

Maharashtra: Pench Tiger Reserve gets AI-based fire detection system



STATE TIMES NEWS
NAGPUR: The Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Maharashtra has launched an advanced artificial intelligence-based system for early detection of forest fires, an official said on Friday.

The state-of-the-art system will enhance the efficiency and responsiveness of fire detection efforts in the reserve, deputy director of PTR (Maharashtra), Prabh Nath Shukla, said. As per an official release, the new system features a high-resolution camera with a visual range of 15 km, effectively covering more than 350 sq km of the reserve. The AI-powered plat-

form, known as Pantera, leverages both the camera feed and satellite-based data to provide real-time alerts of forest fires within three minutes, the release said.

The system consists of a tower with a camera and a control room.

The camera is installed at a tower on one of the highest hills of the reserve near Kirringisarra village, and it is connected to the control room in the West Pench range office at Kolitmara, the release said.

"Traditionally, the forest department has relied solely on satellite-based alerts for fire detection. However, the AI system marks a transformative

upgrade by incorporating visual data from the camera, enabling quicker and more precise detection of potential fires," Shukla said.

One of the standout features of the AI system is its capability to differentiate between smoke and clouds and night-time detection.

The system also receives weather data related to temperature, precipitation, wind, etc, and analysing data with past fires, the system forecasts the probable future fires in the short term, which helps in planning fire control.

The system can also be integrated with water tanks, forest vehicles, etc, that have GPS.

The project has been successfully implemented through a collaboration between PTR, Maharashtra, Satpuda Foundation, Umgrameio (Brazil) and Forest Fire Tech, a division of Sealee Inc., USA.

Part of the project was funded by Solar Industries India Limited, Nagpur and the rest by the state government.

Air India Delhi-San Francisco flight passengers face harrowing time with inordinate delay

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Passengers of a San Francisco-bound Air India flight faced a harrowing time due to an inordinate delay and some of them fainted as the aircraft's air-conditioning system was non-functional.

Passengers of the AI 183 flight also had to wait for around an hour in the aerobridge, according to a passenger.

There were around 200 passengers onboard the Boeing 777 aircraft that was to operate flight AI 183. The flight was originally scheduled to take off at around 1530 hours on Thursday but was delayed by around six hours before getting rescheduled for Friday.

The flight is now scheduled to take off at around 1500 hours on Friday, an airline official said.

At first, the aircraft was changed due to a technical glitch and the passengers boarded another plane, wherein the air-conditioning system was not working and as a result some of those onboard fainted, Shipa Jain, a passenger, told PTI.

The plane had aged people and children, who were feeling uneasy. Later, at around 2200 hours on Thursday, the flight was rescheduled, she added.

According to her, the revised departure time was about 2000 hours and passengers had boarded the aircraft at around 1920 hours. With the air-conditioning system non-functional, passengers were agitated and after almost an hour, they came out. The passengers had to wait for nearly an hour in the aerobridge before the gates were opened to go back to the airport, she said.

The airline official said the aircraft had developed a technical issue and engineering checks were carried out. Due to the delay, the crew had crossed the Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL) and also if the flight had taken off, it would have reached San Francisco when there are night landing restrictions there, the official added.

Jain said the flight was originally rescheduled for 0800 hours departure on Friday and that has now been revised to 1500 hours. She also claimed that the airline did not offer the option to reschedule or cancel the bookings.

However, the airline official claimed that passengers were



offered the options of full refund, complimentary rescheduling and hotel accommodation.

This is the second time in one week that Air India passengers on a San Francisco flight have faced a harrowing time due to inordinate delay.

Meanwhile, some passengers of the AI 183 flight took to social media complaining about the delay and one of them said that there was no air-conditioning in the plane.

"If there is a privatisation story that has failed it is @airindia @DGCAIndia AI 183 flight has been delayed for over 8 hours, passengers were made to board the plane without air conditioning, and then deplaned after some people

fainted in the flight. This is inhuman! @JM_Scindia," Shweta Punj, a journalist, said in a post on X on Thursday night.

She also shared a picture of passengers sitting on the floor at the Delhi airport.

Meanwhile, an Air India flight from Mumbai to San Francisco, which was originally scheduled to take off at 1600 hours on May 24, was rescheduled and finally departed at around 1730 hours on May 25. The inordinate delay was due to multiple reasons, including a technical glitch.

On May 24, passengers had to wait inside the aircraft for more than five hours before the flight was rescheduled for May 25. In March, aviation security

watchdog BCAS had issued new guidelines that will allow exit of passengers from an aircraft through an airport departure gate in case there is a long delay in operating the flight after boarding.

The directive from the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) had come against the backdrop of rising instances of congestion and flight delays, resulting in passengers getting stuck in aircraft after boarding for long hours.

BCAS Director General Zulfikar Hasan, on April 1, said the guidelines will help in ensuring "less harassment" for passengers and they would not have to keep sitting inside an aircraft for long hours after boarding.

"Airport operators have to make arrangements for the infrastructure, including for screening, for implementing the guidelines," Hasan had said and added that a decision on deboarding the passengers will be taken by airlines and security agencies concerned.

It could not be immediately ascertained whether Air India opted to follow these guidelines.

Delhi: Discoms relying on advanced-technology transformers to ensure uninterrupted power supply

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The power discoms operating in Delhi are relying on their advanced-technology transformers to ensure an uninterrupted supply of electricity, with the peak demand ranging around 8,000 MW amid a scorching heatwave in the city.

The transformers used by the BSES are designed to operate at 40 degrees above the ambient (area) temperature, said a spokesperson of the company.

"This basically means that the transformers can operate at up to 40 degrees more than the prevalent area temperature. For example, if the area temperature is 48 degrees Celsius, these can operate till 88 degrees Celsius without any external aid," he said.

The BSES discoms (distribution companies) -- BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL) and BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) -- supply electricity to most parts of the city except North Delhi.

"Due to the modern design and technology, there is no need for any external aid like a fan to cool the transformer," the BSES spokesperson said.

Transformers getting overheated and burnt due to extreme temperatures leads



to power outages for hours.

In some extreme cases, if the transformer temperature goes beyond 88 degrees Celsius, an external cooling fan is used to bring the temperature within the permissible limits, the BSES spokesperson said.

The Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (TPDDL) discom that supplies electricity to North Delhi operates 88 grid substations at the 66-KV and 33-KV level with 222 transformers, all remotely monitored and controlled through a central Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system, said a spokesperson of the company.

The TPDDL transformers are meticulously designed for diverse seasons and Delhi's environmental conditions, the spokesperson said.

The transformers are equipped with an "Oil Natural Air Natural" (ONAN), "Oil Natural Air Forced" (ONAF) cooling system that keeps their temperatures within the permissible limits during summer, she said.

An automatic cooling system activates or deactivates the cooling fans or oil pumps based on the transformers' oil temperature and winding temperature.

Remote monitoring through the SCADA system allows keeping a close watch on the oil and winding temperature indicators, she added.

Additionally, there is an arrangement of industrial blowers, strategic load shifting and sharing between transformers to avoid overheating issues.

Online monitoring, including thermos-scanning and ultrasonic testing, also ensures that the transformers are in peak condition even during the most demanding times, the TPDDL spokesperson said.

"With the mercury soaring to extremes this summer, maintaining the optimal performance of our power transformers is crucial to ensure their effective functioning," she said.

Delhi recorded its highest ever peak power demand of 8,302 megawatt on Wednesday as the city recorded a maximum temperature of 46.8 degrees, the highest in 79 years.

On Thursday, the maximum temperature was 45.6 degrees Celsius and the peak power demand was 8,091 MW at 3:28 pm. The weather department has forecast a maximum temperature of 44 degrees Celsius for Friday.

As Patna heads to polls, migrant voters return to express 'voice'



STATE TIMES NEWS
PATNA: "Every vote counts," this is a crucial election," asserts Sheema Fatima, an assistant professor in Mumbai, who like several others has come home to Patna to exercise their franchise in the Lok Sabha polls on June 1.

Some planned their travel well in advance and landed in the city a few days ago while others arrived Friday morning or will be reaching during the day to participate in the "festival of democracy".

The district of Patna has two parliamentary constituencies -- Patna Sahib and Pataliputra -- both of which will go to polls along with six other seats in the state in the seventh and final phase of the general election.

"They say it is a festival of democracy and in many ways, it is. But it is an important exercise that allows you to express your voice, in line with the values of citizenship and participatory democracy," the assistant professor at the Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS), Mumbai, said.

"Every vote counts," Fatima, who arrived in Patna a few days ago, said. "This is a very crucial general election. And it is important to vote, so I am

here... I have been out of Patna for a long time for higher education and then work. I had come to vote in the general election in 2019 and the 2020 Bihar Assembly polls as well," she told PTI here.

Patima will be exercising her franchise along with her mother in the Patna Sahib constituency on Saturday.

The BJP's incumbent MP and former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad is seeking a second term from the crucial Patna Sahib seat, while the INDIA bloc has fielded Anshul Avjiti, the grandson of former railway minister Babu Jagjivan Ram and son of former Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar, on a Congress ticket.

In Patliputra, the BJP has locked horns with the RJD. Lalu Yadav's daughter Misa Bharti seeking to wrest the seat from Ram Kripal Yadav.

Diptanshu Sinha, 27, an architect who moved to Gurugram last year for work, arrived here on Friday morning.

"I had booked train tickets in advance," he said, adding, "It's just one vote but I hope it will add to the collective effort to make my city better where development and heritage

preservation will go hand-in-hand and not just blind concrete construction we are seeing today in Patna."

For Sinha, education, health and sensitive urban planning are the key issues in this elec-

tion. Several others who have also arrived in the city to take part in the election largely concurred that "if we don't vote, we have no right to crib about governance issues".

Over 1.44 lakh callers on national helpline have quit tobacco: Officials



STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Of the 4.77 lakh calls received on the Centre's national tobacco cessation quitline that is operated by the Vallabhbai Patel Chest Institute (VPCI) here, 1,44,938 callers have quit tobacco in any form, officials said on Friday.

Since the launch of the national quitline service in 2016, the total number of calls to hit the IVR is 82 lakh. The findings of a survey conducted in this regard were released by the VPCI on World No Tobacco Day (May 31) on Sunday. Dr Raj Kumar, director, VPCI, said 46.96 per cent of the calls were from young adults aged between 18 and 24 years, making them the largest group of quitters.

"This data highlights the growing awareness and determination among India's youth to combat tobacco addiction," Kumar said.

Since its inception, the Tobacco Cessation Centre (TCC) at the VPCI has been at the forefront of tobacco control, providing critical support to individuals battling tobacco addiction, he said.

"Our comprehensive approach, combining counselling and pharmacotherapy, has significantly improved the quit rates and public health outcomes," Kumar added.

More than 43 per cent of the callers were self-employed, 75.85 per cent had no family history of tobacco use and 68.63 per cent used smokeless tobacco, he said. Uttar Pradesh tops the chart with

1,50,925 (31.6 per cent) calls and 29.68 per cent quitters. Additionally, 72.96 per cent of the calls were from individuals with one to 10 years of tobacco use and 77.74 per cent had no history of alcohol use, Kumar said.

India's first TCC was established at the VPCI, New Delhi in November 2001.

In 2016, the National Tobacco Quitline Service (NTQL), a prestigious project of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, was launched. Operating from 8 am to 8

pm, the toll-free service (1800-11-2356) provides counselling in 15 languages. Trained professionals guide the callers through the quitting process, providing information, addressing concerns and preparing personalised quit plans.

This comprehensive approach is key to success. Now, satellite centres are also functioning at the Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai, the NIMHANS in Bengaluru and the Dr Bhubaneswar Borooah Cancer Institute in Guwahati.

"The NTQLS provides free, confidential counselling and guidance to tobacco users across the country, empowering them to take charge of their health. Quitting tobacco is not just about willpower. We address the psychological and behavioural factors that contribute to

addiction, offering strategies to manage cravings and overcome withdrawal symptoms," Kumar said.

Over the last 23 years, the TCC at the VPCI has organised 376 public awareness programmes, anti-tobacco campaigns and seminars, reaching more than 13 lakh people.

IN THE COURT OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR (EMIC) RAMNAGAR
Rano Devi versus Block Development officer RAMNAGAR.
Application seeking direction to BDO Ramnagar for the registration of Date of Birth of Petitioner.

Notice to public in General
WHEREAS, the applicant namely Rano Devi D/o Sh. Kesru R/o Village Kirmoo Tehsil Ramnagar District Udhampur J&K UT has filed an application seeking direction to BDO Ramnagar to register date of birth of petitioner Rano Devi D/o Sh. Kesru whose date of birth is 10-02-1965 in the concerned register kept in the said BDO officer and issue certificate of Birth under "The Registration of Births and Death Act, 1969 as his/her birth/death particulars has not been registered anywhere in the Police/BDO/E.O records.

Therefore, by virtue of this notice, public in general is informed that if any person has any objection in respect of the afore-mentioned application he/she/they may appear in this court either personally or through a Counsel and file his/her/their objection within a period of 10 days from the date of a publication of this notice, failing which the said application shall be dealt, in accordance with law.

Issued under my hand and seal of this court today 31-05-2024

Sd/-
Naib Tehsildar
Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Ramnagar

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION KATHUA

CORRIGENDUM

Subject:- Extension of date of Submission of bids.

Reference:- This office e-NIT No. 01 of 05 / 2024-25 issued vide No:-IDK/318-57 Dt:- 03-05-2024.

The below mentioned works of the above mentioned e-NIT published on 04-05-2024. The date of submission of bid is hereby extended due to poor response.

S No.	E-NIT No.	Tender ID	Name of work
1	e-NIT No. 01 of 05 / 2024-25	2024_IFC_248435_4	Stage Contract for day to day maintenance / repair for upkeeping of Naj Canal, Seeri Mooni Canal, Drung Canal and Mandli LIS to provide adequate supply of water the farmers of the area under the jurisdiction of Irrigation Sub-Division Billawar.
2	e-NIT No. 01 of 05 / 2024-25	2024_IFC_248435_6	Stage Contract for day to day maintenance / repair for upkeeping of Lift Irrigation Schemes (Palal, Juthana, Jakhole, Ratti Bakhta, Jandi, Bobiya, Jandi Nud, Dulma Chak Phase 1st and 2nd etc) falling under the jurisdiction of Irrigation Sub-Division Hiranagar.
3	e-NIT No. 01 of 05 / 2024-25	2024_IFC_248435_8	Stage Contract for day to day maintenance / repair for upkeeping of 1. Saibra Khul, 2. Draman Khul, 3. Groudy Khul, 4. Kalini Khul, 5. Kova Khul, 6. Nowshera Khul, 7. Neali Peer Khan Khul for smooth regulation of water by way of necessary works under the jurisdiction of Irrigation Sub-Division Basohli.
4	e-NIT No. 01 of 05 / 2024-25	2024_IFC_248435_10	Stage Contract for day to day maintenance / repair for upkeeping of irrigation network falling under the jurisdiction of Irrigation Sub-Division Hiranagar except Lift Irrigation Schemes and network of Main Kathua Canal.

Date of Submission of Bid :- 04-05-2024 to 31-05-2024 (1800 Hrs)

Date of Opening of tender :- 01-06-2024 (1200 Hrs)

All other terms and conditions of e-NIT No. 01 of 05 / 2024-25 shall remain same.

No: IDK/ 750-53
Dated:- 28-05-2024
DIP/J-884/24
Dated:- 31-05-2024

Sd/-
(Er. Rajiv Kumar)
Executive Engineer
Irrigation Division
Kathua