case was approximately 47.805 kilograms (net weight)," the statement said.

According to Customs officials, the seized contraband has an estimated market value of around Rs 48 crore. "This is one of the highest seizures in recent times at IGI airport, Delhi," they said.

Tribal congregation at Red Fort
Traffic curbs, diversions in central, north Delhi today

NEW DELHI: Delhi Traffic Police on Saturday issued a revised advisory ahead of the 'Janjati Saanskriti Samagam' at the Red Fort on Sunday, warning of major traffic restrictions and diversions across central and north Delhi as nearly one lakh people are likely to attend the event.

The event organised by Janjati Jaagriti Samiti will include multiple 'Shobha Yatras' beginning from Shyamgiri Mandir, Ramlila Maidan, Rajghat, Quesia Park and Ajmeri Gate before converging at the Red Fort, the advisory said.

Movement of large processions and gathering of participants on May 24 are likely to affect vehicular traffic in several areas and commuters have been advised to avoid non-essential travel on affected routes, the police said.

Traffic restrictions will remain in place on key stretches, including GT Karnal



Road, Boulevard Road, Sham Nath Marg, Lothian Road, Netaji Subhash Marg, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Asaf Ali Road, Nishad Raj Marg and several adjoining roads at different time slots from noon onwards. According to the advisory, traffic movement on Netaji Subhash Marg from Delhi Gate Chowk to Chhatta Rail at both carriageways will remain closed from 12 pm till 3 am. Restrictions will also remain in force on Nishad Raj Marg till 3 am.

Traffic movement is also likely to be affected on Rajpura Road, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Marg, Ring Road near Salimgarh bypass, ITO, BSZ Marg, DDU Marg, Minto Road, Chawri Bazar and Desh Bandhu Gupta Road.

MCD cancels Nehru Hill Park allotment for Eid

NEW DELHI: Amid the allegations of operating illegal selling of goats in Nehru Hill Park near Ramlila Maidan, the MCD on Saturday cancelled the permission to use the site allotted for Eid celebrations, an official order said. The move comes days after the civic body's horticulture department had complained to Delhi police on May 12 and May 14 about the alleged illegal use of the park for buying and selling of goats.

In an official order issued on Saturday, the assistant director (Horticulture), City-SP Zone, said permission granted to a residents' welfare association representative for use of the park from May 21 to May 27 stood "withdrawn/cancelled with immediate effect."

The official order stated that "activities" were being carried out at the site in violation of the conditions of the permission granted.

"You are directed to vacate the site forthwith and remove all related activities/ material from the premises



immediately," the order said, while seeking assistance from the IP Estate police station to ensure compliance.

The permission had reportedly been granted after payment of around Rs 1.07 lakh, Delhi BJP alleged.

According to the statement by the party, the issue has triggered protests from some local residents and BJP office bearers, who alleged that the allotment was being used to legitimise an illegal goat market at the public park located in the mixed-population locality around Mata Sundari Road and Minto Road.

A delegation led by Delhi BJP office bearer Amit

Gupta met Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and demanded cancellation of the allotment, the statement read.

"There is no mention anywhere in the receipt about permission for a goat market. This is clearly a case of intimidating municipal officials and obtaining a receipt to legitimise an illegal activity," Amit Gupta alleged in a statement.

He also claimed that no such goat market had been held at the park in the past several decades and questioned the allotment of a public park when the Delhi government had already stated that slaughtering of goats would not be allowed at public places.

3 HELD FOR SELLING FAKE 'BRANDED' AUTO SPARES

NEW DELHI

DELHI: Police has busted an alleged counterfeit auto parts racket and arrested three men for allegedly selling fake switches bearing the name of an auto component manufacturing brand, an official said on Saturday.

During raids at three shops in Karol Bagh, police recovered 10,650 allegedly counterfeit switches that were imported and sold as genuine UNO Minda products, police said in a statement.

According to police, the accused allegedly procured cheap foreign-made on/off switches and illegally engraved them with the trademarks of the reputed brand before selling them in the market for profit.

The accused have been identified as Rajesh Malhotra, Som Bhutani and Ka-



mal Raswant, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said. Police said the action was carried out following specific inputs regarding the sale of fake branded products in Karol Bagh. Acting on the information, police along with authorised legal representatives of UNO Minda, conducted raids at three wholesale establishments in the area on May 19, the officer added. During the operation, police recovered

8,500 allegedly counterfeit switches from one shop, 650 from another and 1,500 from the third store, Yadav said. A case has been registered under relevant sections of the BNS and the Copyright Act at the Crime Branch police station. Police said the three accused had been involved in wholesale trading of auto parts for nearly 15 to 20 years and allegedly turned to the counterfeit business due to higher profit margins associated with branded products.

Govindpuri double murder case
Accused held after encounter with police

NEW DELHI: The main accused in the double murder of a woman and her teenage son in southeast Delhi's Govindpuri was arrested after a brief encounter with police, officials said on Saturday.

The accused, Saurabh, a distant relative of the deceased, sustained a bullet injury in his leg during retaliatory firing by police after he allegedly ignited fire at the police team in the Govindpuri area late Friday night, they said.

According to police, Saurabh was wanted in connection with the murder of Sharda Sahu (38) and her 13-year-old son. The two were stabbed to death inside their house in Govindpuri in the early hours of Thursday. Based on a tip-off, the accused was traced to the Ghati Park area, where he was consuming smack. Po-



lice reached the spot and attempted to surround him. The accused was repeatedly asked to surrender, but he fired four rounds at the police team in an attempt to escape, police said.

The police team retaliated in self-defence and a bullet struck Saurabh in the leg. He was subsequently overpowered and taken into custody before being shifted to a hospital for treatment, they said. No police personnel were injured in the exchange of fire.

The arrest comes a day after the investigators identified Saurabh through CCTV footage.

Let's ensure a Cong victory to make Rahul Gandhi as PM: Jagga Reddy

- We must ensure Cong wins over 300 of 543 Lok Sabha seats in next polls
- Rahul Gandhi's slogan, "Samvidhan Bachao" is of pivotal importance
- Indira Gandhi nationalized the banks, benefiting common people
- Rajiv Gandhi sowed seeds of IT revolution, lowered voting age to 18
- Cockroach Janata Party should highlight achievements of Cong era
- It should expose failures of Modi govt in last 12 years
- Says TPCC working president T Jagga Reddy

HANS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA: Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) working president T Jagga Reddy on Saturday made a strong pitch for the Congress party's return to power at the national level, stat-

ing that the party must secure a decisive majority in the next Lok Sabha elections to see Rahul Gandhi as the Prime Minister of India. Addressing the media at Gandhi Bhavan, Jagga Reddy said the Congress should aim to win more than 300 of the 543 parliamentary seats, and, if delimitation expands the number of constituencies, should target over 500 of the projected 850 seats.

Referring to a "Cockroach Janata Party" in his remarks, he urged the online group to use social media platforms to highlight what he described as the contrast between development during the Congress era and the present Modi government.

He said the intent behind the so-called "Cockroach movement" remained unclear and suggested that Rahul Gandhi should extend support to it, adding that clarity on the issue should come from the party's top leadership.

Jagga Reddy described Rahul Gandhi's "Samvidhan Bachao" (Save the Constitution) campaign as "critical," saying the Constitution drafted by Dr BR Ambedkar acts as a protective framework for citizens, similar to the "Kavacha Kundalas" of Karna in the Mahabharata.

He said protecting constitutional values was central to the Congress party's ideology and to Rahul Gandhi's political message.

The TPCC leader credited earlier Congress governments with shaping India's modern development. He said Indira Gandhi nationalized banks to expand financial access, while Rajiv Gandhi laid the foundation for the Information Technology revolution and lowered the voting age to 18.

He also cited welfare initiatives under the Congress-led UPA government headed by Dr Manmohan Singh and Congress president Sonia Gandhi,

including the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), which he said ensured employment security for rural households. Jagga Reddy accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of misusing institutions and questioned the fairness of democratic processes, referring to the Election Commission while alleging erosion of electoral integrity.

He also accused the BJP of using religion in politics and failing to fulfill major promises, including large-scale job creation.

Jagga Reddy further cited rising national debt levels, claiming that public debt had increased significantly since 2014 and arguing that governance standards had declined under the present government. Calling for strong electoral support for Congress, Jagga Reddy said a decisive mandate would help address issues such as Special Category Status

and key infrastructure projects like Polavaram to Andhra Pradesh.

He urged voters to exercise their franchise carefully and support what he described as constitutional and inclusive governance.

Jagga Reddy said he personally participates in religious traditions such as 'Sita Rama Kalyanam' but does not seek votes in the name of religion. He accused political opponents of misusing religious symbolism for electoral gain.

Reiterating his position, he said Rahul Gandhi should lead the country as Prime Minister and described the Congress party as a collective movement rather than a leader-centric organization.

He added that the outcome of the next general elections would determine whether India continues on its current path or returns to what he called constitutional governance under the Congress party.

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