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| Juveniles lock up warden, escape from reform home

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| ***New Delhi:******TIMES NEWS NETWORK*** |

﻿﻿Seven juveniles lodged at a correctional home in Alipur locked up the warden in a bathroom and escaped after scaling the wall on Monday . This incident comes less than a week after four girls climbed over the boundary walls of their shelter home.The warden later managed to free himself and informed the authorities. However, they only called up the cops after six hours on Monday night after failing to locate the escapees. The juveniles had been sent to the reform home after being detained from different places in west and outer Delhi on charges of loot and theft.The warden, Satvir (38), told the cops that he had gone to serve food to the seven juveniles who were lodged in the same room. He stayed there while the boys had their meal. After half an hour, they asked him to ta ke them to the washroom for cleaning the utensils.Satvir didn't allow all of them to go together and asked four boys to wait inside the room. When the other three were inside the washroom, they threw a plate at the warden's head and beat him up. They were soon joined by the remaining four who also thrashed him. One of them then brought a bed sheet from their room and tied Satvir up.The juveniles took the keys from the warden's pocket, went outside and climbed over the 10-foot boundary wall. Cops are questioning vendors in the area and scanning footage of CCTV cameras installed in the neighbourhood to get clues. “A search was conducted in the areas adjoining the correctional home. The local police stations have been informed about the escape. It appears the boys had been planning the escape for the past one week,“ said a senior officer.﻿﻿

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| Jul 27 2017 : The Times of India (Delhi)Kant: Hand over jails, schools to pvt sector

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| ***New Delhi:******TNN & AGENCIES*** |

﻿﻿**Niti CEO: Govt Not Good At Maintenance**Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant on Wednesday said government entities should exit from the operation and maintenance of infrastructure projects. They should even look at handing over jails, schools and colleges to the private sector.Speaking at the PPP Summit organised by industry body FICCI, Kant said, “The government has done a lot of big projects but it is not good at operation and maintenance.Therefore, the government must start the process of reverse BOT (build, operate and transfer), must sell out projects and let the private sector handle it.“ Kant said national highways and dedicated freight corridors should be the first one to take up this challenge. He said even the freight corridors being built should be given to private players .Citing the example of dirty bathrooms at airports which are under AAI, he said, “We must bring in the private sector. That is, the fastest way to bring in private sector and bring private sec tor money back in infrastructure. These projects are fully de-risked.“Kant said the country needs to move into new areas of PPP. There is no need for jails, schools, and colleges to be run in government sector, he added. “At least experience of many countries like Canada and Australia shows that private sector is capable of doing very good work in creation of quality infrastructure over a long period of time in social sector,“ he added.Kant also blamed the private sector for the current crisis in PPP investment saying that there are several projects where private player went for aggressive bidding without doing the due diligence. Later they exited from project finding them financially unviable. “Private sector has performed very badly . Private sector in India is most irrational, insensitive I have seen,“ he said. |

Jul 24 2017 : The Times of India (Delhi)

`People should get used to seeing female bikers on road'

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| Riya Sharma |
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She started learning to ride after her father gifted her a bike on her 19th birthday . Seven months later, Riya Yadav, a sec ond-year student of Indraprastha College for Women, has become the youngest female rider to conquer Khardung La ­ the World's Highest Motorable Pass in Ladakh, situated at 18, 379ft on her Royal Enfield Classic 350. “I did not know how to ride but I was really passionate about bikes and my father knew this. So when he gifted me a bike around seven months back, I started learning and took my brother for shorter trips to Neemrana and Noida Ex pressway ,“ she tells us.

Riya, who is pursuing Political Science (Hons) from IP College, started her journey on June 17 and returned on July 1. “I got to know about this trip through Facebook. I also found out that the youngest female rider to Khardunga La was Anam Hashim, who was 20 when she rode there on her scooty ,“ says Riya.

Riya tells us, “I was really excited about this trip. When I told my parents about it, first they took it causally , but when they realised I was serious about it, they agreed. I think those were the best 13 days of my life. After crossing Manali, my phone didn't have any network, and I had no contact with my parents. But I needed to do this. I have never gone anywhere alone except to an NCC camp when I was in Class IX. I remember I cried a lot back then, but this trip changed me completely . I only had my bike and the determination to conquer the highest motorable road ­ it was an experience of a lifetime for me.“

Though it was a successful journey , Riya says that it wasn't an easy one. “I have learnt to ride only recently , so there were problems.I would always panic if the road had too much traffic, but this trip taught me to be calm and face hurdles. I went along with Sarah Kashyap (an off-road rally racer) and she helped me a lot during this trip. I had all my belongings in only one bag, had problem breathing and didn't get to wash my hair for days. But when you think about achieving something, you do it without thinking about anything else,“ Riya says.

After returning, her classmates and college authorities congratulated her one her first day of second year. She says, “Not many knew that I was going for this trip, but when I came back, my classmates started cheering for me as soon as I entered the class. My principal has also asked me to meet her, and I am going to do that soon.“ Riya, who lives in Sector 45, Gurgaon, now plans to go for Raid De Himalaya ­ the world's highest rally raid ­ next year. “I used to practice with my brother in my society during the initial months. He would run after me, and then some people thought that he was my boyfriend and complained to my mother!“ she says and adding, “I don't think female riders are in anyway better or worse than male riders. Women riders are always appreciated more than male riders. I am sure that soon there will be more female biker groups. Logon ko ab aadat daal leni chahie ladkiyon ko road pe bike chalate dekhne ki.“

Riya has submitted her entry for Limca Book of Records and India Book of Records, and is hoping to hear back from them soon.



Tomatoes selling at Rs 100|kg; no respite in next few weeks

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| ***New Delhi:******TIMES NEWS NETWORK*** |

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Whether it is tomato soup that you love or creamy butter chicken, be prepared to have your pockets lightened considerably . The price of tomatoes in Delhi's retail market has skyrocketed to Rs 100 per kg and there is no respite expected for at least another two weeks.

A strike called by various associations of the Azadpur mandi on Friday may lead to a further spike in prices. Tomato vendors at the mandi have been sitting on protest against unauthorised occupation of their sheds for the past five days and are demanding the sacking of the agricultural produce marketing committee's secretary.

“There is a massive shortage of tomatoes in the country due to heavy rain in several areas. On Monday , the Azadpur market received about 20% of its daily demand with a little less than 200 tonnes arriving from Himachal Pradesh. We don't see the situation improving in the near future,“ said Anil Malhotra, general secretary of Azadpur vegetable traders' body .

Another member of the association said about 20% of the reduced supply of the vegetable was rotten. The tomato supply start ed falling about a month back, a trader told TOI.

“Tomatoes rot in the rainy weather, so the reduction in supply is nothing new.However, last year Himachal growers did not get the desired price for their produce and hence sowed less crop this time.

They grew about 40% of what they grew last year. Production also fell in Bangalore. At present, Delhi is only getting tomatoes from Himachal,“ he said.

Across the city , buyers started to panic as the price of tomatoes zoomed by about Rs 20-40 since the beginning of the month. Pankaj, a vegetable vendor in Vasundhara Enclave, said the price had touched Rs 100 a day earlier.“There is a massive shortage in supply and we are able to get very little stock of average quality right now. Sales are down,“ he said.

Meanwhile, Azadpur mandi has been witnessing a protest by tomato vendors since the middle of last week. “Some people have come and occupied a few of the sheds and APMC is doing nothing about it. We are still selling tomato stock that is coming in but on Friday , if we go through with the protest, there will be no sale of tomato,“ said Malhotra.

“Other associations have also promised to join in. The APMC has no committee members because between the government and the lieutenant governor, they have not managed to notify the members even eight months after the election. We are demanding that the secretary be sacked,“ he added.



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