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PAK SKIPPER SARFRAZ AHMED RACIALLY ABUSES SA PACER PHEHLUKWAYO 26

SERENA SQUANDERS FOUR MATCH POINTS, LOSES TO PLISKOVA IN OZ OPEN QF 26



Goyal gets temporary charge of finmin, may present Budget

Arun Jaitley Will Remain Minister Without Portfolio

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In a clear indication that finance minister Arun Jaitley, on medical leave in the US, will not present the Modi government's last Budget on February 1, railway and coal minister Piyush Goyal was given temporary charge of the ministry on Wednesday. Jaitley will remain a minister without portfolio during his indisposition, a government statement said on Wednesday. He left for the US a week ago for a medical check-up.

"The President of India, as advised by the Prime Minister, hereby directed that during the period of indisposition of Shri Arun Jaitley, minister; the portfolios of minister of fi-

WHAT HE DID IN HIS PREVIOUS STINT AS FINANCE MINISTER

- Chaired the GST Council meeting where **rates were cut on over 80 items** such as washing machines, sanitary pads
- **Ordinance** promulgated to give homebuyers in insolvency-hit real estate projects same rights as banks in deciding resolution plan
- **LIC's acquisition** of majority stake in IDBI Bank

cleared during his stint in North Block

- Initiated steps for better **coordination between banks** on lending; backed new model for loan restructuring under 'Project Sashakt'



nance and minister of corporate affairs held by him, be temporarily assigned to Shri Piyush Goyal, in addition to his existing portfolios," a statement from the President's office said late on Wednesday.

Goyal had previously held the finance portfolio when Jaitley was recovering from a

medical procedure for a kidney transplant.

It also said that, as advised by the PM, Jaitley will be designated minister without portfolio during the period of his indisposition or till such time he is able to resume his work as minister for finance and minister for corporate af-

Jaitley undergoes op in US, advised rest

Union minister Arun Jaitley underwent surgery at a hospital in New York on Tuesday, sources said. He has been advised at least two weeks' rest by doctors, they added. Jaitley, who had unexpectedly left for the US on January 13, has undergone a series of medical tests, sources said. Even during this time, he has been active on social media, writing Facebook posts and tweeting about current issues. PTI

fairs. The Modi government is expected to unveil plans to tackle farm distress as well as sops for the middle class and small and medium enterprises in the interim budget, which could go beyond a mere vote on account.

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Lokur: Judge picks should've been notified

Former SC judge Madan B Lokur (in pic) expressed disappointment over the CJI not notifying the December 12 decision of the collegium recommending two HC judges for elevation to the SC and uploading it on the website, reports **Amit Anand Choudhary**.

Justice Lokur was part of the collegium which was learned to have okayed the names of Justices Pradeep Nandrajog and Rajendra Menon for elevation but they were not sent to the Centre.

"There is no standard operating procedure but once resolution was passed, it should be put on the website. It does disappoint me. I am disappointed as it was not uploaded," he said. After his retirement, the names of Karnataka HC CJ Dinesh Maheshwari and Delhi HC Judge Sanjiv Khanna were recommended. P 11

CBI books AI ex-CMD, 4 others for violating norms for promotion

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The CBI has filed a case against former Air India chairman-cum-managing director Arvind Jadhav for allegedly violating procedures while deciding on various promotions and appointments.

Along with Jadhav, the CBI has also named then executive director (personnel) L P Nakhwa (now retired) and former additional general managers (operations) A Kathpalia, Amitabh Singh and Rohit Bhasin in its FIR registered under IPC sections related to criminal conspiracy and under provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The agency has alleged that Jadhav had constituted a panel in 2010 to promote officers to the rank of GM (operations) in violation of laid-down procedures. The three-member panel included then chief operating officer Gustav Baldauf, then executive director

THE CHARGES

- Jadhav constituted a panel in 2010 to promote officers to GM (operations) in violation of laid-down procedures
- Regularised L P Nakhwa (earlier GM) in the post of ED (medical services) without following due procedure. Civil aviation ministry annulled appointment
- Subsequently, Nakhwa wasn't eligible to be member of promotion panel, but Jadhav nominated her

(operations) A S Soman and former executive director (personnel) L P Nakhwa, it said.

Nakhwa, who was general manager (medical services), was given the rank of executive director (medical services) after the post was upgraded as a temporary measure till August 31, 2009.

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6 Indian sailors killed, 6 missing in ship accident

Moscow/New Delhi: At least six Indian sailors were killed and an equal number of them were missing after two fuel ships carrying Indian and Turkish crew members caught fire in the Kerch Strait, where the blaze was still raging following the accident on Monday, officials said on Wednesday.

Russian authorities on Wednesday resumed the search for 10 missing sailors, including four Indians, in the Kerch Strait which separates Russia from Crimea. One of the ships, the Candy, had a 17-member crew — nine Turkish citizens and eight Indian nationals. The other one, the Maestro, had a 15-member crew comprising seven Turkish nationals, seven Indians and an intern from Libya. "We regret to inform there have been casualties among Indian seamen working on these ships," the MEA said. PTI

► Continued on P 14

Traffic crippled as Delhi-Ggn e-way caves in

A part of the Delhi-Gurgaon expressway near Mahipalpur collapsed into a pit dug for the construction of an underpass early on Wednesday, resulting in Gurgaon-bound traffic being stuck for hours later in the day. No one was injured.

Traffic police shut two lanes of the six-lane road to prevent a mishap. While CPWD has started working overtime to make the arterial road functional, cops expect the snarls to continue till next week. The construction of the underpass was earlier stopped by NHA after it noticed damage to the highway. P 2

► Continued on P 8

Plea in HC against 3.8% pension levy in bijli bills

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Delhi high court has converted into a PIL a letter opposing the surcharge of 3.8% added to the bills of consumers for payment of pension of the erstwhile Delhi Vidyut Board employees.

In their letter to the HC, the Federation of Resident Welfare Associations of Yamuna Vihar in northeast Delhi had complained that their discom was passing on the burden to consumers without any justification. It challenged the Delhi government's tariff order of March last year under which the surcharge was being levied, saying it had been slapped on consumers unfairly by

BSES Yamuna Pvt Ltd (BYPL) and BSES Rajdhani.

The PIL was listed on Wednesday but since the bench of Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice V K Rao didn't assemble, the matter has been listed for hearing on February 4.

Last year, DERC had hiked the surcharge from 3.7 to 3.8%. Earlier, in another petition, consumers had challenged the 3.7% surcharge in the high court. They had accused the power regulator of allowing, since 2011, the collection of Rs 3,020 crore for a government pension fund from consumers through their electricity bills without informing them.

► Continued on P 8

As crops and jobs dry up, kids in Marathwada the worst hit

Drought Induces Up To 80% Rural Migration

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"If there was no drought, my parents would still be with me. ...I would have more time to study" Pratiksha Pachpute (in foreground), a Class VIII student of Kotan zilla parishad school in Beed who wants to be an engineer

8th standard student after her parents migrated, like most farmers in her village in Beed district, to the sugarcane fac-

stories of western Maharashtra and Karnataka. They left shortly before Diwali, seasonal migrants who will cut cane there for six months.

Most huts in the village are deserted, their wooden doors bolted. Only the elderly and children have been left

WHY FARMERS ARE HURTING

behind, with a few sacks of grain and some money. "Usually, 50% of our village of 2,300 migrates. This year, it is 80%. Both crops were ruined and there is no work under the employment guarantee scheme," says Kotan sarpanch Mahesh Khengre.

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Dense fog, cold nights ahead: Met

Spells of dense to very dense fog are likely in Delhi-NCR during the rest of the week, along with a return of peak cold conditions and a possibility of light rain on Friday, the Met office warned. Officials said visibility could fall to 0-50 metres during this period, particularly on Republic Day and January 27, due to high moisture in the air after Tuesday's rain.

Night temperatures are expected to steadily drop over the next few days and may touch around 4 degrees C on Sunday — a drop of 3-4 degrees from Wednesday's minimum of 8 degrees C. Days may also get slightly colder. Air quality, meanwhile, returned to the "poor" range on Wednesday with an overall AQI of 212, after having improved to 104 on rain-hit Tuesday — the cleanest air quality recorded this year. Officials said 27.8mm of rain was recorded in the last 24 hours. P 7

3 charred to death as two cars collide

Three people were charred to death and two others were severely injured when an EcoSport collided with an Omni and caught fire on Wednesday on the Anand Vihar flyover. DCP (Shahdara) Meghna Yadav said a preliminary inquiry suggests the driver of the EcoSport travelling towards Vivek Vihar lost control, rode across the divider and rammed the Omni. P 6

Beed: Ahead of Republic Day, students of the Kotan zilla parishad school are busy preparing to write an essay on the searing drought that has engulfed their village and the state. When asked what she will say, Pratiksha Pachpute breaks down. "If there was no drought," says the 14-year-old, her face stained with tears, "my parents would still be with me."

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