

# Govt to fix stock limits for onion, potato sellers

**ANTI-HOARDING** Wholesalers cannot keep more than 500 quintals, retailers' stock restricted to 10 quintals, deregulation of fruits in store

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**NEW DELHI:** Continuing efforts to rein-in hoarders of onions and potatoes, the Delhi government has decided to impose stock limits on vegetable wholesalers and retailers.

According to sources, a proposal has been prepared fixing the stock limit of onions and potatoes — 500 quintals for wholesalers and 10 quintals for retailers — and has been sent to the Lieutenant Governor for approval.

"To ensure we are able to take effective action against hoarders, stock limit on onions and potatoes, for both wholesalers and retailers will be imposed soon. A proposal has been prepared under which we have set the new limits. The proposal has been forwarded to the Lt Governor for an approval. Once approved we will be able to take strict action against the violators," said a senior Delhi government official.

The centre had recently imposed control orders on onions and potatoes under the Essential Commodities Act of 1955. Thus, anyone hold-



Onion stock at Azadpur sabzi mandi in New Delhi

SUBRATA BISWAS / HT FILE

ing stocks of these two food items beyond limits specified by states would be liable for prosecution and possibly, even imprisonment.

The government has also decided to again deregulate fruits and vegetables very soon, so that farmers can sell their produce directly to the consumers. It was unable to take action against the hoarders as there is no criterion limiting the amount of vegetables which the wholesaler or the retailer could keep. "Delhi is not an onion or potato producing

state and hence a need for having stock limit was not felt. But it was found that a number of traders were indulging in hoarding to jack-up the prices. A decision was taken by the centre to fix a stock limit and all the states including Delhi was asked to do the same," added the official.

The Delhi government said on Wednesday that there is no shortage of onion and potatoes in the city as the supply far exceeds the demand. Also, the average retail price of onion came down to ₹34 from ₹35.

# Unclaimed bags trigger bomb scare outside BJP headquarters

**NEW DELHI:** Panic gripped the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) headquarters here after three unclaimed red bags, two travel bags and a backpack, were found lying unclaimed on the roadside near the gate on Wednesday morning.

Even as the bags were being thoroughly checked by anti-bomb squads, a couple arrived to claim the luggage saying they had left them outside as they wanted to have breakfast at Andhra Bhawan. The event unfolded between 7.30 and 8 am.

Upon the discovery of the bags, the security and intelligence agencies were immediately alerted and the entire area was cordoned off.

Security around the BJP headquarters was beefed up as the party's parliamentary board meeting was scheduled later in the day. Sources in BJP said the meeting was to be attended by prime minister Narendra Modi and other senior party leaders.

The couple were taken into custody and interrogated by the intelligence agencies and Delhi police.

During interrogation, the couple revealed that they were jobless and had come to the party office to have their grievances addressed. They were later let off by the police. **HTC**

# WiFi project at CP will take 10 more days

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**NEW DELHI:** Like many of their earlier projects, the civic agencies have missed the deadline to make Connaught Place, one of Capital's favourite shopping destinations, a WiFi zone.

Tata DoCoMo, which had earlier announced that from July 1 WiFi services will be available at this Central Delhi hotspot, according to New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) officials, has asked for an extension. "They have asked for 10 days time. Trial run is on and the project is expected to start soon," a senior council official said.

When contacted, a Tata Teleservices spokesperson assured they were working to get the project on track as soon as possible: "We are working closely with the NDMC to offer the service."

This wireless Internet services will be available in the Connaught Place area as Tata DoCoMo in partnership with

the NDMC is deploying a 4-km WiFi hotspot to ensure seamless connectivity in the inner and outer circles.

To get benefits of the service, all one has to do is switch on the WiFi button on one's smartphone or laptop or tablet and click on the SSID and user goes to the authentication page.

After filling in some required details like email id and mobile number, one receives a one-time password (OTP) to connect to the Internet.

The first 20 minutes of service will be provided for free. If a customer wants to continue using the WiFi service, one has an option of buying a plan online or walking up to a counter to purchase scratch cards for any offer he wishes to choose. There are pre-paid tariff cards starting from ₹20 for 40 minutes, ₹30 for 60 minutes & ₹50 for 100 minutes.

The NDMC has identified more zones which would be turned into WiFi hotspots, including Sarojini Nagar, Dilli Haat, a portion of INA Market and Janpath.

# DELHI'S KARATE KIDS



A self-defence camp was organised by the Defence Colony police at the South Delhi Public School for 124 girl students.



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# DDA to launch land-pooling policy in 3 months, expedite housing for poor

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**NEW DELHI:** The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) plans to roll out its much-touted land pooling policy in the next three months.

On Wednesday, DDA's vice-chairman Balvinder Kumar and other senior officials met representatives from different industry bodies such as CREDAI, NAREDCO, FICCI, ASSOCHAM and PHD Chamber of Commerce to get their suggestions.

The policy, which was approved by DDA last year but

is yet to be implemented, allows land owners to pool their land for development by DDA. Instead of compensation, they would be given 40% to 60% of the developed land back, according to the size of land provided.

The new policy is aimed at faster development of housing in the city, particularly that for economically weaker sections (EWS). Instead of the time-consuming process of land acquisition, DDA feels land pooling would provide a smoother alternative as it allows land owner to benefit from the development of land, which they can sell after its

prices appreciate.

DDA believes that through the policy, Delhi will get sufficient housing stock in the next few years. It has also estimated that for each 1,000 hectare of pooled land, the government will be able to provide 50,000 one-room sets under the EWS category.

"We are prepared on our part but there are some legal issues involved that need to be addressed first. We are trying to roll out the scheme in three months," Kumar said. "We will get the policy vetted by renowned lawyers for their advice and suggestions. We will

also involve administrative officials who are experts in revenue laws during implementation of the scheme," he said.

Kumar said that during the meeting with industry body representatives, discussions were held to understand their apprehensions and suggestions regarding the policy and also to clarify DDA's position on issues raised by them. "They have suggested certain sections of the Delhi Land Reforms Act, that say their can't be further fragmentation of land that is lesser than eight acres, needs to be repealed," he said.

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Hon'ble Prime Minister

**Dr. Harsh Vardhan**  
Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare

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