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Pradhan's comments came in response to the chief minister's allegations that the best performing states were being denied funds by the Union government under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for refusing to implement NEP. Stalin also accused the Centre of "rewarding" states that failed to meet educational objectives.

"Denying funds to the best-performing states for refusing to bow to the #NEP, while generously rewarding those who are not delivering on the objectives — Is this how the Union BJP Government plans to promote quality education and equity? I leave it to the wisdom of our nation and our people to decide!" Stalin said on X.

The DMK chief also shared a newspaper report that pointed out that the Centre has withheld SSA funds to at least five Opposition-ruled states, including Tamil Nadu, over the past year.

Responding to Stalin's post, Pradhan wrote on X: "Healthy competition amongst the states is always welcome in a democracy. However, pitting states against each other to make a point, goes against the spirit of the Constitution and the value of a unified India."

He defended NEP 2020, saying the policy was "formulated through wide range of consultations and has the collective wisdom of the people of India."

Auto giants not in EV  
market may suffer: Min

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NEW DELHI: Union road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari said automakers that are not manufacturing electric vehicles will pay the price and will be forced to make the shift due to the competitive nature of the market.

"Presently, they (fossil fuel-based automakers) have got good sales... but they don't want to change... But they will face the cost," Gadkari said at a convention for automotive component makers in the national capital on Monday.

The minister added that market forces will compel the reluctant auto companies to diversify their portfolios.

"This is the time that you have to change... The people who are going to accept the best



Nitin Gadkari

technology in the world, cost-saving fuel technology in the world, creating less pollution and having reasonably good cost, they already have a good future," Gadkari said. "The market is full of demand. The survival of the fittest is the law. Those who can understand and those who are ready to change, they can get good performance, good orders, and good support from people."

He added consumers will buy vehicles that are affordable, and

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automakers will have to fall in with the demands of the market. On automobile companies starting their green transitions late, Gadkari said they would lose market share once they decide to enter the EV market.

Among Indian automakers, Tata Motors has a significant presence in the EV market with multiple models. Companies such as market leader Maruti Suzuki and Mahindra & Mahindra have focussed on mild and strong hybrid vehicles.

About 1.6 million EVs were

sold in India in FY24, of which 90,432 — or 5.4% — were four-wheelers, according to data on the website of the Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles. Gadkari reiterated his stance made last week that EVs no longer need to be subsidised because price parity between EVs and petrol- and diesel-driven vehicles would be achieved in about two years.

He said as more automotive and battery storage manufacturers enter the market, the prices of EV batteries would fall and the vehicle itself would become more affordable, making it a more attractive choice for consumers.

To be sure, the minister clarified that he was "not against" fossil fuel-powered vehicles.

Gadkari also said India needs a substitute for imported fuel that is indigenous, pollution-free, and cost-effective.

B'uru BJP office was 1st target of  
accused in cafe blast case: NIA

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NEW DELHI: The two key accused in the Bengaluru cafe explosion case were involved in a "failed IED (improvised explosive device) attack" at the office of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the city on January 22, the day of the consecration ceremony at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) said on Monday, as it filed its charge sheet against four people in connection with the blast at the eatery.

In a statement, NIA said the accused — Abdul Matheen Taha, who planned the explosion and Mussavir Hussain Shazib, who planted the IED — were Islamic State radicals and were "actively involved in radicalising other gullible Muslim youth to the ISIS ideology." "Maaz Muneer Ahmed and Muzammil Shareef were among such youth," it said, referring to the remaining two accused who were named in the charge sheet.

The federal agency identified Mohammad Shaheed Faisal, an



The blast took place at Rameshwaram Cafe.

absconder in a 2012 Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) Bengaluru conspiracy case, as the "handler" who provided the four accused with funding. "The funds were used by the accused to perpetrate various acts of violence in Bengaluru, investigations further revealed. These included a failed IED attack at the state BJP Office, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru, on the day of the Pran Pratishtha ceremony at Ayodhya on January 22, 2024, after which the two key accused planned the Rameshwaram Cafe blast case," it said.

An NIA officer, who did not wish to be identified, said: "During the course of interrogation, Shazib said he placed the IED on a bike

outside the BJP office in Bengaluru on January 22. Neither did the device explode nor was it traced."

At least nine people were injured after a low-intensity IED exploded at Rameshwaram Cafe at ITPL Road in Brookfield on March 1. Preliminary investigations zeroed in on a man who left a bag near the cash counter. NIA took over the case on March 3 on the directions of the ministry of home affairs. Taha and Shazib were nabbed from a hotel in Digha in East Midnapore district of West Bengal in April. Ahmed and Shareef were arrested in March. A fifth accused, Shoaib Ahmed Mirza, was arrested in May but has not been named in the charge sheet so far. "Moving swiftly in its probe, NIA on Monday charge-sheeted four accused in the high-profile Bengaluru Rameshwaram Cafe blast case," NIA said. NIA said Taha and Shazib were absconding since 2020 after the Al-Hind module (relating to a major terror conspiracy involving targeted killings and other such activities in Karnataka) was busted.

PNB Housing Finance Limited  
REGD. OFFICE: 9TH FLOOR, ANTRIKSH BHAWAN, 22, K.G. MARG, NEW DELHI-110001, PH: 011-23357171, 23357172, 23705414, Website: www.pnbhousing.com  
POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES)

NORTHERN RAILWAY  
E-Auction Notice  
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Ferozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction on eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Ferozpur Division.

Tender No.06 of 2024-25  
CORRIGENDUM NO.5  
Following rectification is made in Tender Notice No.06 of 2024-25 of Executive Engineer, Ver-II Project Division, Yvara PINCODE NO.394650, Phone No.2626-222090, Dist. Tapi.

PNB Housing Finance Limited  
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES)  
E-Auction-Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets Under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(i) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

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APPENDIX -IV-A - E-AUCTION-PUBLIC SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES  
E-AUCTION-SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISIONS OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

HT Classifieds Tuesday  
EMPLOYMENT, ADMISSIONS, TRAVEL & TOURS, TICKETING/RESERVATION, CAR ON HIRE, BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY, CHANDIGARH, INTERIOR DECORATION, CHANGE OF NAME, BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY, CHANDIGARH, INTERIOR DECORATION, CHANGE OF NAME

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB  
TENDER NOTICE  
Sr. No. NAME OF DEPARTMENT NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER OPENING DATE/CLOSING DATE AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN LACS NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL

HT Classifieds Tuesday  
EMPLOYMENT, ADMISSIONS, TRAVEL & TOURS, TICKETING/RESERVATION, CAR ON HIRE, BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY, CHANDIGARH, INTERIOR DECORATION, CHANGE OF NAME, BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY, CHANDIGARH, INTERIOR DECORATION, CHANGE OF NAME