

Steady rise in RTI pleas rejected by CIC

Activists Say Move A Ploy To Cut Pendency

Himanshi Dhawan
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Central Information Commission (CIC) returned over 150 cases every day in November over technical defects. There has also been a steady increase in the number of appeals being rejected, from 209 in August to 4,928 in November. In December, the RTI watchdog has returned over 1,492 cases. This is a far cry from an average of 600-650 rejections earlier this year (January-April).

The applications have been returned under Section 9 of the RTI Act, which says that a plea "may" be rejected for lack of information. RTI activists have cried foul at this approach to refuse appeals and complaints saying it is eroding people's faith in the commission.

Initially, the CIC had begun returning petitions following a court order which ruled that applicants must provide photo identity cards. However, after an uproar, the commission reversed its stand and said it

REPORT CARD

Month/2015	Appeals & complaints registered	Returned cases
Aug	448	209
Sept	117	1,064
Oct	339	1,009
Nov	5,225	4,928
Dec	1,327	1,492

would not seek photo identification to register an appeal. In fact, the government even assured Parliament on this count. Despite this, the number of returned cases continues to be high.

"This calculated move to reduce pendency through a statistical approach rather than a humane one has only succeeded in eroding people's faith in the commission," Venkatesh Nayak of Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) said. He added that the matter of returned RTI applications was discussed threadbare when the activist, along with members from the National Campaign for People's Right to Information (NCPRI), met

Ban conversion post-marriage: Bajrang Dal

Uday.Rana@timesgroup.com

Meerut: Bajrang Dal, an affiliate organisation of Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), has demanded a ban on religious conversions after marriage. This, Bajrang Dal's state convener Balraj Dugar said, would put an end to "love jihad".

Dugar said that if a Muslim man was marrying a Hindu woman out of true love, he would not need her to convert to Islam. He said people should be able to follow their respective faiths after marrying into a family of another faith.

Members of Bhartiya Janata Party, Bajrang Dal and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad had on Friday addressed a mahapanchayat in Shamli district's Kandhla town over the issue of a 22-year-old Hindu girl who went missing with her family's 40-year-old tenant Mohammed Asif. Hours after the mahapanchayat, both Asif and the girl were found in New Delhi's Vasant Vihar.

Dugar told TOI, "We will write to the President of India, demanding a ban on religious conversions after marriage. This gives people the right to marry whoever they want but also protects the majority community against the menace of love jihad."

21-yr-old gets perfect 800 in MAT

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ranchi: A 21-year-old student of Birla Institute of Technology in Lalpur scored cent per cent marks in the management aptitude test (MAT), the results of which were announced recently. Shalu Munka is from Jamshedpur and has a bachelor's degree in business administration.



Shalu Munka

"I have got calls from Centre for Management Studies in Bengaluru and Christ University. But I plan to join TAPAI Management Institute (Karnataka)," said Munka who is hoping to specialize in human resource management.

She completed school education in Jamshepur where her father runs a business. Her mother is a homemaker. MAT is a national level online exam conducted four times a year by All India Management Association (AIMA) for students seeking admission

in top MBA colleges of the country. Shalu has scored 800 out of 800. "I dedicate this result to my parents and teachers who inspired and guided me all the time," she said.

Gopalji, who is the director of Right Step management coaching institute where Munka took tuition too had scored 800 in MAT-2011.

LNG to be used for inland navigation

Vishwa Mohan & Dipak Dash | TNN

New Delhi: The Centre has decided to switch over from diesel to relatively less polluting Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) as a fuel for vessels in the inland navigation system. The proposed new fleet of 80 vessels in Ganga is likely to be the first beneficiary of the move.

The idea is to reduce carbon emission with no additional operational cost as LNG has the potential to bring in savings to the tune of nearly 25% in comparison to diesel.

"Unlike crude oil, LNG spills do not require any remediation of soil, ground water or surface water because it evaporates immediately and dissipates quickly into the atmosphere," said an official of the Inland Waterways Authority of India, while talking about the decision which has got a nod from the shipping ministry.

Shipping minister Nitin Gadkari had recently said, "We will use LNG as a fuel for the next generation of vessels in the inland waterways. We want clean and affordable fuel for both protecting the environment and bringing down the cost of transportation."

It is learnt that LNG will be

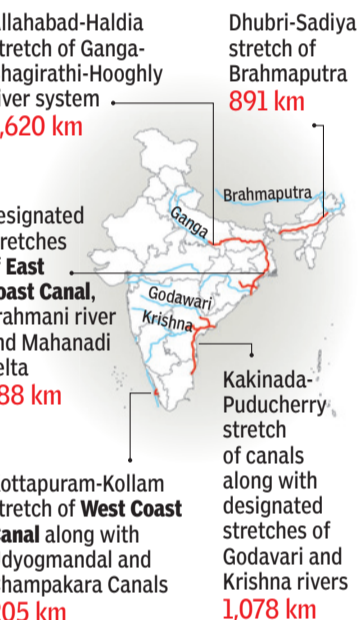
TESTING THE WATERS

Inland Water Transport is recognised as a fuel-efficient, cost-effective and an environment-friendly mode of transport

- At present, all inland waterways barges in India are run on diesel
- Move to switch over from diesel to liquefied natural gas (LNG) as a fuel for barges will be more environment-friendly and more cost-effective
- China and European Union countries have already switched over to LNG
- LNG-powered vessels have a strong network along the 'Rhine-Main-Danube' inland waterways in Europe
- Ongoing efforts in

- India to make the longer stretch of the Ganga navigable will see more vessels to be operated in the river
- Government's recent decision for declaring 106 additional inland waterways as national waterways for navigation will eventually see operations of more barges in different rivers across the country
- Number of national waterways will be increased from existing five to 111 once a bill to this effect is passed by Parliament

At present, the following five routes are notified as national waterways:



first used in a big way in the Allahabad-Haldia stretch of Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system.

Under the switchover plan, three distribution hubs - Varanasi, Sahebganj and Haldia - will be created. It will supply

LNG to transportation (marine, railways and long haul trucking), industries and mining sectors.

Since the Centre cannot invest to develop waterways until it's declared as national waterway, the shipping min-

istry had moved a bill to get umbrella clearance for another 106 waterways.

The bill was passed by the Lok Sabha in the recently concluded winter session.

For the full report, log on to www.timesofindia.com

On the occasion of **125th Birth Anniversary** year of **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**

National Conference of SC/ST Entrepreneurs ON DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR'S IDEAS AND THOUGHTS ON INDUSTRIALIZATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Chief Guest **Shri Narendra Modi**
Hon'ble Prime Minister

In the presence of **Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot**
Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment

Venue: Vigyan Bhawan, Plenary Hall, New Delhi
Time: 10:30 hrs on Tuesday, 29th December 2015

Organised by **Department of Social Justice and Empowerment**
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