

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY FORMED; PM AND CM CONDOLE DEATHS

# On Maha Kumbh's big day, at least 30 killed, 60 injured in stampede

Officials blame incident on huge rush for dip at Sangam, breaking of barricades

MANISH SAHU & MAULSHREE SETH  
PRAYAGRAJ, JANUARY 29

AT LEAST 30 people died and 60 were injured in a pre-dawn stampede Wednesday at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj where hundreds of thousands gathered to take a dip in the Sangam. The incident took place shortly after 1.30 am as people headed towards the Sangam Nose — it's the strip of land at the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati — for a ritual bath on the day of Mauni Amavasya which is considered auspicious. The dead and injured were taken to medical facilities on the Maha Kumbh grounds and to hospitals in the city. Following the incident, the snans (ritual bath) were halted — these resumed in the afternoon. Officials estimated that 10 crore people had taken a dip in the waters by evening. Officials blamed the incident on the heavy rush towards the Sangam Nose and the breaking



Jagwanti lost her mother and sister-in-law in the stampede on Wednesday. Chitral Khambhati

## Opp targets Centre, UP: Mismanagement, VVIP culture led to tragedy

LALMANI VERMA & SHYAMLAL YADAV  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

WITHIN HOURS of the stampede at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, leaders of Opposition parties targeted the Centre and the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh, alleging that "mismanagement" and "VIP culture" led to the mishap and deaths. Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi blamed the "VIP culture" for the incident and said it

should be curbed and the government "should make better arrangements to meet the needs of common devotees". "Mismanagement and the administration's special focus on VIP movement, instead of common devotees, are responsible for this tragic incident," he said. SP chief and former UP Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav suggested that the management and administration of the Kumbh should be handed over to the Army to restore trust

### DAY OF GRIEF AND PANIC — AND OFFICIAL SILENCE

## 'We screamed, nobody listened... people just walked over others'

CHITRAL KHAMBHATI, MAULSHREE SETH & ANAND MOHAN J  
PRAYAGRAJ, BHOPAL, JANUARY 29

IT'S AFTER 9pm — a day of chaos since daybreak, marked by panic and grief, is winding down. Outside the morgue of the Motilal Nehru Medical College in Prayagraj, there are relatives still looking for their loved ones who have gone missing but this is



Outside the SRN Hospital mortuary in Prayagraj. Vishal Srivastav

## Finding 'D K Boss': In Jamtara, how police cracked cyber crime network

HIMANSHU HARSH  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

WHILE INVESTIGATING a case of cyber fraud in mid-December 2024, IPS officer Raghvendra Sharma, the ASP of Jamtara district in Jharkhand, stumbled upon a name that piqued his interest — "DK Boss". "I remember noticing the same name on another case," he recalled. Just a week earlier, in another seemingly unconnected case of



Police with some of those arrested in the case. Express

cybercrime, police had detained a suspect whose questioning re-

vealed that his modus operandi was distributing malicious Android package kits (APKs) that are used to install apps designed to steal data. When ASP Sharma examined the suspect's phone and scrutinised his WhatsApp chats, he found that these APKs were sold to the man by someone who went by the alias DK Boss. "The seller's WhatsApp display picture was just the words 'DK Boss' written out, and the account description said 'contact

## It's been Cong, 'AAPda' for 25 years, give BJP a chance to serve: PM

GAYATHRI MANI  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

WITH JUST days to go for the Delhi Assembly elections — so much so that cartoons ridiculed our perceived deficiencies in space technology. Yet ISRO's journey has proven otherwise, transforming India into a global leader in this domain through cost-effective, innovative methods that encouraged self-reliance and delivered wide-ranging social impact," he said. These same principles, Vatsa felt, could be applied to AI amidst the race to develop the technology. "We managed to reach Mars at a fraction of the cost of the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a rally in New Delhi on Wednesday. Amit Mehra

## DeepSeek: Can do a Mangalyaan in AI, say experts

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ANCHOR

ALIND CHAUHAN & VIDHATRI RAO  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

CHINESE ARTIFICIAL Intelligence (AI) start-up DeepSeek's R1 model, which has disrupted the tech sector, holds lessons for India to develop the critical technology in cost-effective ways and without massive computational resources, the nation's top researchers told *The Indian Express*.

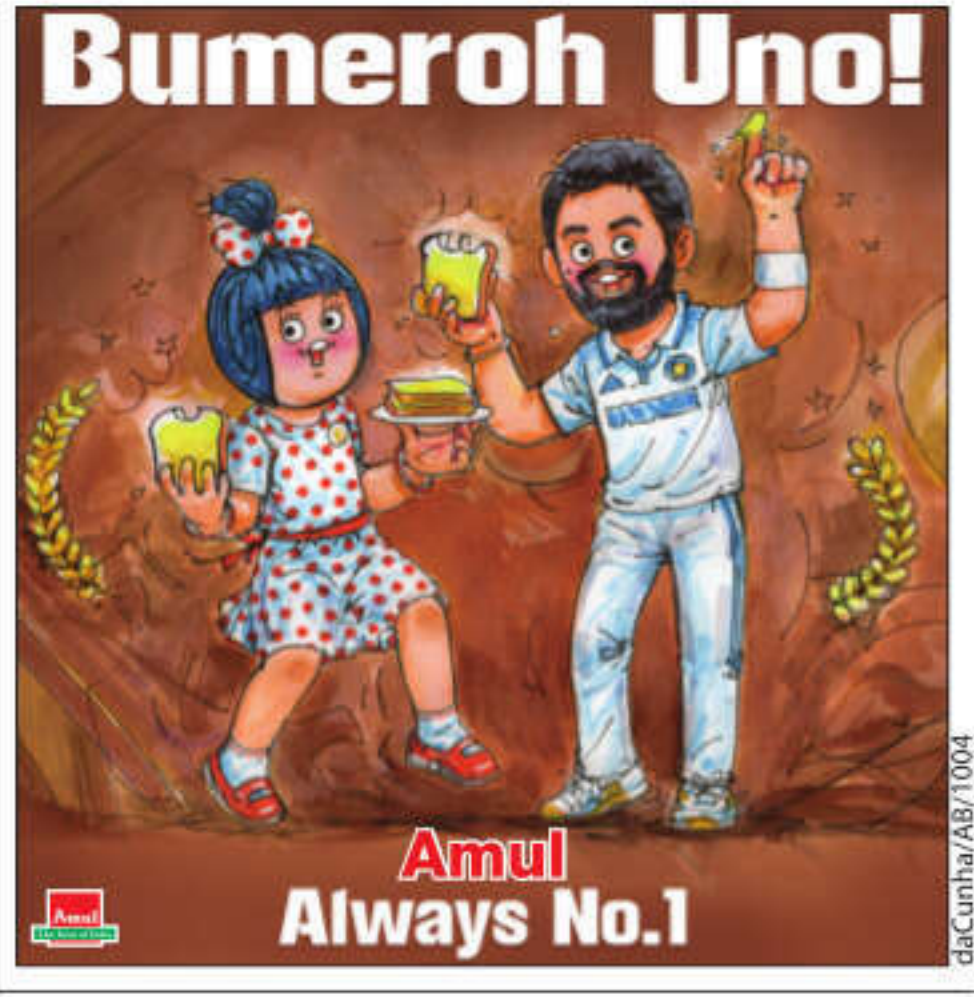
"With the launch of the R1 model, India could do a Mangalyaan in AI," said Gautam Shroff, Professor at IIIT-Delhi and former senior vice-president of Tata Consultancy Services and its head of research. Researchers are of the view that although the US and China lead the AI race, India can certainly catch up. "With the right focus, India can position itself as a strong contender in the global AI ecosystem. The open-sourcing of DeepSeek models is creating a ripple effect, triggering global competition and collaboration. India should embrace this momentum," said Mayank



Vatsa, professor of Computer Science at IIT-Jodhpur. Like Shroff of IIIT-Delhi, Vatsa, who works on biometrics and

computer vision, said India needs to follow the template set by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to usher in

major AI advancements. "In the early days of India's space program, we were considered outsiders — so much so that cartoons ridiculed our perceived deficiencies in space technology. Yet ISRO's journey has proven otherwise, transforming India into a global leader in this domain through cost-effective, innovative methods that encouraged self-reliance and delivered wide-ranging social impact," he said. These same principles, Vatsa felt, could be applied to AI amidst the race to develop the technology. "We managed to reach Mars at a fraction of the cost of the



## 16-page form to priest certificate: Uttarakhand UCC rules for live-in

AISWARYA RAJ & APURVA VISHWANATH  
DEHRADUN, NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

EXPLAINED  
Setting stage for others

A 16-PAGE form that needs to be filled, Aadhaar-linked OTP, registration fee, a certificate from a religious leader that the couple is eligible to marry if they so wish, and details of previous relationships — these are among the rules prescribed by the Uttarakhand government for registration of live-in relationships under its Uniform Civil Code. The UCC Act, which was passed by the state Assembly in February 2024, makes it mandatory for couples to register with the government, both while in-

WHILE UTTARAKHAND became the first state to bring in a UCC, it is likely to be a template for others. Home Minister Amit Shah had told Parliament that every BJP-ruled state would implement a UCC. Regulation of live-in relationships raises questions of privacy and liberty.

tiating and terminating a live-in relationship. Failure to register

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### STAMPEDE AT KUMBH



FULL COVERAGE  
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### BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNYY



### EXPRESS NETWORK



ISRO TON: 100 LAUNCHES AND COUNTING  
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3 Among B-Schools of Super Excellence by Competition Success Review Nov 2024  
4 No. 1 in Uttar Pradesh by Business Today Oct 2024  
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● ‘We screamed, nobody listened’

now a thinning crowd. Compared to the rush throughout the day of uncertainty and despair as scores made frenetic rounds of city hospitals – including this one.

Roads were blocked, key routes to the city were barricaded, most requests for information ran into walls of official silence. Indeed, for much of the day, there was no word on the number of dead, just official calls to keep calm, not pay heed to rumours.

In this Maha Kumbh, where every detail has been framed as a poster of state efficiency, where everything was counted and is countable – from the number of special trains down to a head-count, every two hours, of those who took a dip – when it came to the dead and injured, the count took its time.

As the devotees ran from hospital pillar to official post. “My sister Renu, 35, is missing,” Ajay Kumar Yadav told *The Indian Express*. Standing outside the morgue, Yadav, in his 30s and a native of Uttar Pradesh’s Pratapgarh, looked more and more anxious as the day progressed.

“My sisters, including Renu, went to the Sangam Tuesday but the rest of them are safe. I went to another hospital (Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital) twice and asked the police to make announcements but they asked me to wait in the queue,” he said.

“They are not saying how many dead bodies they have received. Don’t they have the data?” asked an agitated Manish Pandey, who is also searching for his sister, Vibha Malik Tripathi.

Data was in stark abundance at the sprawling grounds of the Maha Kumbh: torn sandals, clothing, backpacks, water bottles, personal belongings of those caught in the stampede. Police personnel tried to maintain some order, forming human chains and shouting instructions over loudspeakers.

There were varying accounts of what had transpired. Some eyewitnesses said there was a sudden swell of the crowd on the road leading to the “Sangam Nose,” the triangular landmass considered the spot of the Sangam or where the Ganga, Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati merge.

Some eyewitnesses claimed three of the four gates leading to this ghat were closed, leading devotees to crowd near the only one that was open. A video doing the rounds of many phones at the site showed part of a barricade being pushed open by the crowd as hapless security personnel watch a section of the crowd flow out, a trickle turning into a gush.

“There was a scuffle, a (wooden) barrier broke, and many people died and several were injured,” said 60-year-old Beri Devi, whose husband is among those missing. “I went to the Mela hospital first, and they sent me to the mortuary.”

Others talked of chaos near Pillar No. 147, close to the site of the stampede. Jayprakash Soni, who was waiting at the mortuary for the body of his 65-year-old mother, said there was a sudden surge in the crowd.

“Around 1-1:30am, the crowd started running here and there and there was no policeman in sight. People started falling and others kept walking on them,” Soni said. His father and children escaped the crush, he said, but not his mother. “The crowd came and she got trampled.”

Devki Rajput, who walked from the mela site to the Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital to look for her missing aunt, said: “Twenty of us were together when we went for

our bath at around 12:30 am. Then the crowd started to swell. Within minutes, I lost my aunt... The situation was such that we didn’t think any one of us would survive.”

Basdev Sharma came from Sultanpur in Uttar Pradesh with his family. He said they had proceeded for their bath with their belongings, their money carefully tucked away.

“There was suddenly a massive crowd,” Basdev said, his voice trembling. “One of my family members was crushed. We had taken our dip and were returning when we saw her lying unconscious... People just walked all over her. No one even stopped.” She suffered multiple injuries to her chest and legs.

Ram Prasad Yadav, also from Sultanpur, said he found himself gasping for breath as the crowds around him swelled. “I was making my way towards the river when suddenly, I felt myself falling... Before I could get up, the crowd was walking over me.”

Ram Prasad was among the lucky ones, he has had minor injuries. However, his 65-year-old mother was left severely injured. “We had to call an ambulance to take her to the hospital,” he said. “But now, we have no money. No phone. I don’t even know how we will return home.”

Om Prakash Yadav said his sister Reena had taken a dip last night. “But then the crowd came, and people just fell under. I didn’t even know she was gone until morning. They told me she was Body Number 27.”

Ballia-based Baljeet Singh, who lost his wife, remembered the crowd becoming a monstrous force, pressing against them. “There was no way we could save ourselves,” he said, his voice shaking. “I felt my wife slip away from my grasp. Another relative of mine... I’m hearing they didn’t make it either.”

Jagwanti wept beside a body bag, standing next to an ambulance carrying her sister-in-law Rita and mother Rampati. Her father Dhanramraj survived with a broken leg.

They had come in a group of 20 from Jaunpur, Jagwanti said. “We begged the police to help us,” she said, breaking down. “We screamed, we cried, but nobody listened. I thought we were all going to die.”

She added that the police could have done little. “They had to run for their own lives... The crowd kicked my bhabhi (sister-in-law) to death. She has a small child waiting for her back home.”

Phool Chand Vishwakarma lost his wife. “I got trapped for 30 minutes,” he said. “By the time I made it out, I saw my wife lying. She was gone.”

At the ghat, Laxmi from Chhatarpur, Bihar, grieved alone for her husband, Hakum, refusing to speak to anyone.

At nightfall, a group of four people, all from Kamataka, were huddled together back at the morgue in deep mourning. Outside, medics were piling four bodies into two waiting ambulances that will now be taken to Delhi and flown back to Bengaluru.

Among the deceased was the husband of Kanchan Koparde. “We were at the Kumbh and were about to go take a dip when, around 1-1:30 am, a crush of people came straight towards us. My husband, a friend, and two more acquaintances were caught in the stampede and there was no space to run,” she said, fighting back tears, before she boarded a waiting ambulance.

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FULL REPORTSON  
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

## On Maha Kumbh’s big day, at least 30 killed, 60 injured in stampede

of barricades on the route meant for akharas headed for the Amrit Snan.

Witnesses said the stampede took place when a crowd going towards the Sangam ran into those on their way back. Other witnesses said barricades along the route meant for the akharas were felled as people charged towards the Sangam Nose.

Vaibhav Krishna, DIG Maha Kumbh, said, “Thirty people have died out of which 25 have been identified. Sixty have been injured.”

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who broke down while condoling the deaths, announced the formation of a probe committee.

“All these incidents are

heartrending and a lesson as well. But we need to find the root cause of the incident... The government has decided to conduct a judicial inquiry. We have formed a three-member judicial commission, comprising Allahabad High Court Justice (retired) Harsh Kumar, former DG VK Gupta and retired IAS officer DK Singh,” he said. He also announced an ex gratia of Rs 25 lakh each for the kin of the dead.

Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister had urged devotees not to insist on taking a dip only at the Sangam Nose. He said several temporary ghats had been prepared for this.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called the incident “extremely sad” and said, “My deepest condolences to the devotees

who have lost their loved ones in this. Along with this, I wish for the speedy recovery of all the injured. The local administration is engaged in helping the victims in every possible way. In this regard, I have spoken to Chief Minister Yogiji and I am in constant touch with the state government.”

Ballia resident Baljeet Singh, whose wife died in the stampede, told *The Indian Express*: “It was around 1:30 at night. We were about 50 metres from the Sangam Nose when suddenly a huge crowd came towards us from the Sangam Nose end. Both crowds overlapped. There was no place to run or hide. I held on to my wife as long as I could but people stepped on me, and the crowd dragged me away.”

● Mismanagement, VVIP culture led to tragedy: Opp

among the devotees and the saints. “Those who are making tall claims of world-class arrangements at the Maha Kumbh... should take moral responsibility for the deaths and should resign from their positions,” Yadav said, calling for stepped-up surveillance from the air.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge also blamed “VIP movement”, “half-baked arrangements” and “attention to self-promotion rather than management and mismanagement” for the incident.

UP Congress president Ajay Rai said the state government was “busy in taking care of VIPs” and “destroyed” the arrangements. “This incident is a failure of the government. The VIP system is all around... There are no arrangements for ordinary devotees,” Rai said.

Ujjwal Raman Singh, Congress MP from Allahabad, demanded an inquiry led by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court into the incident.

Singh said he was in Prayagraj but the administration was not letting him visit the hospitals and the area where the stampede took place.

“We had expressed the apprehension much earlier that anything could happen because of the prevailing VIP culture, VIP movements and incomplete preparations at the Kumbh Mela,” Singh said, alleging that the “entire administration is working to cover-up the incident”.

He claimed that the administration was not letting people access the pontoon bridges. “All the pontoon bridges have been closed ever since the visits of the Home Minister and Chief Minister. When I inquired with officials, they said all pontoon bridges will remain closed until January 30. People are forced to walk on foot up to 20 km,” he said.

The CPI (M), while expressing “shock and sorrow” over the incident and deaths, targeted the UP government. “It completely exposes the mismanagement of the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government despite incurring huge expenses. We express our condolences to the bereaved families,” the party said.

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut said the Kumbh Mela is not an event but a matter of faith. “If you call crores of people, what are the arrangements? Women are having to sleep on the streets. During Akhilesh Yadav’s tenure, the arrangements at Kumbh were the best. When Union Ministers and VIPs visit, it puts pressure on the system and the whole city has to be shut down... the administration is responsible for these deaths,” Raut told reporters.

“More than Rs 10,000 crore has been spent. Where did it go? If there were arrangements, this incident wouldn’t have happened. The BJP is marketing this

● Cong, ‘AAPda’ for 25 years, give BJP a chance: PM

residents, assuring that the BJP would fulfill all its promises in a time-bound manner.

Addressing a rally in Ghonda constituency of Northeast Delhi, Modi also targeted AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal for alleging that Haryana was “poisoning” Delhi’s water supply. One of the eight seats won by the BJP in the 2020 polls, Ghonda has a mixed population of Haryanvis, Jats, Purvanchalis and Uttarakhandis.

“Afraid of losing the elections, the ‘AAPda’ people are so flustered that they are levelling serious allegations against the people of Haryana... Will the BJP government in Haryana try to poison the PM? ... ‘AAPda’ people have committed a big sin, history will not forget... people of Haryana will not forget... A former CM of Delhi has levelled serious charges against the people of Haryana... Are the people of Haryana different from Delhi? Don’t they have their children, family and relatives here? Will they poison their own children,” the PM said.

“All the people in Delhi, rich, poor, senior judges, lawmakers, diplomats, even your Prime Minister, drink the same water that is coming from Haryana... Can anyone imagine the BJP government of Haryana poisoning water supply to kill Modi? What are you saying? What kind of a conspiracy is this,” the PM said.

Modi also accused the AAP of making false promises to slum dwellers. “Modi does not have a

home for himself but his dream is to provide a permanent house to everyone... people who are making ‘sheesh mahal’ cannot think about constructing houses for the poor ... that is why they are making false promises... These ‘AAPda’ people may appear innocent, but they are deceivers. You must have heard about Charles Sobhraj -- he looked harmless, yet he was a notorious criminal. Similarly, these ‘AAPda’ leaders may have innocent faces, but beware, they will deceive and loot you,” he said.

Assuring houses for slum dwellers, he said: “For me, you are only Modi... Go and tell them (slum dwellers) on my behalf with confidence... Modi’s guarantee is that they will get a permanent house...”

In the last five years of the AAP government, only 14 laws were passed in the Delhi Assembly, of which five were to increase the salaries of MLAs, he said.

“We have to teach them a lesson on February 5. Your vote will teach them a lesson... All other states and cities are known for something, like Bengaluru is known for IT, Mumbai for films... Look at Noida, Gurgaon... but Delhi could not make a name for itself... We have to give a different identification to Delhi, it should not be known only as the national capital, it should also be known as the number one city in the world,” he said.

● Uttarakhand UCC rules for live-in

carries a jail term up to six months. This applies to residents of Uttarakhand as well as state residents living elsewhere in India.

The Rules, which came into effect January 2, outline the documentation required for the registration process – it can be done both offline and online. Rule 15 (3) in Chapter 5 outlines the “information to be included in the Statement of Live-in Relationship”. These documents are to be attached with a 16-page form – Form 3 of the Annexures to the Rules by those “already in a live-in relationship or intending to enter into a live-in relationship”.

The Rules require in prescribed format “proof of permissibility of marriage between the registrants if they are within the degrees of prohibited relationship”.

“A certificate issued by an official of a religious leader/community head or official of a religious/community body concerned that the customs & usage governing the registrants permit marriage between them,” it states. Rule 3 (u) also defines who is a religious leader: “in relation to a community means a priest of the place of worship of that community or an office bearer of the religious body pertaining to that community”.

Legal experts fear that this requirement could make inter-caste and interfaith relationships virtually impossible. “Simply put, this is a secular law requiring prior religious sanction for eligibility of marriage to even enter into a live-in relationship,” Bengaluru-based senior advocate Jayna Kothari said.

For proof of previous history of relationship, the Rules require details of “marital or live-in relationship prior to the onset of the current live-in relationship”. These documents could include final decree of divorce; final decree annulling a marriage; death certificate of a spouse; certificate

of terminated live-in relationship. For marriages dissolved under customary religious practices, then proof of such dissolution would be required.

Under the UCC, the Registrar has powers to issue notice on his own or on the basis of a complaint to an individual to register their live-in relationship. Additionally, apart from conducting a summary inquiry into the veracity of the documents, the Registrar has to inform the legal guardian or parent of the parties registering their live-in relationship if they are below age 21.

The law states that the registration is only for the “purposes of record keeping.” However, the Rules require the Registrar to forward these registrations to the local police stations where the couple resides and makes it mandatory for landlords to demand a “provisional” or final certificate of registration of the live-in relationship.

● DeepSeek: Can do a Mangalyaan in AI, say experts

developed nations. This is what is needed in AI as well, and with the latest developments we have a demonstration and even a starting point,” Shroff said.

The R1 model released last week has sent shock waves across the world – the global tech market has seen a shift, DeepSeek’s model overtook rival ChatGPT to become the top-rated free application on Apple’s App Store, and Silicon Valley giants are spooked. The little-known company based in Hangzhou has built an AI model which can match the performance of its cutting-edge American rivals at a much lower cost and with limited resources.

“DeepSeek’s models show that necessity breeds innovation. When you are denied some technology, you figure out a way around it and do something

smarter. Some of the engineering is quite ingenious,” Shroff said.

The R1 model is said to have been built with only around \$6 million – OpenAI spent more than \$100 million to train its GPT-4. DeepSeek’s model uses a “mixture of experts” approach, where multiple specialised sub-models work together to answer a question, instead of a single big model managing everything. Vatsa said, “This allows for better performance and efficiency compared to a single large model. This approach has the potential to democratise access to advanced AI by reducing the computational resources required, enabling researchers in resource-constrained environments to participate more actively.”

However, researchers also

said it was important to wait and watch how the model performs in the coming days as it has just been rolled out. Shroff said, “The R1 model has beat the benchmark tests. But you have to see how they scale this for hundreds of people and commercialise. It is not just about creating AI but also about serving half-a-billion people every day.”

The R1 model is not only cost-effective but also consumes less energy, according to DeepSeek. Thousands of GPUs used for training AI models are housed in data centres, which devour large amounts of energy and water for cooling. In the US, data centers consumed roughly 4.4% of electricity in 2023 but are anticipated to use 6.7% to 12% of all power by 2028, according to a report produced by

the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

The Chinese start-up is said to have trained the R1 model using around 2,000 Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) – companies like OpenAI use as many as 16,000 or more GPUs to train their models. The R1 model used Nvidia H800 chips, which are the less-advanced GPU chips available to DeepSeek, amidst a ban imposed by the US on more sophisticated chips such as H100.

Pushpak Bhattacharya, Professor at the Computer Science Department at IIT Bombay who works on machine translation, said, the R1 model’s launch is “heartening” as “the AI community is worried about the environmental impact of the technology.”

Researchers hope that DeepSeek’s breakthrough would lead to development of

more models in India that compete with the systems of the industry’s leading players such as Google, OpenAI, and Meta.

They also called for scaling up work on indigenous models built for Indian languages so that they can address the country’s regional diversities and complexities. For instance, Bhattacharya explained, these models should ultimately be able to help farmers in rural areas.

“They should be able to access AI applications on their phones and, let’s say, upload a photo of a diseased crop. The application should then be able to lay out next steps for tackling the diseased crop to ensure that it does not contaminate the whole field. This communication to the farmer should be in their language,” he said.

To propel AI growth in India, researchers highlight that there

is a need to focus on developing indigenous foundational models through sustained funding, and industry-government collaboration.

Shroff said that currently, our private companies “do not have the capacity or even the desire to build foundational models”. “We have seen many senior leaders go and say we should not be building models and we should just be using them. We do not have to just consume, we have to contribute,” he said.

He also pointed out that people building models in India should learn from DeepSeek and think of “better spending of the 10,000 crores allocated in the AI mission along all verticals”. In March 2024, the Centre launched the IndiaAI Mission, which allocated Rs 10,372 crore for the next five years towards several initiatives to boost the country’s AI capabilities.

## Centre approves ₹3,027 cr for disaster mitigation projects

*New Delhi:* A panel chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah has cleared ₹3,027.86 crore for disaster mitigation projects across various states.

The committee, which also includes Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, approved projects for the 12 most drought-prone states at a total cost of ₹2,022.16 crore, with the central share being ₹1,200 crore.

The 12 states are Andhra

Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh.

Additionally, the committee approved a mitigation project focused on lightning safety in 10 states, with a total outlay of ₹186.78 crore. The states covered are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

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● Finding ‘D K Boss’: In Jamtara, how police cracked cyber crime network

for any APK or panel,” Sharma recalled.

Police said that when they ran the WhatsApp number through telecom operators, they found it was registered under the name of someone unconnected with the incidents. “The person using the messaging app had fraudulently gained access to it (the number) for the purpose of selling APKs,” said the ASP. When the name crept up again in a different case a few days later, police started looking for it in more cases.

**The common thread**

Since then, police have found that DK Boss is a common thread in several cybercrime cases. A full-scale investigation was launched, headed by ASP Sharma and DSP Chandra Shekhar, and supervised by SP Ehtesham Waqarib, to trace DK Boss.

On January 25, after a month-long operation, the team unveiled a “sophisticated and well-organised crime syndicate”, and arrested not one, but three different people who went by “DK Boss”, as well as three accomplices.

“The investigation wasn’t straightforward,” said the ASP. “Initially, we interrogated several criminals who had used the fake apps developed by DK Boss to

scam people, but all of them claimed they did not know his true identity.” What was clear, however, was that DK Boss’s apps were “well-regarded within the cybercrime world due to their flawless design and functionality”, he said.

**Many DK Bosses**

During the investigation, police came across around 10-15 fake phone numbers, all using WhatsApp profiles of “DK Boss” and selling the malicious apps, through APKs, to cyber criminals.

A breakthrough came when the police arrested one Akhtar. “He was found using an old phone of his relative’s – Aarif Ansari – to sell APKs,” Sharma said. Akhtar then revealed that three people – Aarif, Mahboob Alam and Sk Belal – were behind the DK Boss alias.

Further investigations tracked them to Haryana and then Kashmir, before the probe team received a tip that the suspects were back in Jamtara.

Acting on the information, police set a trap at Kenduatar village in the Narayanpur area. They camped there from the early hours of January 24, and by nighttime the next day, they had identified two cars the suspects were travelling in and arrested all six oc-

cupants. They were Mahboob Alam (25), Safauddin Ansari (26), Aarif Ansari (27), Jashim Ansari (30), Sk Belal (27), and Ajay Mandal (28).

**Identical apps**

According to police, the questioning of these arrested suspects revealed the layers of sophistication in their operation.

“Mehboob, Aarif, and Belal developed the malicious apps, while Mandal distributed and sold them,” said SP Waqarib. Safauddin and Jashim arranged bank accounts to launder the stolen money.

The officer said that these “malicious apps” mimicked legitimate banking and government apps, like those of the State Bank of India, Canara Bank, Punjab National Bank, Axis Bank, PM Kisan Yojana, and PM Fasal Bima Yojana. “They seemed identical to the official banking and government apps,” said the SP.

Unlike traditional scams that trick victims into revealing OTPs, these apps allow the scammers access to the victims’ phones remotely.

“Once installed, the apps will request various phone permissions. If granted, the scammers can remotely access the victim’s

phone – text messages, phone calls, banking apps. The scammers then don’t need to ask victims for OTPs as they can access the OTPs themselves,” the SP explained.

**Chain reaction**

ASP Sharma said that ground-level agents “shoot” (send in bulk) these APKs to thousands of people at a time. “Their idea is simple: even if only a small percentage of recipients install the apps, it would result in financial gains of lakhs,” he said. The ASP said that once a phone is hacked, it is used to scam more people in the victim’s contact list. “Once they get access to one phone, they remotely log into WhatsApp and send the APK to the victim’s contacts and groups asking them to install it. If one of them do, then this continues in a chain reaction.”

From the arrested suspects, police also found a spreadsheet with details of around 2,000 Punjab National Bank and 500 Canara Bank account holders. “The scammers sent specific fake apps to specific victims, matching their information, to make the scam appear more credible,” said Sharma.

To move the stolen money, the accused used dummy bank accounts procured, for a commis-

sion, from labour contractors who use their workers’ Aadhaar cards to open such accounts, the ASP said, adding that the scammers would never use one bank account for more than 8-10 days.

**From small-time to the big leagues**

Sharma said all the six arrested had stopped studies after class 10 and 12 and were “small-time cyber fraudsters” before they came in contact, between April and June 2023, with a software engineer who “gave them online tutorials on app development”.

The group used Java programming language to create these apps and generative AI-based chatbot ChatGPT to fine-tune it. “If any issues were found, they would use ChatGPT to generate new code that would bypass antivirus checks,” he said.

The group also took extreme precautions to avoid being tracked. “They frequently changed locations and used random open fields for their operations. To further hide their tracks, they only used encrypted communication through WhatsApp accounts that were made using fake SIM cards, preventing phone tracing,” Sharma explained.

Fourteen mobile phones, 23 SIM cards, 10 ATM cards, one laptop, two cars, Rs 1,08,800 in cash,

a DSLR camera, and a drone were recovered from the accused, SP Waqarib said.

“Over 100 malicious APKs” and a centralised panel to control them were found on their devices, according to the SP.

Analysing these with the help of the Jharkhand CID’s tech support team and the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre, police made further discoveries.

“From the centralised panel, we found data of over 2,700 victims, including more than 2,70,000 messages (OTPs and banking transaction details),” Waqarib said. Many more such panels were previously operated by the accused, police suspect.

The SP said the six accused have so far been linked to over 415 cybercrime complaints across India with a total defrauded amount estimated at over Rs 11 crore.

“As their network was involved not just in directly defrauding thousands of people, but also in supplying these malicious apps to other cybercriminals, the amount defrauded through their operations could be much bigger,” he said.

Police are now looking into the full scale of the operation and are making efforts to track down the remaining members of the network.





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**KAROL BAGH, DELHI**

**21 JAN, 1 PM | 31 JAN, 5 PM | 11 FEB, 8 AM**

**GTB NAGAR, DELHI**

**8 FEB, 8 AM**

**हिन्दी माध्यम**

**दिल्ली**

**4 FEBRUARY, 11 AM | 6 JANUARY, 11 AM**

**जयपुर**

**18 FEBRUARY**

**जोधपुर**

**3 DECEMBER**

**प्रवेश प्रारम्भ**

**भोपाल | लखनऊ**

**AHMEDABAD**

**4 JANUARY**

**BHOPAL**

**25 FEBRUARY**

**BENGALURU**

**18 FEBRUARY**

**HYDERABAD**

**12 FEBRUARY**

**JAIPUR**

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**JINDAL STAINLESS**

EXTRACTS OF UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

(₹ in crores except per share data)

Sr. No.	Particulars	For the quarter ended			For the nine months ended		For the year ended
		31 December 2024	30 September 2024	31 December 2023	31 December 2024	31 December 2023	31 March 2024
		Unaudited			Unaudited		Audited
1	Total income from operations	9,907.30	9,776.83	9,127.45	29,113.89	29,108.45	38,562.47
2	EBITDA *	1,207.54	1,186.49	1,246.17	3,605.75	3,669.11	4,704.29
3	Net profit for the period (before tax, exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	890.00	834.27	916.83	2,610.21	2,789.77	3,493.32
4	Net profit for the period before tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	890.00	834.27	916.83	2,610.21	2,890.58	3,592.47
5	Net profit for the period after tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	654.27	609.42	691.22	1,909.76	2,192.83	2,693.48
6	Total comprehensive income for the period [comprising profit for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)]	681.77	606.63	693.56	1,935.56	2,193.83	2,685.64
7	Paid up equity share capital (face value of ₹ 2/- each)	164.69	164.69	164.69	164.69	164.69	164.69
8	Other equity	15,986.58	15,296.87	13,691.95	15,986.58	13,691.95	14,193.21
9	Securities premium account	4,117.28	4,102.26	4,102.26	4,117.28	4,102.26	4,102.26
10	Net worth	16,151.27	15,461.56	13,856.64	16,151.27	13,856.64	14,357.90
11	Paid up debt capital #	286.50	474.00	474.00	286.50	474.00	474.00
12	Outstanding redeemable preference shares	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	Debt equity ratio	0.42	0.41	0.46	0.42	0.46	0.41
14	Earning per share (EPS) (face value of ₹ 2/- each)						
	a) Basic	7.95	7.42	8.41	23.25	26.87	32.95
	b) Diluted	7.95	7.41	8.41	23.23	26.87	32.94
	(EPS for the period not annualised)						
15	Capital redemption reserve	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
16	Debt redemption reserve #	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	Debt service coverage ratio	2.77	4.39	6.52	3.83	6.73	5.95
18	Interest service coverage ratio	8.14	7.78	8.81	8.23	9.43	8.79

\* EBITDA = Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation & amortization and other income  
# Listed debenture

Notes:


1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly/nine months/yearly financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and Regulation 52 read with Regulation 63 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 [SEBI (LODR)]. The full format of the standalone and consolidated quarterly/nine months/yearly financial results along with other line items referred in Regulation 52(4) of the SEBI (LODR) are available on the Company's website: (www.jindalstainless.com) and on the websites of Bombay Stock Exchange (www.bseindia.com) and the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. (www.nseindia.com). The same can be access by scanning the QR Code provided below.

2 Standalone financial information of the Company, pursuant to regulation 47(1)(b) of SEBI (LODR) :

(₹ in crores)


Particulars	For the quarter ended			For the nine months ended		For the year ended
	31 December 2024	30 September 2024	31 December 2023	31 December 2024	31 December 2023	31 March 2024
	Unaudited			Unaudited		Audited
Total income from operations	10,065.60	9,745.65	9,087.57	29,396.15	28,835.26	38,356.00
EBITDA *	1,003.40	1,006.92	1,020.80	3,014.72	3,208.42	4,035.71
Profit before tax (before exceptional items)	831.52	792.82	974.94	2,412.60	2,692.24	3,296.51
Profit before tax (after exceptional items)	831.52	792.82	974.94	2,412.60	2,692.24	3,327.75
Profit after tax	618.64	589.29	779.27	1,786.25	2,054.33	2,530.69

Place: New Delhi  
Date: 29 January 2025.




By Order of the Board of Directors  
For Jindal Stainless Limited  
Anurag Mantri  
Executive Director & Group CFO

(CIN: L26922HR1980PLC010901)  
Regd. Office: O.P. Jindal Marg, Hisar-125 005 (Haryana) | Ph. No.: (01662) 222471-83 | Fax No.: (01662) 220499  
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## Curbs under GRAP 3 return as air quality worsens in city

New Delhi: Anti-pollution curbs under Stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) kicked in on Wednesday evening again as the Capital's air quality deteriorated to the 'very poor' category. The development comes after the AQI (air quality index) in the city remained in the 'moderate' or 'poor' category for nine straight days.

Delhi's AQI was 365 on Wednesday against Tuesday's AQI of 276. Calm winds are said to be one of the factors behind the worsening air quality, apart from smoggy conditions.

The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM), the Centre's panel on Delhi-NCR's air quality, has invoked stringent measures which include hybrid mode for classes up to V; a ban on BS III, and a ban on BS III petrol and BS-IV diesel cars; staggered timings for public offices and municipal bodies in Delhi and a few NCR districts, as well as a ban on demolition work and mining activities.

The situation is likely to persist in the coming days, the CAQM said in its order, citing the forecast by the India Meteorological Department and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology. **ENS**



## TRIBUTE TO VALOUR

**President Droupadi Murmu at the Beating Retreat ceremony, marking the formal end of the Republic Day celebrations, in New Delhi on Wednesday.**  
*Praveen Khanna & Tashi Tobgyal*



## Delhi Police wins 'Best Marching Contingent' award in R-Day parade

New Delhi: The Delhi Police contingent has been selected as the 'Best Marching Contingent' for the Republic Day parade at Kartavya Path in the Capital this year.

Ever since its formation, the Delhi Police have won 16 trophies out of 38 times they participated in the march past at Kartavya Path (formerly known as Rajpath). **ENS**

## Man murdered after he tried to force himself on tenant's partner: Police

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NOIDA, JANUARY 29

TWO DAYS before he was killed at his home in Greater Noida's Kulesara village, Dinesh Gaur, 50, had allegedly agreed to rent the third floor of his house to a couple, said police. On Wednesday, 44-year-old Imtiaz, who had taken up the third floor on rent, was arrested in the murder case. He allegedly killed Gaur after the 50-year-old "tried to force himself on his partner", said Shakti Mohan Avasthy, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Central Noida.

"During the investigation, when the cameras around Gaur's

house were checked, it was found that Imtiaz, along with his partner, came to rent the room on Thursday. He had got acquainted with Gaur through his colleague while he worked in Gurugram," said Avasthy.

Two days later, at around 11 pm on Saturday, Gaur, a "fake medical practitioner" who lived in Delhi with his family, came to his Greater Noida home and also brought liquor along, said Avasthy. "He then dialed up Imtiaz. He asked his partner, who answered the phone, to come with Imtiaz. As the couple reached and settled for a conversation in a single-room house on the ground floor, Gaur, who was drinking, asked

Imtiaz to bring salt for the fish that he was eating. It was a trick to send Imtiaz away," said the DCP.

According to the police, as Imtiaz left, Gaur forced himself on the woman and when she protested, the doctor allegedly pressed her mouth. "When Imtiaz returned to the room, he tried to intervene and a fight ensued between the two. Imtiaz asked his female friend to leave. Gaur had a hammer, sharp blades, and other medical equipment in the room. He took out a sharp blade and attacked Imtiaz who managed to snatch the blade, and attack Gaur. He caught hold of a hammer under a bed and hit Gaur on his head," said Avasthy.

## 30 HOURS AFTER BURARI BUILDING COLLAPSE

# Family of four rescued: 'Ate peanuts, tomatoes to survive'

**UPASIKA SINGHAL**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

"PEOPLE CAN go to any length to save their children... I managed to keep my children's hunger and thirst at bay by feeding them three tomatoes, and we (me and my wife) managed to survive by eating peanuts," said Rajesh, 30, who was rescued on Tuesday night along with his wife and two children more than 30 hours after a building collapsed in North Delhi's Burari.

"A portion of the ceiling fell on a gas cylinder. This created space and also trapped this family," said DCP North Raja Bantia on Wednesday. Rajesh, his wife Gangotri (26), and their children — Prince (6) and Ritik (3) — were taken to a nearby hospital for further treatment soon after the rescue, officials said.

Since the building collapsed on Monday, 16 people have been rescued and five have been declared dead.

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and police officials said the rescue operations are expected to conclude on Thursday.

In an FIR registered following a complaint by Lalita Prasad, one of the survivors, it is mentioned

that the walls and pillars had started showing cracks.

"I had pointed out the cracks to the builder many times but he just asked some people to apply POP (Plaster of Paris) and hide them...when I told him that the building could collapse and kill people, he told me that he could not put any more money in this building. He told me he didn't care whether people lived or died," wrote Prasad in his complaint.

The builder, Yogender Bhati, was arrested from Timarpur on Tuesday and has been booked under BNS sections 105 (culpable homicide), 110 (attempt to commit culpable homicide) and 3(5) (common intent).

### Conducting rescue op

The fire department and the police were the first responders on the site when the building collapsed on Monday evening. "Whenever such an incident occurs, the first to rescue people are the survivors and eyewitnesses," explained Delhi Fire Service chief Atul Garg. "After that, when the fire service and police arrive, we use cutting and lifting tools to remove the debris while the police remove any crowd that has gathered and cordons off the area," he said.

The police also talk to witnesses and survivors to understand how many people are still in the building. "In this particular case, there was an opening through which we could hear two children crying...one of our men climbed into the hole and pulled them out," said DCP North Raja Bantia. He added that the first few rescues were done without any safety gear. "We work on the instinct of humanity," Bantia said.

Meanwhile, the NDRF first conducts an initial assessment by talking to people nearby and survivors to get a rough estimate of the building's layout and the location of the people trapped under the debris.

"Once the survivors tell us where each person was in the building before it collapsed, we use a victim locating camera...it's a small camera attached to a bendable pipe. The camera has a light and speaker attached. We have a screen where it feeds the footage...we also use sniffer dogs to locate survivors and bodies," said NDRF 16th Battalion Second-in-Command, Daulat Ram Chaudhary.

"In this case, the building fell in a pancake pattern, which generally leaves low chances of survival," he added.

## Car bearing Punjab govt sticker seized with liquor bottles, AAP pamphlets

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

THE DELHI Police on Wednesday claimed to have seized a car near Punjab Bhawan in central Delhi containing liquor bottles and cash, along with scarves, and pamphlets of the AAP.

"Today, we have found a vehicle with a Punjab numberplate and 'Punjab sarkar' written on it... we also found a few lakhs of cash, liquor bottles and AAP pamphlets. A case is being registered accordingly," the Delhi

Police said in a statement.

According to an officer, the car was found parked at Copernicus Marg near Punjab Bhawan. Acting on a tip-off, a team from Tilak Marg police station searched the car, he added.

Two video clips that have surfaced on the social media show a white Hyundai Creta parked on the roadside.

Several pamphlets featuring the photograph of AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal and several party scarves are seen on the rear seat.

Calling the seizure a

"planted stunt", the AAP said in a statement. "It is totally fake and laughable. Tracking data shows the number belongs to a Hyundai Creta — this is a different car."

"No entry record of this vehicle at Punjab Bhawan for the past week. Never entered the premises.... conveniently parked with no driver in sight. Owner details trace back to someone from Pathankot, now in Punjabj Bagh, but originally from Pune. A planted stunt—poorly executed and utterly bogus," it added.

### EXHORTATION—HUDCO

Sanjay Kulshreshta, CMD, HUDCO, chaired the valedictory session of the ITEC program on the theme 'Low Carbon Urban Infrastructure Development & Financing', organized by HUDCO's Research & Training Wing, HSML. This edition of the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation program, sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, brought together 24 urban development professionals from 14 countries.



### VISIT—CCIC

Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary (Textiles) conducted a Comprehensive review of "The Cottage" in the presence of Manoj Lal, MD, the Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Ltd, Rajeev Saxena, Joint Secretary, DK Panda, Deputy Secretary, Hari Kishore, Under Secy, as also Ajay Gupta, JS (Chairman CCIC) & Amrit Raj, Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Directors on Board, "the Cottage". The visit focused on evaluating the current status of the Corporation, identifying the challenges & accelerating competition.



### EVENT—NBCC

NBCC celebrated India's 76th Republic Day at its headquarters, which commenced with the unfurling of the National Tricolour by KP Mahadevaswamy, CMD, NBCC in the presence of senior officers and NBCC employees. This was followed by the singing of the National Anthem. CMD, NBCC while addressing the gathering, reaffirmed commitment to the Constitution of India.



### MILESTONE —THDCIL

THDCIL achieved a milestone in its commitment to strengthening India's power generation capacity with the announcement of the Commercial Operation Date of Unit#1 of 1320 MW KSTPP. RK Vishnoi, CMD THDCIL informed that it was a proud moment. With the successful commissioning of this unit, THDCIL is poised to play a prominent role in powering the nation's growth & contributing to its sustainable energy future.



### RALLY—INDIAN COAST GUARD

As part of the Indian Coast Guard's (ICG) 49th Raising Day celebrations, 'Sentinels of the Sea - Sarhad Se Samandar' Motorcycle Expedition, which was flagged off from the Attari border reached Sri Ganganagar in Rajasthan. After an interactive session with students of MSM Sainik School, Sri Ganganagar, the ICG rally was flagged off by General Officer Commanding Amogh Division.



### EVENT—M/O PETROLEUM

India Energy Week 2025, spanning over 1 lakh sq mts., will be the second-largest energy event globally, in terms of participation, exhibition space, and sessions. Scheduled to be held from 11-14 February at Yashobhoomi in New Delhi, IEW 2025 promises unparalleled global participation from Ministers, CEOs, & industry leaders, setting new benchmarks in the energy sector.



### REPUBLIC DAY PARADE—ICG

In ICG's first-ever participation in the Republic Day parade with three Dornier aircraft, a full band of 75 personnel performed at the Kartavya Path, while a 144-member contingent, headed by Deputy Commandant Navita Thakran, paraded. India's President honored DG Paramesh Sivamani, PTM, TM, with the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal. Eight officers & personnel were awarded the President's Tatrakshak Medal and Tatrakshak Medal.



### PROGRAM—EPFO

The Employees Provident Fund Organization organized the Suyojna Nidhi Aapke Paas program in Meerut, Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Shamli, Bijnor, Baghpat, Bulandshahr, Hapur and Ghaziabad under the Regional Office Meerut, wherein employers, shareholders & pensioners participated. They were given information related to claim payment, KYC & pension.

# CORPORATE BRIEFS

### VISIT—IREDA

PM Modi visited the IREDA pavilion themed "Responsible for Renewables," at the "Utkarsh Odisha: Make in Odisha Conclave 2025" in Bhubaneswar recently. Pradip Kumar Das, CMD, IREDA welcomed the PM & briefed him on the company's 37-year legacy as India's largest pure-play green financing NBFC. During the interaction, Das highlighted IREDA's pivotal role in advancing renewable energy projects to achieve India's 500 GW non-fossil fuel installed capacity target by 2030, in line with the country's Panchamrit and Viksit Bharat 2047 goals. PM Modi was accompanied by the CM of Odisha, Mohan Charan Majhi; the Governor, Dr. Hari Babu Kamhampati & other dignitaries.



### EXHIBITION—POWERGRID

POWERGRID will organize GRIDCON 2025 - an International Exhibition cum Conference scheduled from 9-11 March 2025 at Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, Delhi. This mega event will bring together, 2000+ Conference Delegates, 150+ Exhibiting Companies, 150+ Papers/Poster Presentations and 30+ Country Representatives from across the globe. GRIDCON 2025 is a premier event in the power transmission industry for professionals, researchers & academicians across the global power system community to shape the future of grid resilience, asset management, and digital transformation.

### HEALTH CAMP—IREDA

IREDA organized a preventive health check-up camp for its employees, including outsourced staff, at the company's registered office in New Delhi. The initiative was inaugurated by Dr. Bijay Kumar Mohanty, Dir. (Finance), in the presence of senior officials. The health camp provided a range of diagnostic tests & consultations with medical experts, enabling employees to monitor their health and take proactive measures. Employees actively participated in the camp, demonstrating their commitment to maintaining a healthy lifestyle.



### BUDGET EXPECTATION QUOTE — ATUL SOBTHI, DG, SCOPE

"The Union Budget 2025 is expected to be a 'wholesome budget' paving way for transformational decisions facilitating infrastructure investment and empowering consumption, giving impetus to industrial growth, skilling and employment creation".

**SCHIEBEL** Schiebel has been awarded another multi-year service contract for the CAMCOPTER® S-100 Unmanned Air System with the European Maritime Safety Agency. The contract is for service provision with Remotely Piloted Aircraft Services for supporting EU member states in emission monitoring and maritime surveillance operations. For the third time in a row, Schiebel has been awarded a tender with EMSA. In 2018, Schiebel signed its first contract to support European coast guards & maritime authorities, followed by a second contract in 2021. The now newly awarded contract spans for up to four years - two fixed yrs with an option for an additional two years. Since 2018, the S-100 has conducted over 1780 deployment days for EMSA and operated across Europe, in Croatia, France, Finland, Denmark, Spain, Estonia, Romania, Lithuania, Iceland, Germany & Belgium. Stationed either on land or on ships, the S-100 performs general night & day maritime surveillance, search and rescue operations & oil spill detection, as well as monitoring of sulphur content of ships' emissions to ensure compliance with the Int'l Maritime Organisation limits. The CAMCOPTER® S-100 can carry multiple payloads with a combined weight of up to 50 kg. Due to its unique and proven nature, and its ability to fly slowly and hover, it is ideally suited for maritime operations. "We have been supporting European maritime authorities for almost six years now and are extremely proud to continue our success story with EMSA. It proves once again, that the availability & reliability of the S-100 is unrivalled," said Neil Hunter, Head of Global Sales for Schiebel.

### HONOUR—HURL

Dr. SP Mohanty, MD, Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan, has been honoured as one of the Elite 100 Changemakers by IT Media Network. This prestigious recognition highlights Dr. Mohanty's relentless drive for excellence & his transformative contributions that have significantly shaped both HURL & the future of Odisha. The Elite 100 Changemakers award, which acknowledges individuals who have gone above & beyond in driving positive change, celebrated Dr. Mohanty's impactful leadership.



**PETRONET LNG LTD** During the quarter ended 31 st Dec., 2024 (current quarter), Dahej terminal processed 213 TBTU of LNG as against 218 TBTU during the corresponding quarter ended 31 st December, 2023 and 225 TBTU during the previous quarter ended 30 th September, 2024. The overall LNG volume processed by the Company in the current quarter was 228 TBTU, as against the LNG volume processed in the corresponding & previous quarters, which stood at 232 TBTU and 239 TBTU respectively. During the nine months ended 31 st Dec., 2024 (current nine months), Dahej terminal processed highest ever LNG volume of 686 TBTU as against 646 TBTU during the corresponding nine months ended 31 st Dec., 2023. The overall highest ever LNG volume processed by the Company in the current nine months was 729 TBTU, as against the LNG volume processed in the corresponding nine months, which stood at 685 TBTU. The Company has reported PBT of Rs 1,169 Cr in the current quarter, as against Rs 1,597 Cr in the corresponding quarter and Rs 1,140 Cr, in the previous quarter. The PAT of the current quarter was reported at Rs 867 Cr as against the PAT of the corresponding and previous quarters of Rs 1,191 Cr & Rs 848 Cr respectively. During the current nine months, the Company has reported highest ever PBT of Rs 3,829 Cr as against the PBT of corresponding nine months of Rs 3,761 Cr. The highest ever PAT of the current nine months stood at Rs 2,856 Cr as against Rs 2,799 Cr in the corresponding nine months.

**CARS24** India's leading AutoTech company unveiled its inaugural 'Gear of Growth: The 2024 Indian Used-Car Market Report.' 2024 emerged as a milestone year where used-car sales left new car sales in the rearview mirror with a remarkable ratio of 1:3.1. The market is projected to grow from 4.6 million sales in CY23 to a whopping 10.8 million by CY30, cruising ahead with an impressive CAGR of 13%. Gajendra Jangid, the Co-Founder of CARS24 acknowledged the remarkable growth.

### CELEBRATION—RAILKUNJ RWA

RAILKUNJ RWA & residents celebrated the 76th Republic Day with patriotic fervor at their premises. Post hoisting the Indian National Flag, singing National Anthem and parade, the cultural committee organised drawing competitions, games, sports & many cultural performances. They gave away saplings as a prize & token of appreciation to winners, participants & performers which encourages a green environment within the community. The RWA president, RKS Rathore & General Secretary, Rahul Negi felicitated Ms Himani Chauhan, Ms Neeraja Chauhan & Ms Puspansjali Mohapatra, who organised the entire republic day celebration.



### SERVICE—GALAXY TOYOTA

Galaxy Toyota's philosophy of creating "Customers for a Lifetime" is central to its operations, ensuring world-class service and quality. Galaxy Toyota has earned numerous prestigious awards for excellence in customer satisfaction and skills. Its Express Maintenance Service provides efficient 1 hour vehicle servicing.





Court grants 5-day custody parole to 2020 riots accused to campaign

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

A DELHI court on Wednesday granted five days of custody parole to February 2020 riots accused and AIMIM's Okhla candidate Shafa-ur-Rehman to campaign for the Delhi elections.

Custody parole entails a prisoner being escorted by armed police personnel to the place of visit. Additional sessions judge Sameer Bajpai was hearing Rehman's interim bail plea for four weeks. The plea said Rehman, contesting on an AIMIM ticket, was required to canvass for the elections. Special public prosecutor Amit Prasad argued that canvassing for elections was an unreasonable ground for granting the relief and Rehman could be released only on custody parole.

The court observed that the Supreme Court, on January 28, had granted six-day custody parole to former AAP councillor and co-accused Tahir Hussain to campaign as AIMIM candidate from Mustafabad.

"Although the present case and the case in which the co-accused Mohammad Tahir Hussain has been granted custody parole by the Supreme Court are altogether different, still when the Supreme Court has declined the interim bail of the co-accused and only granted custody parole to him, this court should also follow the same," the court said.

Rehman was directed to be released under police protection from January 30 to February 5 for 12 hours, each day, upon the deposition of Rs 2.07 lakh towards security expenses.

The court, however, barred Rehman from commenting on his pending cases during his speeches or at press conferences. It allowed Rehman to stay in his Jamia Nagar home, visit the party office, attend meetings, sign documents and meet his campaign managers and advocates.



Tahir Hussain campaigns on Wednesday. Nirbhay Thakur

Dekho dekho sher aaya: Mustafabad welcomes Hussain after five years

NIRBHAY THAKUR  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

"Dekho dekho kaun aaya, sher aaya, sher aaya" chants fill the air as Mustafabad welcomes AIMIM candidate Tahir Hussain after five years. Out on a six-day custody parole granted by the Supreme Court, former AAP councillor and 2020 Delhi riots accused on Wednesday launched his campaign in Mustafabad, where he had spent over 30 years of his life.

Amid chants of 'jail ka jawab vote se' in Sanjay Chowk, Hussain tells a crowd of hundreds, "Friends, my face must seem familiar to you. I have come here to meet you after five years. I have waited so long to see you again... This Sanjay Chowk is where I began my life. These streets are my home. This is where I raised my family."

"I was the reason why AAP was able to open its account in Mustafabad... but when there was a crisis, they abandoned me... But the AIMIM showed faith in me," he adds. Hussain, who was expelled by AAP for his alleged role in the riots, had claimed that he was a victim of conspiracy.

"I have a dream to improve roads, set up schools and hospitals for the people of Mustafabad," he says, eliciting a loud cheer.

As Hussain and his workers traverse around the streets of Old Mustafabad, what catches the eye

are roads full of garbage and choked drains.

As part of his roadshow, three autorickshaws with AIMIM flags and posters follow Hussain, who is showered with flower petals from houses.

"Asalam walekum, mere sabhi bhaiyon ko," says an AIMIM worker as he shakes hands with everyone. His refrain – "Patang ka button dabaye (click on the kite button, the symbol of AIMIM)".

Hussain's supporters storm the room in which he is about to give a speech, as police personnel try to control the crowd. Wiping his face of sweat, Hussain asks his supporters to relax and make way for AIMIM leader Imtiaz Jaleel. After the gathering, as police personnel ask the crowd to disperse, AIMIM workers tell the gathering that the roadshow will resume on Thursday.

Throughout the day, not a word is spoken about the 2020 riots case for which he Hussain was in jail. On Tuesday, while allowing him custody parole from January 29 to February 3 to campaign, the Supreme Court had barred him from making any public comments on the merits of his case.

In the 2020 polls, AAP's Haji Yunus had won from Mustafabad, defeating BJP's sitting MLA Jagdish Pradhan. This time, AAP has fielded Adil Ahmad Khan and BJP has given a ticket to five-time MLA Mohan Singh Bisht. The Congress ticket has gone to Ali Mehdi.

CONGRESS RELEASES MANIFESTO

Promise to Purvanchalis, caste census

SAMAN HUSAIN  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

THE CONGRESS on Wednesday launched its election manifesto, promising to conduct a caste census and set up a ministry for Purvanchalis if it is voted to power in the Capital.

The manifesto centered around five key guarantees, some of which are based on successful implementation of similar schemes in Congress-ruled states or those previously governed by the party.

For instance, the Pyari Didi Yojna promises a monthly allowance of Rs 2,500 for women and apprenticeships for unemployed youth with a stipend of Rs 8,500 – initiatives inspired by similar schemes currently in place in Karnataka.


Additionally, the party has pledged free health coverage of up to Rs 25 lakh, drawing from a scheme introduced in Rajasthan in 2011 when it was in power.

The manifesto includes 14 commitments focused on youth; 15 aimed at supporting women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities; four addressing the needs of the urban poor; and 10 for unorganised sector workers. Notably, the party has vowed to celebrate Chhath Puja on a scale comparable to the Maha Kumbh.


EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

FOR POLITICAL leaders from across the country, including Union ministers and chief ministers, Delhi has turned into a "temporary home" with the Assembly elections just a week away.


The BJP, true to its usual practice of progressive electoral carpet bombing before polls, is relying on everyone from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the CMs of BJP-ruled states to its national leadership and popular MPs to raise the tempo of its campaign.




**₹2,500**  
Monthly allowance for women




**₹500**  
Free cooking gas cylinder



**₹25 lakh**  
Free health coverage per family

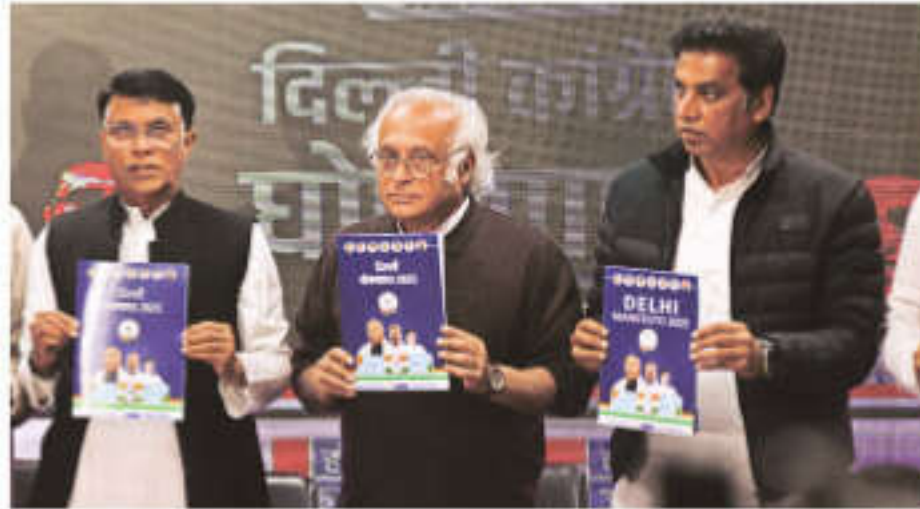


**300 units**  
Free electricity for all households



**₹8,500**  
Monthly stipend for youth; one-year apprenticeship

OTHER KEY PROMISES



Congress leaders release the manifesto. Anil Sharma

**For SC/ST/OBC:** Caste survey in Delhi; 15% govt contracts reserved for SCs; increase in OBC creamy layer income limit to Rs 12 lakh; free pilgrimage for Dalits; loans for traditional occupations and start-ups by SCs, STs & OBCs

**Corruption check:** Stronger Lokpal Bill in six months, probe of 'liquor scam', 'Delhi Jal Board Scam' and others

**For Purvanchalis:** Grand celebration of Chhath Puja with a public holiday and liquor ban; dedicated Chhath Puja district near Yamuna; Purvanchal Bhawans and Ministry for Purvanchalis; restoration of Yamuna and removal of encroachments

**For working professionals:** Parks, wellness zones, recreational spaces; tax incentives for firms providing daycare; flexible work options

CMs among key political leaders camping in city

Punjab CM and AAP leader Bhagwant Mann, along with several ministers in his Cabinet, has been campaigning in the Capital for the past two weeks. Earlier this week, Rajya Sabha MP and former team India cricketer Harbhajan Singh also held roadshows.

A prominent face missing from the campaign is Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita. She had campaigned for AAP and Congress candidates ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. Sources said she is only campaigning in Kejriwal's New Delhi constituency.

The BJP's juggernaut includes leaders such as Uttar Pradesh CM

Yogi Adityanath and his counterparts from Haryana, Nayab Singh Saini, Uttarakhand's Pushkar Dhama, Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnis and Assam CM Himata Biswa Sarma.

Over the coming week, party insiders said, the BJP will step up its pitch of "making existing welfare schemes more efficient" and seeking to bolster trust in its own welfare schemes – especially the promise of disbursing Rs 2,500 per month to women from economically-challenged households. This is expected to happen in unauthorised colonies and slums. On Wednesday, the party

held 35 assembly-level meetings across the city.

The Congress, too, has enlisted its elected leaders and state unit members to spearhead its campaign. Among those taking center stage is Rajasthan MLA and former Union Minister Sachin Pilot. On Tuesday, Pilot joined Delhi Congress Chief Devender Yadav's 'Padyatra' in Badli.

The party's first guarantee, the Pyaari Didi Yojana, which assures women a monthly stipend of Rs 2,500, was introduced by Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar. The second poll promise, Jeevan Raksha Yojana,

which offers free healthcare coverage of up to Rs 25 lakh for all Delhi residents, was introduced by former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. He pointed out the initiative is modeled after a healthcare scheme implemented by the Congress government in Rajasthan in 2011.

To kick off its month-long 'Dilli Nyay Yatra,' modeled on Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra,' the Congress brought in Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. Sukhu has not only flagged off the campaign but has also addressed several press conferences since.



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**SBI PROPERTY FEST**  
**1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2025**  
**10:00AM to 7:00PM**

**Apparel House, Sector 44, Gurugram**

**"PRIDE OF HOME OWNERSHIP BEGINS WITH US"**  
\*TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY

**Making Home ownership a Reality**

"We are thrilled to host SBI – Property Fest in Gurugram and invite all to visit the fest where customers can evaluate multiple options. The best part about the event is the presence of major builders / developers of Delhi-NCR at one platform combined with attractive offers by SBI Home Loans" said **Debasish Mishra**, Chief General Manager, New Delhi Circle of SBI. He further added that a home is a major investment decision and a dream for every individual and SBI being the largest home loan provider in the country, is committed to offer best products and services for its customers. Transparency and trust are at the core of our offerings.



State Bank of India the largest home lender in the country is coming up with a mega property fest of Delhi NCR on 01st February 2025 at Apparel House, Sector 44, Gurugram. This extravaganza will be the biggest residential real estate event of the year at an easily accessible location.

The property fest will provide an array of opportunities for prospective buyers to own their Dream Homes. At one place, visiting home buyers will have more than 350 SBI approved residential projects and 30 reputed builders to choose from best-in-class living options. To add to the list, SBI will be providing all assistance for Home Loans along with range of benefits like enhanced repayment period, no penalty on prepayment, processing fee at concessional rate, advantage of incentivised rate of interest and assurance of no hidden charges on Home Loan. This fest also offers excellent platform for Real estate developers across the region to promote their projects and connect with potential buyers in addition to understanding their preferences.

SBI is the most preferred bank for every Indian to rely upon, particularly in the mortgage loan space. The key differentiator for SBI Home Loan is transparency and understanding the needs and aspirations of customers. With committed, inclusive and customised housing finance solutions for all income segments SBI, has achieved milestone of Rs 8 trillion AUM under the Home Loans portfolio. With availability of digital and customised products along with experienced teams to handle, SBI is undoubtedly the one stop solution for Home Loans.

The SBI Property Fest 2025 is an excellent opportunity for both buyers and investors to meet leading real estate professionals from all over the city. Whether it is a first-time homebuyer, an experienced investor, or a professional, this event has something to offer to everyone.





# 6 DECISION 2025

DELHI ASSEMBLY ELECTION



## YAMUNA POISONED REMARK

# Court summons Kejriwal; Saini drinks from river, AAP says he spat it out

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
CHANDIGARH, NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

A COURT in Haryana's Sonapat on Wednesday summoned AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal on February 17 to present his side on a complaint over his claim that the BJP-ruled state was mixing "poison in the Yamuna waters" before the river enters the Capital.

This came even as Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini took a couple of sips from the Yamuna to press home the point that its water on the Haryana side was clean. The AAP, however, alleged that Saini spat the water back into the Yamuna and did not gulp it down.

Issuing a notice to Kejriwal, the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Neha Goyal said, "He is directed to appear in-person before this court on the next date of hearing, if he has to say anything in the matter. If he does not appear before this court on next date of hearing, it is deemed that he has nothing to say in the matter and further proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with law."

Under the Section 223 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, an opportunity of being heard is to be given to the accused before the magistrate takes cognizance of the offence.

The court was hearing a complaint filed by Ashish Kaushik, an executive engineer of Haryana Water Services, stationed in

Sonapat. The complaint has been filed under Section 54 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and Section 353 (statements conducing to public mischief) and 356 (defamation) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Meanwhile, in his reply to the Election Commission (EC), Kejriwal cited Delhi Jal Board (DJB) CEO Shilpa Shinde's letter, which stated that the ammonia concentration is 7 parts per million (ppm). "Indiscriminate discharge of industrial waste" by Haryana government, he said, was the "root cause" of the contamination.

His reply came after the EC, on Tuesday, acting on complaints filed by BJP and Congress leaders, asked Kejriwal to give evidence supporting his allegation that the



A video grab shows Haryana CM spitting out Yamuna water; Arvind Kejriwal at a Jan Sabha on Wednesday. Amit Mehra

Haryana government was "poisoning" Delhi's water supply in the run-up to the February 5 polls.

In his reply, Kejriwal said, "It cannot be denied that safe drinking water is one of the most basic and essential requirements of any civilised society and raising an issue for the society with respect to



the same — cannot be termed as committing an offence."

Shinde, in an earlier letter to the EC, had said that DJB water treatment plants are designed to treat ammonia up to 1 ppm and up to 2.5 ppm can be treated by dilution.

Kejriwal further listed the im-

pact of ammonia on human health, neurological impairment, liver and kidney dysfunction, infant mortality risks and bacterial outbreaks in his reply. "The Delhi government has no role to play with such a high level of toxic water being made available by Haryana, which is an upper-riparian state," he said. As a remedial measure to the "grave situation", leading to a shortage of drinking water in Delhi, the chief ministers of Delhi and Punjab immediately requested for the EC intervention, he added.

Amid all this, Saini took a couple of sips from the Yamuna near Dahisra village on the Delhi-Haryana border. He maintained that the Yamuna water on the border of Haryana from where it en-

ters Delhi completely meets the standards and demanded Kejriwal's apology to the people of Delhi and Haryana for his "false" statement.

The AAP, however, called Saini's visit to the Palla ghat a PR stunt. Kejriwal alleged on X that Saini couldn't gulp the water down. "Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini pretended to drink Yamuna's water... and then spat the same water back into the Yamuna. When I pointed out that due to ammonia contamination, Yamuna's water could be a threat to the lives of Delhi residents, they threatened to file an FIR against me. The same toxic water they refuse to drink is being supplied to Delhi's citizens – I will not let this happen," he posted.

Earlier in the day, before visiting the river bank, Saini hit out at Delhi Chief Minister Atishi, whom he called a "dummy" CM and invited her to to Pall Ghat where he took the sip of water. "There is no poison in the water coming to Delhi from Haryana, but your minds are definitely filled with poison..." Saini said in a post in Hindi on X.

He was responding to an earlier post on X by Atishi who had requested Saini that "you and I go together" to the Palla Ghat "and take media colleagues along" as well. "We will measure the amount of ammonia in front of everyone. Everyone should know that Haryana is sending poisonous water to the people of Delhi," she had written.

# Inside shops in city's market hubs, there's support for BJP; outside, it is advantage AAP

**DEVANSH MITTAL**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

ONE OF Delhi's busiest markets, known for apparel shops, Lajpat Nagar Central Market is bustling in the afternoon. Manik Arora (37), who runs an artefacts shop, worries, however, that the numbers may soon dwindle.

"The MCD (Municipal Corporation of Delhi) has given contracts to private contractors to manage the parking. They charge around Rs 100 an hour. Given such high rates, how will customers come to our stores?" he asks.

He is also troubled by "the increasing number" of street vendors. As is Anil Sood (67), who says he has been selling paintings at Lajpat Nagar for 35 years. "Street vendors keep the same items as we keep, just that these are duplicate. We are losing customers," says Sood, demanding the number of vendors be belimited and they be assigned areas.

At the same time, in this market located in the heart of South Delhi, the growing belief is that this won't happen as the vendors have the backing of the ruling AAP. It is they who benefit from AAP government schemes such as free water and electricity, says Arora.

"It is for those who practically don't consume any electricity... We are still paying bills," he adds. Listing "unregulated" vendors, parking issues and "dirty streets", Arora speaks for others when he says a change is needed. "The AAP has not done any work here."

Lajpat Nagar falls under the Jangpura Assembly seat, from where the AAP has fielded its former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia against BJP's Tarvinder Singh Marwah. While the AAP has won the past three times from Jangpura, Sisodia is a first-time candidate, having moved here from Patparganj.

In 2008, Marwah had won on the Congress ticket from the constituency. While the Congress was the runner-up in 2013 and still retains a respectable vote share in the constituency, the BJP came second the past two times.

Traders are traditionally seen as a BJP vote bank, though the AAP has been wooing them and has an active traders' wing. All three market hubs – Lajpat Nagar, Rajouri Garden and Karol Bagh – visited by *The Indian Express* voted for the AAP the past two times.

At rallies held on Monday, AAP



Lajpat Nagar market falls under Jangpura seat. Devansh Mittal

chief Arvind Kejriwal underlined to voters that he was a "Baniya", a community of generally traders. The BJP for its part has planned meetings targeting traders.

Twenty kilometres away, in the shopping hub of Rajouri Garden, Dharam Narayan Gautam also has concerns regarding street vendors. While Rajouri Garden's main road boasts of branded outlets for food and clothing, the inner lanes are full by smaller shops offering wares at cheaper prices.

"A number of people are selling their items on the street in front of our shops... Some government departments must be supporting them," says Gautam, a 50-year-old shopkeeper in D Block.

Sanjeev Jain (63), who says his silver shop is now 43 years old, puts the lack of clean toilet facilities at the market as the biggest problem. "Till the MCD was controlled by the BJP, the toilets were regularly cleaned. Since AAP took over, there has been zero maintenance. Even the market is so dirty."

This is why Jain thinks that Majinder Singh Sirsa, BJP's Rajouri Garden candidate, has a good chance of winning. "It is a Punjabi-dominated area and everyone is a trader... He will win," Jain says.

Of Dhanwati Chandela, sitting AAP MLA from Rajouri Garden who has been repeated by the party, Jain says: "No work has been done... She has not shown her face since she won last time."

Chandela, however, passes the buck to the MCD. "The councillor is from the BJP. These issues are not the responsibility of the MLA".

In the 2020 polls, Chandela had won from Rajouri Garden. The AAP also won Rajouri Garden in 2015, but in 2013, when Sirsa was in the Shiromani Akali Dal and the party a BJP ally, he had won from the seat.

In nearby Karol Bagh market too, cleanliness is a major concern. Unlike Lajpat Nagar and Rajouri Garden, Karol Bagh is more of a wholesale market.

"We have seen Congress and AAP governments... There is not much difference. Drains and streets are dirty... The BJP should get a chance," says Madan Kumar Singh, a 49-year-old shopkeeper.

But, he thinks, AAP may have an edge. "The market will vote for BJP, but the nearby slums and jhuggi jhopris, they will vote for AAP for free electricity and water."

Vishesh Ravi is the three-time AAP MLA from Karol Bagh, fielded by the party again and contesting against BJP's Dushyant Gautam.

Rohit Kumar (34), who runs a jeans shop on Tank Road, famous for its counterfeit products, says Ravi is not bad, but he wants the BJP's Gautam to win, as he thinks the BJP should be in government at all levels, for any real change.

Again, the difference is stark between shopowners and street vendors, two of whom said that Ravi should win again as he is "responsive to local grievances".

Even the employees of the shopowners lean towards the AAP. Like Ram Bachhan, who talks of overflowing sewers, street vendors and the lack of parking space. "As soon as it rains, drains overflow and there is water on the streets... The lack of parking space means customers prefer to go elsewhere," says the 38-year old manager of a wholesale clothing shop. However, Bachhan adds, Kejriwal has done a good job in hospitals and schools, and he wants the AAP to win in February.

While Ravi had won the 2020 polls, and also finished far ahead of BJP in 2015, the latter has been traditionally strong here. The BJP last won from Karol Bagh in 2008.

Far from the limelight over four high-profile constituencies, The Indian Express met four candidates in the shadows — and found hope, some anger and a lot of grand promises

**ALOK SINGH & JATIN ANAND**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

ONE CANDIDATE is learning how to campaign from Google and YouTube as he prepares to take on Arvind Kejriwal. Another is contesting against Delhi Chief Minister Atishi with a unique demand: stop direct cash transfers to mothers' accounts, let the children have it. Elsewhere, a priest has promised free gas cylinders for all. And then there's a tuition teacher who has vowed to "give an account of each rupee spent from public funds".

All of them have one important caveat to add, though: "If elected."

Meet the outliers in the Delhi election fray this time, all of them promising to bring about change in their own unique way while acknowledging quietly that their chances of succeeding are almost next to none. The Indian Express spent a day with four such candidates on the margins -- three first-timers at this level and a veteran -- all trying their luck from four of the capital's most high-profile constituencies. There was confidence, hope, some anger and a lot of grand promises.

## 'WE NEED CHANGE'

**YOGESH SWAMY** (40), RWPI

**Work:** Tuition teacher, freelance journalist.

**Constituency:** Karawal Nagar, one of the sites of the 2020 riots.

**Key candidates:** Kapil Mishra (BJP), Manoj Tyagi (AAP) & Dr P K Mishra (Congress).

THIS IS SWAMY's second elec-



tion as a candidate at the Assembly-level and sixth consecutive attempt to get elected into office — any political office — in the hope of putting in place "a law guaranteeing jobs for the youth and less taxes to ensure



Narendra Modi touches Ravinder Singh Negi's feet. Amit Mehra

shopowners to clearly display their proprietorship. There is no issue with this."

Lallan Prasad, who sells tea outside Negi's core area in East Vinod Nagar, says, "I have heard

that he troubles street vendors, but haven't experienced it personally. He rarely visits this area."

Although, most shopkeepers in Negi's jurisdiction refrained from commenting on the videos,

## 'MY PEOPLE TRUST ME'

**HAIDER ALI** (50), Independent

**Work:** Driver

**Constituency:** New Delhi, AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal's seat.

**Other key candidates:** Parvesh Verma, former MP and son of ex-CM Sahib Singh Verma (BJP); Sandeep Dikshit, son of ex-CM Sheila Dikshit (Cong).

Seated on a plastic chair outside his home in "Qawwal Mohalla" off Panchkuian Road, Ali is "unhappy" with Arvind Kejriwal. "We have seen the AAP's work for over 10 years. Nothing has changed... It feels like we are living on the border of the city," Ali said. Records show the area falls under New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC),



which is controlled by the Centre.

Ali, who has studied up to Class 9, admits he is not into politics. In fact, he says, his friends and family chipped in to buy two pairs of kurta-pyjamas so that he could "look like a politician". "They also collected money to file the nomination papers. One friend gave me Rs 4,000 to get pamphlets published, another gave me a car for canvassing," he said.

Each pamphlet has his



making its first poll foray in the Capital.

Joshi has set up a poll office inside a shop located on the same lane where the AAP, Congress and BJP candidates have their local HQs in West Vinod Nagar. And his feeling of disappointment at being rebuffed by the BJP is evident.

Seated on a mat inside his office, he breaks down as he recalls his early life. "My father

was also a pujari (priest). He died in 1990... After that, the responsibility of my mother and siblings came to me. My mother worked as a domestic help. I sold milk and distributed newspapers, so that I could study," he said. "Even now, I don't have the money needed to contest. My wife, son, daughter and daughter-in-law are all helping me, and friends and neighbours. This party (BRJ) has given me this space, and some friends have helped me with two e-rickshaws with loud-speakers," he said.

Joshi's poll promise? "Free gas cylinders, revamped roads and sewage lines, a community centre, proper parking spaces, and measures to prevent chain-snatching incidents."

at the condition of our roads, the dirty water we get from our taps. All these parties are by and for corporates, not even one of them stands for the rights of the workers," Swamy says.

While the BJP, he alleged, was seeking votes in the name of religion, all three principal political parties were offering "alms" for votes. "We need change," he says. And his main poll promise? "We will give an account of each rupee from public funds being spent."



## 'AAP DIDN'T LISTEN TO ME'

**HAJI IQBAL SIDDIQUI** (49), Independent

**Work:** Driver

**Constituency:** Kalkaji, Delhi CM and AAP leader Atishi's seat.

**Other key candidates:** Ramesh Bidhuri, ex-MP (BJP), Alka Lamba (Cong)

SIDDIQUI, A resident of Govindpuri's Bhoomiheen Camp, owns a Grameen Sewa vehicle that ferries commuters between Tara Apartments and the Badarpur border. With a cooler as the election symbol, this is his first foray into the Assembly-level after having failed in two successive civic elections. He says he was an "AAP karyakarta" but has moved on and wants to be a part of the next government.

"Look at the condition of the roads, nalas... and the stalled pension for senior citizens. I will work alongside any party that has a plan to deliver basic services. When I was an AAP karyakarta, I had asked them to develop our area but they did not listen," he said.

Siddiqui said promises of monthly cash doles are "wrong". He has a solution, too: A monthly deposit of Rs 2,500 into the account of every one-year-old child until they turn five. "If the money is put in a fixed deposit, they will have the means to study, start a business or build a home."

Siddiqui stays in a rented accommodation for Rs 6,000 a month. He has taken a gold loan and hired two e-rickshaws for campaigning.

On the heavyweights in the fray, he said, "You cannot think like this when entering the battlefield, this way even Kejriwal would not have contested against Sheila Dikshit... It does not take time for people's minds to change." But what are his chances? "There are 30-35,000 votes in my JJ cluster. I am not sure about everyone's support, but I will at least have my own vote.

## MODI RALLY AT GHONDA

# Man whose feet Modi touched: Patparganj candidate who has been in the news

**SAMAN HUSAIN**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

AT A rally attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Ghonda on Wednesday, Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva called all party candidates to the stage. As they walked up to Modi, many bowed and touched his feet.

Among them, Ravinder Singh Negi, the party candidate from Patparganj, stood out – after he touched the PM's feet, Modi touched his feet back, thrice.

Soon after, Vishwas Nagar candidate Om Prakash Sharma also attempted to touch Modi's feet but was also stopped midway.

In the past too, Modi had reciprocated and touched the feet of those who touched his at events.

Negi (45), currently an MCD councillor from Vinod Nagar, which comes under the Patparganj Assembly constituency, had been in the news in the recent past.

Recently, a series of videos that Negi had been circulating on his own social media handles had led to a controversy. In one such video, he is seen interacting with Altamash Tomar, who runs Tomar Dairy store at West Vinod Nagar.

Negi is seen telling Tomar: "This (signboard) has just Tomar written on it. Whatever your real name is, the Muslim name, get

that written on the board. Get it done by tomorrow." He then threatens to seal the shop if the changes aren't made.

In many such videos that Negi used to previously upload on his social media, he is seen telling Hindu street vendors to put up saffron flags on vending carts. He is also seen visiting butcher shops before festivals, demanding that they be closed to respect the religious sentiments of Hindus.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Negi says, "During Navratni, many shops are run under misleading names. The local RWA (residents welfare association) approached me with complaints. I conducted an awareness drive, telling







Waqf panel members in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

## NIGHT SHIFT

SEVERAL OPPOSITION members of the Joint Committee of Parliament on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill were apparently sleep deprived when they turned up for the House panel's meeting on Wednesday morning. The draft report of the committee was shared with them the previous evening and some of them had to pull an all-nighter, sitting with their advisers through the night to study the 655-page report and draft their dissent notes, which were to be submitted by 4pm on Wednesday.

## EXULTING IN EXIT

VIJAYASAI REDDY'S recent resignation from the YSRCP and his subsequent announcement to retire from active politics seem to have spread a lot of joy in the TDP camp. Party leaders say Reddy, who had enjoyed a strong rapport with former CM Jagan Mohan Reddy, played a key role in the arrest of N Chandrababu Naidu who had to spend 53 days in jail. TDP leaders claimed that their objections stopped the BJP, NDA ally, from taking in Reddy after he quit the YSRCP. Reddy, who had maintained warm ties with the BJP, announced his retirement from active politics last week.

## SFJ filing baseless court cases in Europe, Canada, US against India: Govt

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

THE UNION government has alleged that the pro-Khalistan group Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) is spreading anti-India propaganda by not only organising protests but also filing "baseless" court cases against Indian dignitaries visiting European countries, Canada and US.

The government made this argument in an affidavit submitted to a UAPA tribunal, which, earlier this month, upheld the Centre's decision to declare the SFJ as an "unlawful association" for the next five years. SFJ's founder is Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a dual US-Canadian citizen of Indian origin.

Last year, a US district court had issued summons to the Indian government, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and former R&AW chief Samant Goel, among others, on a civil lawsuit filed by Pannun, seeking damages for an alleged plot to assassinate him in 2023. On July 10 last year, the Ministry of Home Affairs extended the ban on designated terrorist Pannun for five years for "anti-India activities".

The MHA informed the tribunal that the activities of SFJ are usually carried out from the offices of its Pannun, its legal adviser, in New York and in

California. "Pannun had instigated the protesting Indian farmers to arm themselves and fight the Indian forces and stated that the weapons would reach them from across the border. SFJ has also claimed to have prepared a list of children of police officers and politicians who are studying in foreign countries to take revenge, if its activists are tortured," the MHA said.

Justice Anoop Kumar Mendiratta of the UAPA tribunal had said in his order that the evidence on record along with the material relied upon by the government prove that unlawful activities have been undertaken by the SFJ intending the cession or secession of the part of the territory of India.

"The unlawful and disruptive activities on the face of the record threaten the peace, unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of India. The association is supporting violent forms of extremism in Punjab and there can be no space for an association which openly advocates secessionism and undermines the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India. There is a strong foundation for declaring SFJ to be an 'unlawful association' under sub-section (1) of Section 3 of UA(P)A," he said.

A total of 104 cases – 96 by state/UT police and eight cases by the National Investigation Agency – have been registered against SFJ.

## Canada report on Nijjar killing: No definitive link to foreign state proven

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
OTTAWA, JANUARY 29

A CANADA commission report has said "no definitive link" with a "foreign state" in the killing of Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar was "proven", smashing Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations that accused the involvement of Indian agents in the killing.

In September 2023, Trudeau said Canada had credible evidence that the Indian government was involved in the murder of Nijjar in British Columbia in June 2023.

In the report, titled 'Public Inquiry Into Foreign Interference in Federal Electoral Processes and Democratic Institutions', released Tuesday, commissioner Marie-Josée Hogue said, "Disinformation is used as a retaliatory tactic to punish decisions running contrary to a state's interests." The report suggested India spread disinformation on the killing of Nijjar. "This may have been the case with a disinformation campaign that followed the Prime Minister's announcement regarding suspected Indian involvement in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar (though again no definitive link to a foreign state could be proven)," it said.

### MAN GETS LIFE TERM FOR KILLING KANISHKA BOMBING SUSPECT

Ottawa : A Canadian court has sentenced a 24-year-old man to life after he pleaded guilty to the killing of Sikh businessman Ripudaman Singh Malik, a suspect in the 1985 Air India bombing who was later acquitted, according to local media reports. A British Columbia Supreme Court judge Tuesday sentenced Tanner Fox to life with no parole for 20 years for killing Malik, the CBC news reported. PTI

nouncement regarding suspected Indian involvement in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar (though again no definitive link to a foreign state could be proven)," it said. The 123-page report also talked of expelling six Indian diplomats "in reaction to a targeted campaign against Canadian citizens by agents linked to the Government of India".

# Waqf Bill draft report adopted, House panel flags concerns raised during submissions

ASAD REHMAN  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

FROM ATTEMPTING to address concerns over the omission of Waqf-by-user, the need to consider the long-term links between the tenants' associations and Waqf properties and suggestions for a legislation to check declaration of tribal lands as Waqf properties, the 655-page draft report of the Joint Committee on Waqf (Amendment) Bill has flagged several aspects of the proposed legislation.

The draft report was adopted by the panel Wednesday via a 15-11 vote.

On the 'Waqf by user' issue, which implies that if a property is being used as Waqf it will continue to be so, the committee is learnt to be of the view that the removal of the provision from the legislation will not have an impact on registered Waqf in the absence of a Waqf deed. The committee, it is learnt, has suggested that the omission of 'Waqf by user' from the defini-

tion of Waqf should apply prospectively, and that cases of existing Waqf properties already registered as 'Waqf by user' not be reopened.

The committee, however, is of the view that this clause should be subject to the condition that the property is not involved in a dispute or is a government property.

The Waqf Act of 1995 states that "Waqf includes a Waqf by user, but such Waqf shall not cease to be a Waqf by reason only of the user having ceased irrespective of the period of such cesser."

When the proposed Bill was tabled in Parliament in August last year, it had sought to omit the provisions relating to 'Waqf by user', making a Waqf property suspect in the absence of a valid Waqf deed.

It is learnt that the panel, while noting submissions made by the tenants' associations about their long-term association with Waqf properties, has underlined the need to address their concerns compassionately during the formulation of lease rules.

The panel wants the Ministry of Minority Affairs to consider the concerns of Waqf tenants and introduce laws that allow for long-term leases to keep their legitimate rights safe.

It is learnt that the committee is of the view that protection should be given to Scheduled Tribes and tribal lands under provisions of the Constitution.

It wants the Ministry of Minority Affairs to take legislative steps to stall declaration of tribal lands as Waqf land so that scheduled areas and tribal areas are protected.

The committee, it is learnt, also flagged that it was told by the Archaeological Survey of India that 280 protected monuments were declared as Waqf properties across the country.

It is of the opinion that separate boards for Bohra and Aghakhani communities will give them the independence to manage the affairs of their respective communities as per their distinct religious practices. The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 had an amendment for the same.

### RG KAR PROTESTS

## Regularise absence for doctors who joined duty after Aug 22: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

THE SUPREME Court on Wednesday came to the rescue of doctors who hit the streets following the rape and murder of a junior doctor at RG Kar Hospital on August 9 last year, directing that those who returned to duty after August 22, 2024, should not be treated as absent and be considered on duty.

The counsel appearing for AIIMS Resident Doctors Association submitted before a bench of CJI Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar, which took up suo motu proceedings initiated by the court following the rape and murder,

that medical institutions like Post Graduate Institute, Chandigarh, AIIMS Kalyani and AIIMS Gorakhpur regularised the period when doctors were protesting, but others treated it as "on leave".

The counsel submitted that it was contrary to the SC order dated August 22, 2024, protecting the doctors from coercive action for taking part in the protests over the RG Kar incident. It also submitted that this would affect the future of the doctors for post graduation and they will "lose their cut-off for further studies etc".

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta pointed out that Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Pondicherry, and others

had treated the protest period when the doctors were absent as "on leave".

The bench clarified the intent behind the August 22, 2024 order was that the protest period be regularised and no coercive steps be taken. "We deem it appropriate to clarify that the absence period in case the protesting doctors have joined after the order dated 22.08.2024 will be regularised and not treated as absence from duty. This direction is issued in peculiar facts and circumstances and shall not be read as laying down a precedent."

## Opp members file dissent notes, say Bill weakens Muslim rights

ASAD REHMAN  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

AS THE Joint Committee of Parliament on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024 adopted its report by a majority, several Opposition members of the panel submitted dissent notes to be incorporated in the report, which will be tabled in Parliament during the upcoming Budget session.

These Opposition MPs include the Congress' Gaurav Gogoi, All India Majlis-e-Itehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi besides others such as Kalyan Banerjee and Nadimul Haque of the TMC, A Raja and M M Abdulla of the DMK, and Syed Naseer Hussain, Dr Mohammad Jawed and Imran Masood of the Congress.

In his dissent note, Owaisi has alleged that the NDA government

has brought the Waqf amendment Bill with the objective of weakening the foundations of Waqf governance and undermining the rights of Muslims. He has sought the removal of all 44 clauses brought by the government to amend the Waqf Act 1995, maintaining that he opposed the Bill for justice, equality and constitutional values.

It is learnt that Owaisi flagged the deposition before the panel by organisations like Sanatan Sanstha and Hindu Janajagruti Samiti. He also raised questions on the Waqf Bill proposing to delete Section 107 of the 1995 law that had made the Limitation Act 1963 inapplicable to Waqf properties. In his view, this deletion will allow a person who has unlawfully possessed Waqf property for more than 12 years to claim its title by adverse possession.

The Congress MPs cited what

they felt were procedural lapses in the panel's functioning. They said the Bill is driven by political agenda and not by genuine concern for management of Waqf properties. The Bill will lead to litigation, encroachment and loss of autonomy over Waqf institutions while hurting the constitutional rights of Muslims, they noted.

TMC's Kalyan Banerjee and Nadimul Haque said the minutes of the meetings were not provided to the Opposition and their submissions were also not recorded. In their joint note, DMK's Raja and Abdulla have called the panel's report unconstitutional, claiming that it could ruin the secular fabric of the country.

The panel adopted its report containing 14 changes suggested by BJP members and NDA allies. It is learnt that all 44 amendments proposed by the Opposition were rejected.

## Appoint prosecutors on merit, not political factors: SC to state govts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

THE SUPREME Court on Wednesday chided the practice of state governments appointing public prosecutors in high courts on "political considerations", and said favouritism and nepotism has compromised merit.

Observing judges were humans and they made mistakes, a bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan said the defence counsel and the public prosecutor owed a duty to correct the court if the court is falling in some error and for all this, we hold the state government responsible," it said.

"This judgement is a message to all the state governments that the AGPs and APPs in respective high courts should be appointed solely on the merit of the person," the bench said.

were "important wheels of the chariot", driven by judges to get justice against the wrong doers.

"Judges are human beings and at times they do commit mistakes. The sheer pressure of work at times may lead to such errors... the defence counsel and the public prosecutor owes a duty to correct the court if the court is falling in some error and for all this, we hold the state government responsible," it said.

"This judgement is a message to all the state governments that the AGPs and APPs in respective high courts should be appointed solely on the merit of the person," the bench said.

The bench's verdict came on appeals against an order of the Punjab and Haryana HC in a criminal case lodged in Haryana.

For the bench, the "most disturbing feature" of the litigation was the HC order on the quantum of sentence which noted the state's counsel request for capital punishment for the accused.

"This is bound to happen when the state governments across the country appoint AGPs and APPs in their respective high courts solely on political considerations. Favouritism and nepotism are additional factors for compromising merit," said the top court.

## GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT (CO-ORDINATION BRANCH) DELHI SECRETARIAT, IP ESTATE, NEW DELHI-110002

### PUBLIC NOTICE

As per Section 135-B of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (Grant of paid holiday to employees on the day of poll):-

1. Every person employed in any business, trade, industrial undertaking or any other establishment and entitled to vote at an election to the Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi shall be granted a holiday, on the day of poll i.e. **5th February 2025 (Wednesday)** so that he/she can cast his/her vote in the election.
2. No deduction or abatement of the wages of any such person shall be made on account of a holiday having been granted in accordance with sub-section (1) and if such person is employed on the basis that he/she would not ordinarily receive wages for such a day, she/he shall nonetheless be paid for such day the wages he/she would have drawn had not a holiday been granted to him/her on that day.
3. If an employer contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), then such employer shall be punishable with fine, which may extend to five hundred rupees.
4. This section shall not apply to any elector whose absence may cause danger or substantial loss in respect of the employment in which he/she is engaged.

The above provisions require that all the electors who are employee of establishments and shops including those which work on shift basis shall be granted a Paid Holiday on the day of poll in the Constituency where the General Election to Legislative Assembly is to be held. Further, there may be cases where a person is ordinarily a resident of the Constituency and registered as an elector, may be serving or employed in an industrial undertaking or an establishment located outside the Constituency having General poll. It is clarified that in such a situation, even those electors including casual workers working outside the constituency concerned would be entitled to the benefit of a paid holiday extended under the Section 135B (1) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. The daily wage/casual workers are also entitled for a holiday and wages on poll day as provided in Section 135B of the R.P. Act, 1951.

Pradey

Sd/-  
(PRADEEP TAYAL)  
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BRIEFLY

SAUDI ARABIA

Nine Indians killed in road accident

*New Delhi:* Nine Indian nationals were killed in a road accident near Jizan in western Saudi Arabia, the Indian mission in Jeddah said on Wednesday. The mission said it is providing full support and is in touch with the authorities and families. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said he was "grieved" to learn about the loss of lives. "Spoke with our Consul General in Jeddah... He is extending fullest support in this tragic situation," he said on X. **ENS**

BANGLADESH

'Unfair deals' with India will be discussed: Govt

*Dhaka:* Bangladesh Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said all "unequal agreements" with India during the ousted PM Sheikh Hasina's Awami League tenure will be discussed. He was addressing the media ahead of the meet between chiefs of BSF and BGB. He also accused Indians in border areas of manufacturing and smuggling drugs across the border. **ENS**

WEST BENGAL

Sandeshkhali gangrape: High Court forms SIT

*Kolkata:* Expressing dissatisfaction over police investigation into last year's gangrape case in Sandeshkhali in which a TMC block president has been named as an accused, Calcutta HC Wednesday ordered formation of a SIT. Justice Tirthankar Ghosh, who was hearing a petition filed alleging police inaction, ordered SIT to submit a monthly progress report to ACJM Basirhat. As per HC order, the SIT will comprise ACP, Homicide, Detective Department Bireswar Chatterjee, and Baduria SDPO Rahul Mishra. **ENS**

# SC: Domicile-based quota in PG medical courses unconstitutional

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

THE SUPREME Court on Wednesday held that domicile-based reservation for admission to post-graduate medical courses within the State quota is unconstitutional as it violates the Right to Equality under Article 14.

"So far as question... whether providing for domicile/residence-based reservation in admission to PG medical courses within the State quota is constitutionally invalid and impermissible is concerned, our answer is in the affirmative. Yes, it is constitutionally invalid. In other words, providing for domicile or residence-based reservation in PG medical courses is constitutionally impermissible and cannot be done," said a three-Judge Bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy, Sudhanshu Dhulia and S V N Bhatti.

Writing for the Bench, Justice Dhulia said: "We are all domiciled in the territory of India. We are all residents of India. Our common bond as citizens and residents of one country gives us the right not only to choose our residence anywhere in India, but also gives us

**EXPLAINED**  
**E** What's the domicile quota?

FOR POSTGRADUATE medical seats, the Centre conducts counselling for only 50% of the total intake while the rest is filled by state counseling bodies as per their own rules. Within this remaining 50%, states earmark a quota for 'domicile' candidates.

the right to carry on trade and business or a profession anywhere in India. It also gives us the right to seek admission in educational institutions across India."

The court said that while such reservation may be permissible "to a certain degree" in MBBS courses, it is impermissible in PG medical courses.

"The benefit of reservation in educational institutions, including medical colleges, to those who reside in a particular State can be given to a certain degree only in MBBS courses, for which we have assigned reasons in preceding

paragraphs. But considering the importance of specialist doctors in PG medical course, reservation at the higher level on the basis of residence would be violative of Article 14 of the Constitution of India," the court said.

"If such a reservation is permitted, it would be an invasion on the fundamental rights of several students who are being treated unequally simply for the reason that they belong to a different State in the Union. This would be a violation of the equality clause in Article 14 of the Constitution and would amount to a denial of equality before the law," it said.

"The State quota seats, apart from a reasonable number of institution-based reservations, have to be filled strictly on the basis of merit in all-India examination," the court said, while adding that its decision would not affect admissions already granted on the basis of domicile-based reservation.

"Domicile in normal parlance denotes 'the place of living' or permanent residence. The legal concept is, however, different," the court said. "The very concept of a provincial or State domicile in India is a misconception. There is

only one domicile in India, which we refer to as domicile in the territory of India as given under Article 52. All Indians have only one domicile, which is the Domicile of India," it said.

The Bench also noted that in Dr Pradeep Jain vs Union of India, the SC had, in 1984, explained why residence-based reservation in PG medical courses was violative of Article 14, and such reservation may be permissible in MBBS courses. "The reasoning given was that it is the State which spends money on creating the infrastructures and bears the expenses for running a medical college, and therefore some reservation at the basic level of a medical course i.e. MBBS can be permissible for the residents of that State. The classification between residents and others here can be justified as the classification seeks to maintain a balance as it considers local needs, backwardness of the area, the expense borne by the State in creating the infrastructure, etc.," it said.

The court was hearing appeals against a Punjab and Haryana HC ruling that scrapped such domicile-based reservation in PG medical admission.

# Top court seeks data on FIRs under 2019 law on triple talaq

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

THE SUPREME Court Wednesday asked the Centre to furnish data on number of FIRs registered under the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights of Marriage) Act, 2019, which made divorce by pronouncing instant triple talaq a punishable offence. The top court had in 2017 declared divorce by instant triple talaq unconstitutional.

The direction came from a bench of CJI Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar while hearing petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the 2019 Act. "We want list of cases all over India where FIRs are filed. Now in all states, FIRs are centralised. Just give us a list of that... We will examine the data," the CJI told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for the Centre.

The bench asked the government to inform the number of FIRs registered under Sections 3 and 4 of the Act. Section 3 provides that "any pronouncement of talaq by a Muslim husband upon his wife, by words, either spoken or written or in electronic form or in any other manner whatsoever, shall be void and illegal".

Section 4 prescribes imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, besides a fine on "any Muslim husband who pronounces talaq referred to in section 3 upon his wife".

Defending the Act, Mehta said making the pronouncement of instant triple talaq punishable was well within the Centre's legislative policy domain. He submitted that the law only prescribed three years' imprisonment, compared to other legislations protecting women's rights prescribing even greater punishment.

CJI Khanna said that pronouncement of triple talaq does not lead to a valid divorce, and the husband-wife relationship remains. "If the divorce itself is not recognised, the relationship then continues and no separation. But now you have penalised the very act of pronouncing it..." he said.

Mehta said the numbers would show whether the practice is still continuing and if women are coming forward against it or not. He submitted that the law was the least the government could do to protect women from the regressive practice.

Appearing for a petitioner, Advocate Nizam Pasha said the "mere utterance of words (talaq thrice)" has been criminalised.

Mehta countered this and said there are provisions like section 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC which penalise utterances. "If I threaten someone orally, it is a section 506 offence. It is a severe crime," Mehta said.

Senior Advocate M R Shams-had, also representing a petitioner, said any such situation as the kind contemplated under the 2019 Act can be taken care of under the Domestic Violence Act and there was no need for a separate law.

He said that while FIRs are not registered for months in matrimonial cases even if the wife is beaten up, FIR is filed under the 2019 Act for mere utterance.

The SG said that "in no civilised section, such a practice is there."

Pasha argued that the Act abandonment of a wife by her husband is not treated as a criminal offence in any other community to which Mehta said triple talaq was also not practised in any other community.

"I am sure none of the lawyers here are saying the practice is correct, but what they are saying is whether it can be criminalised when the practice is banned and no divorce can take place by uttering talaq three times at once," the CJI said. The matter was fixed for hearing next in March.

# FDA clears Ozempic for diabetics to cut kidney disease risk

ANKITA UPADHYAY  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Novo Nordisk's diabetes-cum-weight loss drug Ozempic for patients with both chronic kidney disease and diabetes.

This came after clinical trials showed it reduced risk of kidney failure, disease progression and death due to heart problems.

This is a significant breakthrough in managing diabetes-related conditions.

FDA approval is based on results from a trial investigating effects of once-a-week Ozempic injections on major kidney and cardiovascular outcomes in adults with Type 2 diabetes and chronic kidney disease. It showed a 24% reduced risk of worsening kidney disease and kidney failure (end-stage kidney disease) and also led to a 4.9% risk reduction in death from cardiovascular disease.

Ozempic contains semaglutide, a GLP-1 receptor agonist (RA), which mimics the function of a hormone released by the intestine after eating. It lowers blood sugar by helping the pan-

creas make more of insulin. It can also help with weight loss by reducing appetite and increasing the feeling of "fullness".

The FDA nod is significant for India, where Ozempic will likely be available soon. "Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney disease so the medicine will be beneficial on a large scale. Prevention is of crucial importance so that we do not create an economic burden by increasing the number of kidney transplants," said Dr Himanshu Verma, prof and head of Nephrology department at VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi.

According to Dr Anoop Misra, Chairman, Fortis CDOC Hospital for Diabetes, a substantial number of Indians with diabetes are at risk of developing kidney disease, yet treatment options remain limited.

"This approval marks a significant breakthrough in managing diabetes-related complications, especially in a population where both kidney disease and obesity are rising concerns. We now have a drug that addresses multiple key aspects of diabetes, including obesity, blood sugar control, heart and liver health, and kidney disease," he said.

## 2nd suspected GBS death in Maharashtra

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS  
PUNE, JANUARY 29

A 56-YEAR-old woman suffering from oral cancer is suspected to have died of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) at Sassoon General Hospital Wednesday.

State health authorities said the woman, from Kirkatwadi, Sinhagad Road, was referred to Sassoon General Hospital on January 17 after her condition worsened, where she died on Tuesday.

According to health officials, this is second suspected fatality from the GBS outbreak. "However, the death audit committee will review the case and confirm the cause of the death," Dr Nina Borade, medical health officer of the Pune Municipal Corporation said.

Meanwhile, West Bengal health department sources Wednesday said that three people, including a 10-year-old and a 17-year-old, are suspected to have died of GBS in the state so far.

**WITH ENS KOLKATA**



GSVL-F15 carrying navigation satellite NVS-02 lifts off from Sriharikota on Wednesday. PTI

# ISRO scores a century of missions with launch of navigation satellite

ANONNA DUTT  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

THE INDIAN Space Research Organisation Wednesday achieved a significant milestone of completing 100 launches as the GSVL-F15 lifted-off from Sriharikota and placed in orbit the second generation navigational satellite NVS-02.

The NVS-02 is the second satellite in the second generation of satellites developed for the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), containing an indigenous atomic clock.

Some of the previous generation satellites had stopped providing location data owing to the malfunctioning atomic clocks. A satellite-based positioning system determines the location of objects by accurately measuring the time it takes for a signal to travel to and back from it using the atomic clocks on board.

2025 will finally see the next GSVL F-16 launch the NASA-ISRO SAR Mission (NISAR), which was delayed because of a repair needed to one of its reflectors. There will also be a commercial launch of a foreign satellite on-board country's heaviest vehicle LVM-3. A technology demonstrator satellite TDS-01 — which will have 34 experiments on it — will be launched using first PSLV manufactured fully by an industry consortium. And, two other earth observation satellites will also be launched this year, ISRO chief Dr V Narayanan said.

The much awaited first uncrewed flight G1 under Gagan-yaan mission will also take place this year, he said.

With this launch, ISRO has placed in orbit 548 satellites weighing 120 tonnes. Of this, 433 satellites weighing 23 tonnes belonged to foreign nations.

This was the first launch under the chairmanship of Dr Narayanan. "Reward for hard work is more work and ISRO has

got a very busy year ahead with many missions lined up in the coming months...On behalf of the present generation of ISRO leaders, I salute all the previous generation of leaders, the past and present employees, and our family members," he said after the launch. He also recalled India's big scientific missions such as three Chandrayaan missions, the Mars Orbiter Mission, and Aditya-L1. Congratulating ISRO, PM Narendra Modi said on X, "This incredible milestone illustrates the vision, dedication and commitment of our scientists and engineers. With the private sector joining hands, India's space journey will continue to attain new heights."

Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on X: "It's a privilege to be associated with the Department of Space at the historic moment of this record feat. Team #ISRO, you have once again made India proud with the successful launch of GSVL-F15 / NVS-02 Mission."



White arrow-shaped tassel in a sugarcane field

Maharashtra (Pune, Ahmednagar and Nashik) by mid-March, and the rest (including in Satara, Sangli and Kolhapur) by end-March.

"Our mills commenced crushing in mid-November and the season normally extends till end-April/early-May. The current one will be a very short season," he told *The Indian Express*.

Rohan Paricharak, managing director of Utopian Sugars, didn't see his factory crushing beyond January-end. "We previously assumed crushing at 4.5 lt, but now even 3.75 lt seems difficult.

# Tigress Zeenat to remain confined, may get bigger enclosure in 2 weeks

SUJIT BISOIY  
BHUBANESWAR, JANUARY 29

THREE-YEAR-old tigress Zeenat, who was brought back to Simlipal South after she wandered through three states and trekked around 300 km in 21 days, will remain in confinement for a "longer period" as a larger enclosure is being prepared, said Odisha said forest department sources.

According to forest department sources, an enclosure of around 6 to 7 hectares area is being developed. At present, Zeenat is in an enclosure of around one hectare area. Principal chief conservator of

forest (wildlife) P K Jha told *The Indian Express* that the larger enclosure is expected to be ready in the next two weeks.

"Though we don't see any unusual behaviour from her at present, tigers generally have a very strong memory. If she again ventures into other states, it would be a challenge for us again. Hence, based on the expert panel's suggestions, we have decided to increase her territorial area but it would be in a larger enclosure," a senior forest department official told *The Indian Express*.

Once she enters her estrous cycle and reaches sexual maturity, the official said, a decision would be taken regarding releas-

ing her in the wild. "Once she enters the estrous cycle, she would attract male tigers from around 15 to 20 km area for mating. She would not leave the place once she is pregnant," said the official who did not wish to be named.

On January 16, a committee comprising officials from state's wildlife wing, National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Institute of India visited Simlipal to take a call on Zeenat's future course of action.

The government's steps are based on the panel's suggestions. On December 29, Zeenat was sedated and captured from a forest near Gosaindih village in Bankura.

## PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS

SOLAPUR, JANUARY 29

ON A late-October morning, Siddeshwar Bendre noticed a white arrow-shaped tassel rising from a lone stalk in his four-acre sugarcane field. "I knew it was a flower. But given that cane shouldn't flower this early, I did not pay much attention and simply nipped it off," said the 55-year-old from Bathan village in Mangalwedha taluka of Maharashtra's Solapur district.

But it wasn't a freak incident. Within days of appearance of that first flower, there were more such slender, silky inflorescence on many of his cane plants. By mid-November, when the cane cutting labourers from Utopian Sugars Ltd's factory at Pantnagar in the same taluka came, Bendre's entire field was a melange of gre-

en plants with long and loose white tassels jutting out from them.

Bendre had planted his 18-month-duration adsali cane crop in July 2023. It should have matured and been ready to harvest only towards late-December 2024. But early flowering — marking the end of its vegetative growth period and accumulation of sucrose (sugar) in the stalks — cut short his crop's life cycle: "Those white flowers are to be blamed".

Bendre's isn't an isolated case though, with early flowering of sugarcane reported across Maharashtra. When the 2024-25 season (October-September) began, the state was projected to produce about 102 lakh tonnes (lt) of sugar, down from 110.20 lt in 2023-24. The latest estimates, however, suggest a further drop to 85-87 lt.

"I have seen sugarcane flowerers in March-April (when mills are close to winding up opera-

tions), but never in November (at the start of the crushing season). *Kadhich jhala na hota* (This is unprecedented)," he said.

For Bendre, his sugarcane producing flowers by late-October wasn't just an unusual and untimely botanical phenomenon, it has impacted his cane yield, which averaged 35 tonnes per acre this time, from 42 tonnes in 2023.

As on January 28, Maharashtra mills had crushed 596.38 lt of cane and produced 53.72 lt of sugar this season at an average recovery of 9.01%. During the corresponding period of the 2023-24 season, they had crushed 673.88 lt and produced 64.27 lt with an average 9.54% sugar recovery.

B B Thombare, president of West Indian Sugar Mills Association, expects mills in Solapur and the Marathwada-Khandesh regions to shut for the season by mid-February, those in central







# ‘The crowd walked over me’

Scattered shoes, slippers, clothes tell the story of the chaos that unfolded at the Sangam area of the Maha Kumbh early Wednesday morning. At least 30 people were killed and 60 suffered injuries in the stampede.

## UP CM orders judicial probe: ‘Such incidents give us lessons’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 29

UTTAR PRADESH Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday evening ordered a judicial probe into the stampede at Maha Kumbh that left at least 30 people dead during the Amrit Snan on the occasion of Mauni Amavasya. The chief minister said that a separate inquiry will be conducted by the UP Police into the incident.

The three-member judicial probe team will be headed by retired Justice of Allahabad High Court Harsh Kumar. The other two members of the team are former DGP V K Gupta and retired IAS officer D K Singh.

In a notification issued later, the government stated that the probe would cover two points — a) finding out the reasons and circumstances that caused the incident, and b) to give suggestions about preventing such happenings in future. The commission has been given one month to submit the report but it could be extended.

In a statement, the CM said: “These incidents give us lessons as well. We have decided to go into the roots of this incident. We will conduct a judicial inquiry into it because after so many reviews of arrangements and keeping vigilance at the local level such a tragedy took place. The inquiry is being done to find out the reasons.”

“Besides this, monitoring was done by the CM Control room, DGP control room, and Chief Secretary control room; and meetings were conducted the whole day. Prime Minister (Narendra Modi), Union Home Minister (Amit Shah), Railway Minister (Ashwini Vaishnaw), BJP national president (J P Nadda) and UP Governor (Anandiben Patel) have been coordinating since morning,” the CM said.

“It is very natural that questions are being raised on these issues. This Mauni Amavasya Snan is the main Snan and all the roads were choked. The administration was engaged to clear those choked roads. After the incident, the akharas had postponed the Amrit Snan scheduled at 4 am and this was done later in the afternoon. There has been a pressure of over 8 crore pilgrims in Prayagraj and they had been stopped in adjoining districts by setting up hoarding areas. They have now been released after the Amrit Snan by akharas.



(Top) Relatives of the stampede victims outside the mortuary of a hospital in Prayagraj on Wednesday. Chitral Khambhati & Vishal Srivastav  
(Above) People look for their belongings after the stampede at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj. Reuters

There has been immense pressure at different railway stations in Prayagraj and railways operated over 300 trains to carry the pilgrims to their destinations,” the CM added.

According to the CM, the incident “occurred due to a huge crowd breaking the barricades at Akhara Marg and crossing the barricades by jumping over it”. Announcing an ex-gratia of ₹25 lakh to the kin of each of the deceased, the CM said, “This is a very sad incident... Our heartfelt condolence is for the kin of these persons. We have been in regular contact with the Mela administration and the police. All required arrangements were made following the relief work done by making a green corridor rushing the injured to hospital.”

The chief minister said the DGP and the chief secretary will go to Prayagraj on Thursday to look into all the issues, and the arrangements required for the upcoming events at Maha Kumbh.

## 50 LAKH DEVOTEES ARRIVE IN AYODHYA: STATE GOVT

Ayodhya: On the occasion of Mauni Amavasya, Ayodhya too witnessed an overwhelming surge of devotees who took a holy dip in the Saryu River. Experts estimate that over 50 lakh devotees have arrived in Ayodhya in the past 72 hours and the influx is expected to continue until Vasant Panchami, an official statement said.

The temple town remained packed with worshippers throughout the day, with long queues outside Ram Mandir and Hanumangarhi temple extending late into the night. A massive crowd stretched from Shringar Haat to the temple premises. Similar scenes were observed at the Ram Temple.

— PTI

## WHY THE CROWD WAS BIGGER THAN USUAL

■ The stampede at the Sangam took place in the early hours of Wednesday (January 29), a day crowds bigger than usual were flocking to the riverbank for the ritual dip. This was because January 29 was Mauni Amavasya, one of the days considered very auspicious for taking a bath at the Kumbh Mela.

■ Mauni Amavasya is the new moon night of the *krishna paksha* (the waning moon fortnight) of the Hindu month of Magh. On this day, both the Sun and Moon are in the same *raashi* of Makar (Capricorn), which makes it astrologically significant. Maun means silence, and on Mauni Amavasya, it is believed that observing silence, at least till before one takes a bath, is beneficial.

■ “According to Hindu religious beliefs, taking a ritual bath in a river on Mauni Amavasya washes away one’s sins. Taking a dip in the Triveni on a Mauni Amavasya



during Kumbh Mela is, thus, of added spiritual significance,” Dr Ramesh Kumar Upadhyay, president of the Bhartiya Jyotish Aadhyatm Parishad, said.

■ About why silence is observed on this day, Upadhyay said, “The new moon is a day of big happenings in the world of nature. The high tide and low tide are more pronounced... On such a day, when nature is so dynamic, Hindu sages have advised stillness and silence for humans.” — YASHEE

## As young, old wait for bodies, locals offer helping hand

MANISH SAHU  
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 29

AS THE families of stampede victims waited in the biting cold outside a Prayagraj mortuary to collect the bodies of their loved ones, a group of local residents stepped up to provide them a small measure of succour.

The group, comprising around 10 people, provided snacks, tea and coffee to the elderly and arranged milk for children from the early hours of Wednesday at the campus of Moti Lal Nehru Medical College.

Most of these volunteers are family members of Class IV employees at the college who reside near the mortuary located on the campus.

“We saw a large number of people gathered at the mortuary gate. It was heartbreaking to see elderly persons and children,” said Omwati, who works at the gate of the girls’ hostel of the college. She reached out to some neighbours and they all decided to prepare some refreshments for those in the crowd.

“Initially, people were hesitant to take anything, but as time passed, they accepted the tea and coffee,” she added.

The mortuary premises saw a large crowd, as grieving families gathered to collect the bodies of their loved ones after post-mortem procedures. “After noticing some people sitting for a long time, we offered them food... but they declined,” said Meena Devi, whose husband, Panna Lal, works at the medical college.

Sagar Kumar, whose father Prem Chand works at the medical college, said they had prepared hundreds of cups of tea and coffee for those waiting outside the postmortem house since early morning. “We are still working,” he said on Wednesday late evening.

### 4 from Karnataka feared dead

At least four people from Karnataka’s Belagavi, including a mother-daughter duo, were feared to be among the casualties of the Maha Kumbh stampede on Wednesday. The victims from Belagavi were identified as BJP worker Jyoti Hattarwad, 50; her daughter Megha Hattarwad, 16; Mahadevi Bhavanur, and Arun Koparde. The Belagavi district administration has appointed two nodal officers—Special Deputy Commissioner Harsha Shetty and Additional Superintendent of Police Shruti N S—to travel to Prayagraj and make necessary arrangements to bring the bodies of the victims from the district back to Karnataka. —ENS, BENGALURU

## PEOPLE STRUGGLE TO FIND MISSING LOVED ONES

# At mortuary, wait and despair: ‘Can’t go back without her — or her body’

MAULSHREE SETH  
PRAYAGRAJ, JANUARY 29

IT IS 7:41 pm and Naresh Kumar from Amritsar has been searching the entire Maha Kumbh area for his wife since 2 am, when the deadly stampede took place. He has now finally arrived at the mortuary in Prayagraj with his 6-year-old son, hoping his worst fear is proved false.

Kumar says he checked 35 bodies inside the mortuary. None were of his wife. With his legs finally giving up, he sits outside clutching her Aadhaar card. “I cannot return home without her, or her body.”

There are many like him outside the mortuary of Moti Lal Nehru Medical College — husbands, daughters, sons, daughter-in-law, all here as a last resort after a fruitless day-long search for their loved ones. Those wanting to check the bodies are taken inside the gates.

Many are forced to continue their search.

A number of ambulances begin to wind their way out with the bodies of victims that have been identified.

At 8:05 pm, two ambulances leave with the bodies of two Jaunpur residents — 60-year-old Rampati Devi and her daughter-in-law Reeta Devi.

Rampati’s daughter Shila Rajbhar, who is leaving for Jaunpur, says: “There was barricading everywhere. People were shouting at us to get out... Suddenly people came from everywhere, they were falling on each other and soon there was a pile of people over whom others were stepping over. We were also pushed aside by the crowd. My 60-year-old mother, on whose persuasion, we all had come, and my sister-in-law died.”

At 8:43 pm, ambulance number 125 leaves with the body of a Gorakhpur resident while ambulance number 137 leaves for Bihar with one body.



Police at the SRN Hospital in Prayagraj; Deepali Srivastava consoles Saumya, who lost her mother. Vishal Srivastav & Chitral Khambhati



At 9:23 pm, four more bodies are placed in two ambulances. They were part of a group of nine from Karnataka. Kanchan Koparde, part of this group, sits next to two bodies wrapped in white. One is that of her husband, the other her friend. “We were going towards Sangam to take the holy dip. But before we could reach the confluence, at about 1:30 am, a crowd came rushing from the front. There was suddenly a stampede and everyone was falling over each other. It was difficult to save any person.”

The remainder of the group is leaving in an ambulance for Delhi and will take the bodies by flight to Karnataka.

There is similar uncertainty at SRN Hospital, where the injured people were brought. Prabhat and Saroj Singh are waiting outside the emergency ward. Their son, 24-year-old Ravi Singh is inside. “There will be plastic surgery as he has seriously injured his jaw in the stampede,” informs his aunt.





The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

SMALL AND SMART

A Chinese lab has shaken a core tenet of AI development, showing more can be done with less. India must take note

IF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE is the new battlefield, when was the first shot fired? Was it last week, when a Chinese AI lab released a Large Language Model (LLM), developed at a fraction of the cost of the ones built by Silicon Valley, and yet capable of beating these same models on several benchmarks? Or was it this week, when Wall Street opened to a bloodbath, with US stocks losing a reported \$1 trillion in value, including chip-maker Nvidia's \$600-billion drop? Perhaps it can be traced way back to October 2022, when the US, in an effort to retain its edge, banned the export to China of advanced chips used for AI development? As questions pile up on the implications of China's DeepSeek R1 and the future of AI, one thing is clear: America's lead in the race has shrunk considerably. It seems to have happened, moreover, in the blink of an eye, catching the US and Silicon Valley — as indeed, the world — completely by surprise.

Yet, it is not as if DeepSeek, with a logo featuring a blue whale, surfaced out of nowhere. A minnow compared to the Big Four in China's tech sector (Baidu, Alibaba, Tencent and Xiaomi), DeepSeek made ripples last year when it released its V3 model, which was described by Andrej Karpathy, one of the founders of OpenAI, as a "frontier-grade LLM, trained on a joke of a budget" (a "mere" \$6 million, compared to the over \$500 million that OpenAI has reportedly spent on ChatGPT). The January 20 debut of R1, a reasoning model developed on a shoestring budget and with second-rate chips which can, nonetheless, perform as well as OpenAI's most advanced model, shook one of the central tenets of AI development in the US — that it takes billions of dollars to produce cutting-edge technology. That lack of access to first-rate chips couldn't hinder DeepSeek also shows the limits of America's "small yard, high fence" approach, and that smaller, nimbler competitors could easily get within heel-snapping distance. The open-source strategy adopted by Chinese labs, including DeepSeek, as opposed to the proprietary model favoured by those in the US (except, notably, Meta) also hints at another way in which the rules of the game could be rewritten by China, as more global talent — and, indeed, other countries nursing their own AI ambitions — gravitate towards free-to-use models.

India, which talks of building "sovereign AI", may find hope in the DeepSeek story, that it is possible to do more with less. Yet, even as it puts its weight being the ambition and talent of the homegrown tech sector, and puts in the Rs 10,300 crore committed under the IndiaAI mission in March 2024, the government must also find a way to ensure access to the best AI hardware. If the future will be defined by AI, India must be a part of it.

A CASE OF COMMON SENSE

In defamation case against Atishi, Delhi court sends out right message that political matters are for the ballot, not witness box

COLONIAL-ERA LAWS, AND some of their successors in independent India, are often misused to curb free speech. The weaponisation of the provisions on criminal defamation under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the BNSS stand out. Too often, cases that appear politically motivated or rely on the loosely defined idea of "hurt sentiments" make their way through the system — often, they are seen as serving partisan ends. In such circumstances, it is for the judiciary — at every level — to separate politics from justice and protect free speech. The sessions court of Special Judge Vishal Gogne in Delhi has risen, admirably, to the task of adjudicating a politically sensitive matter ahead of the assembly election. It must serve as an example across the country.

Last April, Atishi — who later became Delhi's chief minister — accused the BJP of trying to poach its leaders and threatening them with action by investigative agencies. The defamation case filed against her by Delhi BJP leader Praveen Shankar Kapoor alleged, in essence, that she made false allegations to distract from the Delhi excise policy "scam" and that the AAP was "trying to portray that the BJP is trying to subvert the [Delhi] government by illegal means". Judge Gogne quashed the summons against Atishi, underlining at least three principles that must become part of the judicial and political common sense. First, he reiterated that an essential part of free speech "permits one man's subaltern to be another man's Naxal, it permits one man's freebie to be another man's welfare". Second, the court asserted that the final judgement on political comments and assertions "must be answered by the court of the people through elections and not courts of law through discussions on defamation". The court also questioned Kapoor's claim of being aggrieved by Atishi's statements: "A person looking to represent himself as 'aggrieved' by virtue of being a member of the party cannot claim legal status as an aggrieved purely upon his legal status as a member of the party".

The judiciary, particularly at the trial court level, has been seen in recent times as passing the buck on politically sensitive matters, including defamation and the grant of bail. In August last year, then CJI DY Chandrachud had asked trial court judges to exercise "robust common sense". By insisting that, "a court of law cannot aid the tilting of the democratic balance between unequal political formations and against the right to freedom of speech", the Delhi court has done just that. It is now also for the political class to introspect, and perhaps be more judicious in playing politics in court.

HISTORY IN CLOSE-UPS

Publication of a spate of memoirs paints a reassuring picture of the enduring appeal of individual stories

IN AN ERA of digital immediacy and data overload, is there still room for the memoir that zooms in on the personal over the big picture? The publication of a spate of memoirs, from Kargil War hero Lt Gen Y K Joshi's *Who Dares Wins* to Amol Palekar's *Viewfinder* to the English translation of a Finnish woman's account of life in the Soviet Union under Stalin in the 1930s, *Under the Sickle and the Sledgehammer* paints a reassuring picture of their enduring appeal and historical heft.

From General Joshi's retelling of his life as a soldier to Kirsti Huurre's account of the dissolution of her dream of egalitarianism in *Under the Sickle and the Sledgehammer*, each of these books shows that history is not something that happens to nations. It seeps into the lives of individuals, beyond the grandiose narratives of history books or official state records. Memoirs humanise momentous events, the lived experiences of people providing the texture and depth to the complexities of an era. As the world celebrated the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz this week, for instance, it was the diary of a 13-year-old Anne Frank, hidden in a secret annexe in Amsterdam during the Holocaust, that offered a glimpse into the human cost of war when it was first published posthumously in 1947. Frank had perished in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1945.

In 2007, on a visit to New Delhi to release the English translation of his memoir *Once Upon a Time in the Soviet Union*, Dominique Lapierre had spoken of his experience of travelling through post-Stalin USSR. One of the highlights of the trip was meeting an old Soviet lady who requested Lapierre to deflate one of the tires of his French Marly so she could "feel the gust of air from Paris", he told *The Indian Express*. History books can speak of how the world changes one event at a time, but only such intimate accounts can speak of what it feels like to live through them.



KANTI BAJPAI

INDIA AND CHINA are finally talking to each other again rather than past each other. Are we, then, headed back to their pre-Galwan "normal" relationship, or is the present thaw likely to turn cold and conflictual again? Nothing in India-China relations is ever simple and linear, but the signs are that the two countries are moving towards the normal diplomacy of the past 35 years, ever since Rajiv Gandhi's breakthrough trip to Beijing in 1988.

From 1988 onwards, India-China relations came to rest on four pillars that undergirded a fair degree of military and diplomatic stability: Summity, border negotiations, confidence building measures (CBMs), and people-to-people (P2P) ties including trade. Until Galwan, the top leadership of India and China would meet regularly, bilaterally and multilaterally, often more than once a year. Running parallel to summity were the border negotiations. In one form or another, talks on a final territorial settlement have run for over 30 years, with few interruptions (a remarkable fact).

Since the two militaries could clash at the border, they had worked out a series of CBMs to reduce the risk of serious escalation — Galwan was the exception that proved the rule (fatalities were low). Beyond these state-to-state measures, Delhi and Beijing encouraged P2P — tourism, cultural and academic links, and trade — to anchor ties at the societal level as well. As a result, thousands of Indian students are in China getting relatively low-priced and high-quality education and are also getting to know their host country beyond the inflammatory headlines.

At least three factors are driving India and China back to this normal diplomacy. In a piece I wrote for the Asia Peace Programme at the National University of Singapore before Donald Trump won the US presidential election, I suggested that the three drivers of détente are economic, military, and political. These will likely be even stronger drivers of India-China diplomacy now that Trump is at

Economically, India and China need each other. Politically, they must constantly worry about the US

the helm in Washington.

Economically, India and China need each other. India's economy is stubbornly stuck on a 30-year growth path of 7 per cent per annum. China's economy is languishing at 5 per cent per annum and could further slow down. To grow, Indian businesses desperately need Chinese products including in many key areas like pharmaceuticals, electronics, and also infrastructure. As for Chinese businesses, they need to diversify in a world where Western protectionism against them is growing. Looking ahead, India is a potentially huge market for China.

Between India and the US, differences abound: Over immigration, trade, relations with Pakistan and Bangladesh, US commentary on India's democratic record, American accusations over a putative Indian assassination plot, and Indian accusations of unchecked Sikh militant activity on US soil. Some of these worries may reduce with Trump in the White House, others such as immigration and trade could get worse. For China, the US' weaponisation of trade and technology are likely to continue under Trump. In short, India and China face a common challenge — how to enhance their bargaining power with the US.

Trump in the White House, others such as immigration and trade could get worse. For China, the US' weaponisation of trade and technology are likely to continue under Trump. China must also worry about America's "naming and shaming" of Beijing's policies in Tibet and Xinjiang. In short, India and China face a common challenge — how to enhance their bargaining power with the US. One way is to signal to Washington that they have other strategic choices and partners if pushed too hard.

Will this détente last? India and China have squared off in a series of confrontations since 2010 — in 2013 (Depsang), 2014 (Chumar), 2015 (Burtse), 2017 (Doklam), 2020 (Galwan), and 2022 (Yangtze), with casualties in 2020 and 2022. It would be foolish to say that the present détente and normalisation is assured and that the two sides will avoid future clashes. Territorial quarrels are hard to manage and even harder to resolve because land (and water) is connected to sovereignty. National identity and memories of colonialism and imperialism in both India and China make both societies very touchy about any challenges to sovereignty. As Manjari Chatterjee Miller of the University of Toronto suggested years ago, both sides have an enduring sense of victimhood. Resolution of the quarrel is possible, but it will take a huge bargain. A bargain is not beyond Modi and Xi, but neither leadership looks in a hurry.

The drivers of the current thaw in relations are structural. Economic need, military realities, and political worries over the US are long-term factors that won't easily go away. India-China relations should, therefore, continue to soften and normalise even if a long-term border and strategic agreement appears difficult to achieve.

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RICHARD MCCALLUM

IN THE UK, when I take a long-haul flight, drive a car that has connected technology or use an online banking app, it's likely that in some way, I'm tapping into technology that has been developed in a global capability centre (GCC) in India. However, few UK consumers appreciate how technology collaboration between foreign firms, including those in the UK, and India's dynamic scientific talent and innovation ecosystem, impacts their lives. Or saves lives, as we saw with vaccine development during the pandemic. Technology is a thread that runs through every sector in the UK-India economic partnership. I want to make the case that the UK and India are partners not just in technology but for Viksit Bharat 2047.

In 2024, the UK was third behind the USA and China in attracting venture-capital investment into its technology companies. London alone has more technology start-ups than the rest of Europe combined. At the same time, India has become a technology superpower. So much can be achieved when businesses and universities in the two countries collaborate. This is why the organisation I lead, the UK India Business Council (UKIBC) welcomed the recent signing of the UK-India Technology Security Initiative, a bilateral agreement to increase collaboration on emerging and critical technologies. There are already many examples of such collaboration — the UKIBC recently published a report capturing examples and suggesting ways to enable more.

In financial services, British banks are among the leading investors in India and are already deploying tech-led solutions across segments. By sharing regulatory best practices and standards, India can attract more UK fintech companies, thereby enhancing SME lending and financial inclusion.

PARTNERS IN INNOVATION

UK and India can collaborate not just on technology but for Viksit Bharat 2047

As a leader in green innovation and regulation, the UK can become India's energy transition partner, providing green technology solutions and access to finance through the City of London. The climate crisis doesn't respect borders, and UK and Indian universities can be a force for global good. Take the Sunrise project — a multinational collaboration led by Swansea University with 18 academic partners across five countries, including Imperial College London, Oxford, Cambridge, IISER Pune, IISc, and several IITs. We argue that India can boost market access for British businesses through sustained government platforms that spark partnerships with Indian industry. India can also expand priority-sector lending to include EVs and EV-supporting infrastructure alongside renewable energy to help reach its goals.

Advanced manufacturing and defence is another area where UK and Indian firms are co-developing technology. Few markets have India's scale or need for new capability, but at the same time, UK firms can benefit from India's cost-effective manufacturing. We can do more to plug Indian companies into UK supply chains. Our message to UK business is clear — consider India a strategic partner, not just a market.

The UKIBC aerospace and defence group, representing 22 UK firms with \$60 billion in global revenue, is eager to expand partnerships with India. It believes technology infusion and investment into India can speed up with certain refinements to India's defence acquisition procedure — for example, adopting a more graduated approach to indigenous content to encourage foreign firms into the market, and relooking at FDI thresholds so that more foreign firms can participate in strategic defence programmes. We also argue that

the UK can do more to help its start-ups dock into India's defence technology start-up scene. For example, an accelerator programme for high-growth UK firms to enter India.

Clearly, the economic relationship is strong and growing. We can be more imaginative in our ambition. At our recent Technology Futures Conference, Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal spoke about how the UK and India could collaborate on AI and virtual reality to transform education and training. And how a tele-medicine partnership could bring down the cost of healthcare in the UK and make quality healthcare available to the remotest parts of India. He also suggested that the two countries work to develop climate modelling tools to predict and manage natural disasters. These are excellent ideas that need capital. Recently, I've been imagining a big, bold G2G-backed investment fund to support collaboration between UK and Indian start-ups in emerging technologies.

Ideas also need skilled people to make them happen. I've been imagining a time when we talk about tens of thousands of British students in India — taking advantage of economical courses in AI upskilling and understanding the business culture of the next superpower. I started with GCCs and I'll finish with them. 2024 was a good year for the UK-India relationship. 2025 will be better, as UK business leaders realise that engineering and research centres in India aren't just for big brands; with new operating models, even mid-size and smaller firms can tap into the Indian GCC phenomenon. Let's be imaginative and relentless in pursuing the extraordinary potential of this relationship.

*The writer is CEO, UK India Business Council*

JANUARY 30, 1985, FORTY YEARS AGO

TWO DIVISIONS IN SC

THE SUPREME COURT should have two separate divisions — a constitutional and a legal division — the Law Commission has recommended in its 95th report, which was tabled in Lok Sabha. The Commission, headed by Justice K K Mathew, has also recommended that the constitutional division should have at least seven judges and that appointment of judges should be made to separate divisions.

BJP-JANATA SPLIT

THE TWO-YEAR-OLD alliance between the Janata Party and the BJP, which survived many

vicissitudes while sustaining the minority Janata government in Karnataka, came to an end when talks about seat adjustments between the two parties broke down. The two major parties, which fought the recent Lok Sabha elections unitedly on the basis of seat sharing, will now confront each other in the assembly poll in Karnataka, unless the Chief Minister, Rama Krishna Hegde, is able to pull off a last-minute salvage operation when he meets the national president of the BJP, A B Vajpayee, in New Delhi on February 1.

INDO-PAK TIES

THE PRIME MINISTER, Rajiv Gandhi, described

as a "good first step", Pakistan President Ziaul Haq's indication that Islamabad would try the hijackers of the Indian aircraft. Gandhi said Haq had given the first positive indication for normalising Indo-Pak ties.

ZAIL SINGH IRKED

PRESIDENT ZAIL SINGH wants all administrative orders issued in Punjab during the term of the Central rule to be issued in the name of the Governor and not in the name of the President. Some of the orders issued by the state government were contrary to his views and caused him embarrassment. But legal experts do not find it feasible.





# THE IDEAS PAGE

## Busting free trade myths

India is not a dumping ground. It has maintained a surplus in finished goods trade with many partners



RAJAT KATHURIA AND NEHA GUPTA

ALTHOUGH THE UNION budget is not the best place to look for trade-related announcements, it has become one of the several platforms that communicates India's policy engagement with the global economy. In the upcoming budget, we expect to hear announcements relating to reducing the trade deficit, stemming the rupee's depreciation and promoting exports — all in the same breath. Why are periodic policy announcements in the budget even required when continuity and certainty would do the trick for our external objectives? Are frequent changes in the customs duty structure the right instrument to support the laudable Make in India initiative? Can these objectives be realised without integrating into global value chains (GVCs)?

It is widely felt that India's relatively high tariff rates are inimical to more integration into GVCs. It is also true that customs duties are no longer an important source of overall tax revenue, but rather an instrument to accomplish other policy objectives, one of which is protectionism. US President Donald Trump levied tariffs on Chinese imports in 2018, citing its unfair practice of state support for enterprises. China retaliated, which led to an escalation of tensions. Trade wars hurt everybody. Although Trump says "tariff" is his "favourite word in the dictionary" and that he would use tariffs to boost domestic manufacturing, he has held off on the 60 per cent increase he had promised on the campaign trail. Instead, 10 per cent is all that is supposed to be levied on specific Chinese goods beginning February 1. Perhaps the message in Trump dialling down is that tariffs are not the best way to boost local manufacturing in an interconnected world.

India will do well to internalise that lesson. Combined with high tariffs, frequent changes do not help. An example is the fluctuating tariff on components used in mobile phone manufacturing. Lenses for camera modules in phones, initially duty-free in 2019, were subject to a 2.5 per cent duty in 2021, only to become duty-free again in 2023. Similarly, PCBAs and moulded plastics for phone chargers faced a duty hike of 10 per cent in 2018, which was further increased to 15 per cent in 2021. While parts of chargers became zero duty in 2018, these were subsequently taxed at 10 per cent in 2021. The last budget saw a reduction in the basic customs duty on mobile phones, their chargers and PCBAs to 15 per cent from the 20 per cent imposed in the 2018-20 period.

Unquestionably, policy instability takes its toll on exports and FDI. India's export growth remains stagnant; its share in global exports lingers around two per cent. Lowering customs duties and stabilising policy are, however, unlikely to be sufficient either in the upcoming budget or subsequently. Trade policy requires comprehensive reform, including the establishment of a dedicated committee to ensure policy consistency and to formulate an action plan to achieve the objective of \$2 trillion



C R Sasikumar

in exports by 2030. In this regard, the recent declaration by the CEO of NITI Aayog that "India is one of the few (big) economies which is not a part of large trade agreements" needs serious evaluation. Mega trade blocs such as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) are reshaping global trade, but India is ambivalent about their utility.

We feel that India's stance on RCEP and CPTPP is not based on an informed discourse. Damage to local manufacturing, a persistent trade deficit, and a nationalistic zeal manifested in "Make in India" govern the discourse. These assertions, for the most part, are not backed by data but given popular appeal, they have resulted in a long-standing reluctance to pursue second- and third-generation trade reforms, or for that matter, to even stimulate an informed debate. The reason India "suffers" trade deficits with agreement partners is as much instructive of the political discourse as it is misleading about the economic impact of trade agreements.

Both RCEP and CPTPP exclude the US. CPTPP goes a step further by keeping China out, potentially leading to easier negotiations. A close examination of recent trade data reveals interesting insights. First, India's deficit is dominated by intermediate goods imports. The share of intermediate goods in total imports has been around 70-80 per cent under FTAs with ASEAN countries (except Singapore). It is above 90 per cent with the UAE and Australia. This is good because it improves the competitiveness of domestic manufacturing and exports. India's intermediate goods exports have also risen suggesting the possibility of increased forward linkages.

Second, contrary to the narrative that India is being used as a dumping ground, it has maintained a surplus in finished goods trade with many FTA partners, including

Contrary to the narrative that India is being used as a dumping ground, it has maintained a surplus in finished goods trade with many FTA partners, including ASEAN countries. Additionally, evidence shows that India's exports of finished goods have grown after signing trade agreements, mitigating to some extent the political anxiety of a trade deficit. For example, total exports increased with ASEAN members from \$5 billion in 2003 to above \$40 billion in 2022-23, while exports of finished goods increased from \$2 billion to more than \$20 billion in the same period.

ASEAN countries. Additionally, evidence shows that India's exports of finished goods have grown after signing trade agreements, mitigating to some extent the political anxiety of a trade deficit. For example, total exports to ASEAN members increased from \$5 billion in 2003 to above \$40 billion in 2022-23, while exports of finished goods increased from \$2 billion to more than \$20 billion in the same period.

We conducted a simulation exercise comparing the impacts of joining RCEP and CPTPP on India. The model predicts that CPTPP will have a more balanced trade effect. The exclusion of the two domineering global powers offers a better negotiating environment. In contrast, RCEP, dominated by China, poses potential risks. While RCEP could facilitate trade in intermediate goods, it is likely to aggravate India's trade deficit. The model predicts that RCEP would lead to a substantial rise in India's imports, with China being the primary beneficiary. While imports would also increase in the case of CPTPP, primarily from ASEAN, there is also potential for export growth to countries like Mexico, Canada, and Australia. Additionally, CPTPP's focus on quality standards and intellectual property aligns with India's long-term economic aspirations. CPTPP appears to be a more practical and strategic pathway, both economically and politically. With China excluded, the political economy will be easier to navigate.

However, a word of caution. By itself, trade openness will not deliver unless accompanied by domestic reform to remove structural deficiencies. All things considered, a re-evaluation of the pessimism surrounding trade agreements is called for.

Kathuria is Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Shiv Nadar University and Gupta is an independent researcher. Views are personal

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Donald Trump is violating a 2022 law that passed with strong bipartisan support to protect the inspectors generals' independence." — THE WASHINGTON POST

## Diminishing the university

UGC's draft regulations are of a piece with efforts to destroy autonomy and excellence in higher education



MANOJ KUMAR JHA

THE PROVISIONS OF the draft UGC Regulations 2025 pertaining to the appointment of vice-chancellors have been rightly criticised for diluting the autonomy of universities, the powers of states, and the principle of federalism. In floating this draft, the powers that be seem to have lost sight of important goals that need to be kept in mind while regulating higher education institutions (HEIs).

Certain reforms are needed to address systemic challenges. However, as a teacher at a central university, I wish to highlight the sweeping set of changes proposed by the draft regulations in the conditions for appointments and promotions of faculty. By laying down clear, transparent and stable criteria, regulations are meant to protect universities from political interference, ensure administrative accountability and uphold institutional autonomy. If they are adopted in their present form, the 2025 regulations will deliver a body blow to higher education in India.

The University Grants Commission's (UGC) mandate does not extend to setting agendas for curricula. However, Clause 3.8 of the draft regulations indicates a realignment of academic focus towards specific ideological and market-driven objectives. They emphasise contributions in areas such as "Teaching-Learning and Research in Indian Knowledge Systems" and "Startups". Clause 4.1 (iii) disqualifies assistant professors with over 10 years of experience from directly applying for professorships unless they serve as associate professors for at least three years. This provision punishes assistant professors who currently qualify for professorships on the merit of their teaching and research contributions. It introduces an additional barrier for qualified candidates, and effectively penalises scholars for their contributions.

Only 10 per cent of professors at Level 14 can be promoted to Level 15. This provision introduces an artificial quota and arbitrariness. It could create an unnecessary hierarchy among professors, and is bound to undermine collegiality and the morale of faculty.

The existing regulations require Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) applications to be processed within six months, with promotions backdated to the minimum eligibility date upon successful assessment. This ensures fairness and protects faculty from institutional delays. Clause 5.6, however, removes the backdating provision, allowing universities to delay promotions without accountability. This change unfairly penalises faculty. Administrative efficiencies can lead to career setbacks in terms of seniority, pay, and professional recognition.

The 2018 regulations excluded books and chapters as eligibility for promotions but required an equal number of journal publications from college and university teachers. The 2025 draft regulations reinstate the earlier criteria and exempt college

teachers from publishing for promotions to Level 14. The UGC had pushed through the 2018 policy despite criticism. These rollbacks, along with the recent disbanding of the CARE list of academic journals, reflect an inconsistent and cavalier approach to scholarly publishing standards.

These erratic and frequent changes in criteria disrupt academic career plans and discourage long-term investment in teaching and research. Without surety of fair treatment, faculty will remain vulnerable to the whims of administrators, and the regulatory hurdles seem akin to punishment and a form of censorship. A regulatory body must embody the principles of fairness, certainty, foresight, and predictability.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 proposed a significant upheaval in HEI regulation, including disbanding the UGC and replacing it with a Higher Education Commission of India (HECI). The NEP espoused lofty goals, but these remain unrealised because of delays in enacting the necessary legislative and structural reforms. Meanwhile, the UGC continues to exercise authority, issuing new guidelines and implementing reforms for HEIs without the legislative framework to support such actions.

Regulations on recruitment, promotions, and service conditions of faculty in HEIs have historically been linked to pay structure revisions following the recommendations of Central Pay Commissions. Clause 1.3 of the 2025 draft regulations states, "These shall come into force from the date of notification. However, the date of implementation of the revision of pay shall be January 1, 2016." The date of implementation mentioned here is that of the Seventh Pay Commission, revealing a sad case of copy-paste.

Why this urgency?

While there has been a long-standing demand to fill faculty vacancies in HEIs, recruitments in different universities are evoking a deep sense of disquiet among those who care for education as a driver of democracy and excellence in India. Similarly, frequent use of NFS (not found suitable), particularly in cases of SC, ST and OBC candidates, is causing severe damage to the idea of representation and affirmative action. I am pained to note that premier HEIs are being actively reduced to a pale shadow of their earlier selves. Campus cultures are becoming steeped in aggression and impunity.

It is an open secret that the current regime is making ideological appointments in HEIs and the complaints of a shortage of eligible candidates are misleading. The shortage is of candidates who are ideologically aligned with the regime and its affiliate groups. This is evident from the fact that small coteries of barely eligible persons are occupying multiple administrative positions in several HEIs and in some cases, individuals are even holding charge of multiple institutions. The goalposts shift every time the regime is done scraping the bottom of the barrel of candidates that it deems suitable. The 2025 draft regulation is another exercise in shifting goalposts. The least we can expect from the government is to evaluate the proposed draft regulations on constitutional parameters.

The writer is Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Rashtriya Janata Dal



AJAI SHUKLA

## Support our defence needs

Modernisation programmes for services will require budget's backing

THE MILITARY'S FINANCIAL planners are awaiting the Union Budget with bated breath. Since September, their various arms, services, directorates and departments have been finalising their financial wish lists for the year ahead. Soon they will know how much of that will be made available. All that is presently clear is that the military is not among the government's top priorities. In the current year's budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman allocated less than 13 per cent of government expenditure to defence, continuing a multi-year trend of falling allocations.

Over the last five budgets, defence spending, as a percentage of central government spending, has fallen steadily from 13.81 per cent in 2020-21; to 13.2 per cent in 2021-22; to 13.65 per cent in 2022-23. Last year, in 2023-24, it was 13.25 per cent and this year it is testing the 13 per cent mark. As a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), defence allocations have similarly fallen from 2.4 per cent in 2020-21; to 2.12 per cent in 2021-22; to 2.1 per cent in 2022-23. Last year, in 2023-24, it dropped below the 2 per cent mark to 1.97 per cent. In the current year, it dropped to 1.9 per cent.

Defence spending as a percentage of GDP is an important marker. Spending up to 3 per cent of GDP on defence is considered acceptable by lending agencies such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) charter enjoins member countries to

spend at least 2 per cent of their GDP on defence, so as to contribute effectively to NATO's collective defence. China, like India, spends less than 2 per cent of its GDP on defence; while the US spends more than 4 per cent.

The services' capital spend has risen over the past four years by about Rs 40,000 crore, from Rs 1,31,697 crore in 2020-21 to Rs 1,72,000 crore in 2024-25. That averages out to a rise of about 7 per cent every year, an inadequate raise for funding a military modernisation programme as ambitious as India's Atmanirbharta (self-reliance) programme.

The distribution of the capex budget between the three services is disproportionate to the workload that each service handles. Of the 1.5 million-strong military, the army fields 1.26 million personnel, or 84 per cent of the total, with many of them embroiled in active combat in Kashmir and the northeastern states. Yet, the army's share of the capital budget has been limited to 22-28 per cent of the total capex allocation. This leaves the army with a limited kitty from which to pay for badly needed weaponry, such as artillery guns, attack helicopters, personal protective clothing for soldiers, etc.

Meanwhile, the equipment-intensive navy, with 5.5 per cent of India's military personnel, was allocated between 31-36 per cent of the capital budget during the period 2020-2025. It remains short of warships — especially capital warships and submarines — that are essential for protecting our 7,500-kilometre coastline, over two million square kilometre

of exclusive economic zone (EEZ), the Indian Ocean sea lines of communication (SLOCs) through which more than half the world's sea-borne trade passes; and global commons, such as freedom of navigation.

Paradoxically, the most worrisome equipment shortages exist in the Indian Air Force (IAF) — even though that service already gets the largest share of capex. With just 10.5 per cent of the military donning the IAF's blue uniform, the air force has been spending between 38-45 per cent of the modernisation budget. That is partly because military aircraft are prohibitively expensive: 36 Rafale fighters cost the IAF US \$8.7 billion. The defence ministry's commitment to the "Make in India" policy makes aircraft even costlier. Each Sukhoi-30MKI fighter built in Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd's (HAL's) Nashik plant costs about Rs 100 crore more than the same fighter when it is built in Russia.

At the broader level, the defence ministry receives a higher allocation than any other ministry. The broad pattern of allocations remains similar from year to year. In the current defence budget, almost 15 per cent was earmarked for sustenance and operational preparedness. About 57 per cent went on personnel costs: Including 30.7 per cent for salaries and allowances, 22.7 per cent on defence pensions and 4.1 per cent on civil organisations under the MoD. Finally, 27.7 per cent was allocated to the capital expenditure head, for modernising the country's arsenal.

Most modern militaries spend between 50-60 per cent of their total defence outlay on the capital account so that modern weaponry and equipment ensure a combat edge over the adversary. This is a longstanding weakness in India's military where there is a severe shortfall of funding for high-technology research and development (R&D). During her Budget speech last year, FM Sitharaman announced that the government would spend Rs 11,111 crore under the capital head. Given the claimants on that amount, the military can get only a limited share of the pie.

Finally, defence budget watchers remain bewildered by the (absence of) accounting logic that governs the grouping of several items. It remains unclear why the allocations to the Border Roads Development Board (BRDB), the Coast Guard organisation (CG) and the Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry (JAK LI) have been placed in the MoD (Civil) accounting head. The BRDB and JAK LI clearly belong in the Army's accounting head, while the Coast Guard belongs under the Navy's head. Similarly, the capital budget was earlier crystal clear, with allocations to each of the three services grouped separately, in their own sub-heads. Now they have all been grouped together and it is impossible to differentiate the army's allocations from those of the navy and air force. Perhaps that was the intention.

The writer is a retired army officer and journalist

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### UNFREEZING TIES

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Breaking the ice' (IE, January 29). In a welcome development, India and China, in their ongoing efforts to iron out differences, have announced the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra from this summer. Significantly, the relations between India and China had soured after a military clash along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in 2020. Following the four-year standoff, the two sides reached an understanding in October 2024 to reduce tensions and rebuild faith. Relations have improved over the past four months after several high-level meetings, including the one between PM Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Russia in October. The hope is that this effort holds and yields positive results for bilateral ties and for both countries.

Khokan Das, Kolkata

### INDIA'S YOUNG MINDS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Classroom success' (IE, January 29). It is gratifying to learn from the ASER survey report that foundational learning skills have improved remarkably in schoolchildren post Covid. Conventional teaching was put on hold

for a long time due to the pandemic and replaced by a ramshackle online teaching system, which deprived many students from rural and marginalised communities. In view of the rapid strides being made in the field of science and technology, a regular revision of our syllabi and courses to equip our students should be ensured. Our successes, highlighted by the ASER report, should not lead to complacency, and our education sector must keep up with developments across the globe.

Ravi Mathur, Noida

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Classroom success' (IE, January 29). It is astonishing to witness India's development in the education sector despite having one of the longest school closures in the world during the pandemic. This is a result of the continuous policies and strategies implemented by the government, including the National Education Policy, which has given new life to India's education system. If the foundational education of 100 million children remain strong, India will soon become one of the most developed countries in the world. After all, the future of India lies in the little hands of its young minds, brimming with innovation and creativity.

Anvi Jain, New Delhi




TATA POWER RENEWABLE ENERGY				
TATA POWER RENEWABLE ENERGY LIMITED Corporate Centre, 34 Sant Tukaram Road, Carnac Bunder, Mumbai-400009 Website: www.tatapower.com/renewables CIN : U40108MH2007PLC168314				
EXTRACT OF STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31 <sup>st</sup> DECEMBER, 2024				
Sr. No.	Standalone	Quarter ended		Year ended
		31-Dec-24	31-Dec-23 (Restated)	31-Mar-24 (Restated)
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
a.	Total Income from Operations	2,757.67	4,515.94	13,698.10
b.	Profit/(Loss) Before Exceptional Items and tax	355.71	253.48	1,356.52
c.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period / year	255.67	194.17	964.51
d.	Total Comprehensive Income	276.25	165.82	896.19
e.	Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Face Value: ₹ 10/- per share)	1,463.10	1,463.10	1,463.10
f.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	12,318.51	11,696.76	11,960.96
g.	Securities Premium Account	8,743.56	8,825.63	8,742.01
h.	Net worth	14,163.19	13,506.95	13,775.60
i.	Capital Redemption Reserve	11.25	11.25	11.25
j.	Debtenture Redemption Reserve	99.05	99.05	99.05
k.	Outstanding Debt	18,197.27	14,777.06	15,079.86
l.	Earnings Per Equity Share (of ₹ 10/- each) (in ₹)			
	(i) Basic Earning Per Share - (in ₹)	1.75	1.33	6.59
	(ii) Diluted Earning Per Share - (in ₹)	1.75	1.33	6.59
m.	Debt Equity Ratio (in times)	1.32	1.12	1.12
n.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (in times)*	1.55	1.38	1.02
o.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (in times)*	1.91	1.77	2.03
p.	Current Ratio (in times)	1.08	0.95	0.87
q.	Long Term Debt to Working Capital (in times)	8.86	18.24	32.52
r.	Current Liability ratio (in times)	0.28	0.46	0.43
s.	Total Debts to Total Assets (in times)	0.47	0.41	0.41
t.	Debtors' Turnover ratio (in number of days)	171	105	144
u.	Inventory Turnover ratio (in number of days)	70	45	42
v.	Bad debts to Accounts Receivable Ratio (%)	0.08%	0.00%	0.26%
w.	Operating margin (%)	16.89%	9.82%	15.13%
x.	Net Profit Margin (%) including exceptional item	9.27%	4.30%	7.04%

Notes:  
1. The above results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 28th January, 2025.  
2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly financial results is available on the Stock Exchange website [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) and on the Company's website [www.tatapower.com/renewables](http://www.tatapower.com/renewables)  
3. For other line items referred in Regulation 52(4) of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, pertinent disclosures have been made to the National Stock Exchange and can be accessed on URL [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com).  
\* In case of quarterly numbers, ratios have not been annualised.

For and on behalf of the Board of  
TATA POWER RENEWABLE ENERGY LIMITED  
Deepesth Nanda  
Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director  
DIN 03151401  
Date: 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2025  
Place: Mumbai

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM				
Sr.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/ NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/ CORP./AUTH
1.	UHBVN	NIT-49/SE/PROJECTS/ERP/SE/SSS/2024-25	DATE OF CLOSING OF ONLINE E-TENDER FOR SUBMISSION OF TECHNICAL-BID & PRICE BID: 13.02.2025 UPTO 13:00 HRS. OPENING DATE OF PART-I OF PROPOSAL ON WEB PORTAL: 14.02.2025 AT 15:00 HRS	<a href="http://www.ubhvn.org.in">www.ubhvn.org.in</a>
2.	UHBVN	45/SE/PROJECTS/AMIS/P/2/023-24	DATE EXTENDED CLOSING DATE - 06.02.2025 @01:00 PM OPENING DATE - 07.02.2025 @03:00 PM	<a href="http://www.ubhvn.org.in">www.ubhvn.org.in</a>
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : <a href="http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in">www.etenders.hry.nic.in</a> No- 32140				



**REGIONAL OFFICE:**  
Bank of Baroda, First Floor, Diamond Complex, Dilli More, Darbhanga-846004 Cont. No. 8969513429  
Website: [www.bankofbaroda.com](http://www.bankofbaroda.com)

**POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Property)**  
[As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **BANK OF BARODA** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower(s) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the receipt of the said notice.

The borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules.

The borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the **BANK OF BARODA** for the amount stated herein below and further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time, available to redeem the secured assets.

**Name of Borrower / Guarantors & Description of Immovable Properties**

Branch / Name of Borrowers/ Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession / Amount Outstanding	Description of the properties
<b>Branch: Donar Branch</b> <b>M/s Rudra Health Care, Proprietor: Mr. Vishal Kumar Jha</b> <b>Date of Demand Notice: 03.10.2024</b> <b>Date of Possession: 27.01.2025</b> <b>Amt: ₹38,71,666.71/-</b> (Rupees Thirty eight lakh seventy one thousand six hundred sixty six and paise seventy one only) plus unapplied interest and interest reversal (if any) and other charges as on 03.10.2024 together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment.	<b>1. Khata No.-1350(n), 01(old), Khesra No.-6400(n), 5228(old), Mauza-Bhandarisam, Pargana-Loam, P.S &amp; Anchal- Manigachhi, Thana No.-182, Sub-Registry-Bahera Dist-Darbhanga, Area- 42.00 Decimal in the name of Mr. Vishal Kumar Jha. Boundary (As per Sale Deed):-North-Ram Kumar Jha, South-Nij Vikreta, East-Road, West-Domu Mukhiya. <b>2. Khata No.-01(Old), 1525(New), Khesra No.-5227(Old), 6398(New), Mauza-Bhandarisam, Pargana-Loam, P.S &amp; Anchal-Manigachhi, Thana No.-182, Sub-Registry-Bahera, Dist-Darbhanga, Area-11.57 Decimal in the name of Mr. Vishal Kumar Jha. Boundary (As Per Sale Deed):- North-Nij Kreta, South-Sahdeo Mukhiya, East-Road, West-Manjit Mukhiya. <b>3. Khata No.-79(Old), 1471(New), Khesra No.-5226(Old) and 6397(New), Area-4.36 Decimal, Mauza-Bhandarisam, Pargana-Loam, P.S &amp; Anchal-Manigachhi, Thana No.-182, Sub-Registry-Bahera, Dist-Darbhanga, in the name of Mr. Vishal Kumar Jha. Boundary (As Per Sale Deed):-Nij Kreta, South-Sahdeo Mukhiya, East-Road, West-Manjit Mukhiya. <b>4. Khata No.-01(Old), 345(New), Khesra No.-5227(Old) and 6399(New), Area-10.91 Decimal, Mauza-Bhandarisam, Pargana-Loam, P.S &amp; Anchal-Manigachhi, Thana No.-182, Sub-Registry-Bahera, Dist-Darbhanga, in the name of Mr. Vishal Kumar Jha. Boundary (As Per Sale Deed):-North-Nij Vikreta, South-Kanhaiya Jha, East-Sahdeo Jha, West-Dular Mukhiya.</b></b></b></b>

**Branch: Donar Branch**  
**M/s Sudhanshu Gas Agency, Partner: Mr. Anil Kumar Yadav & Mr. Kamal Dev Yadav and Guaranters: Ganesh Chandra Yadav, Mr. Rakesh Kumar Yadav S/o Kamal Dev Yadav, Mr. Kamal Dev Yadav.**  
**Date of Demand Notice: 29.10.2024**  
**Date of Possession: 27.01.2025**  
**Amt: ₹13,33,015.49/-** (Rupees Thirteen lakh thirty three thousand fifteen and paise forty nine only) plus unapplied interest and interest reversal (if any) and other charges as on 29.10.2024 together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment.

**Authorised Officer**  
Bank of Baroda

Date : 27.01.2025  
Place : Darbhanga

GOVT. OF BIHAR

BIHAR COMBINED ENTRANCE COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION BOARD  
I.A.S. Association Building, Near Patna Airport, Patna-14.  
Website : [bceceboard.bihar.gov.in](http://bceceboard.bihar.gov.in) / Helpdesk : [helpdesk.bceceboard@bihar.gov.in](mailto:helpdesk.bceceboard@bihar.gov.in)

POST GRADUATE MEDICAL ADMISSION COUNSELLING (PGMAC)-2024  
for MD / MS / PGD / DNB (Degree & Diploma) in Govt/ Private Medical Colleges of Bihar

Advt. No.- BCECEB(PGMAC)-2024/18 Dated : 29.01.2025

**Important Notice for Round-3 Online Counselling**  
In continuation to the Adv.No. BCECEB(PGMAC)-2024/11 & 2024/12 dated : 08.01.2025, Rank Card of all candidates who have duly submitted Fresh Online Application Form as well as who have given their Willingness for participating in Round-3 Counselling or who have been allotted a seat through Round-2 Counselling and given their upgradation as "Yes" for Round-3 Counselling and completed Document Verification process of PGMAC-2024 in between dated 24.12.2024 to 29.12.2024, have been uploaded on Board's website : [bceceboard.bihar.gov.in](http://bceceboard.bihar.gov.in). **Candidates are advised to download their Rank Card of PGMAC-2024 by clicking the link "Rank Card of Round-3 Counselling of PGMAC-2024"** by submitting their PGMAC ID and Date of Birth.  
After downloading the rank card, candidates will have to do choice filling for online counselling. For online choice filling, all eligible candidates are required to click on link "**Online Counselling Portal of PGMAC-2024**". After clicking the link candidates are advised to do the registration for online counselling by submitting the data as asked on the computer screen.  
2. The online registration-cum-choice filling for seat allotment (Round-3) will start from 30.01.2025 & close on 31.01.2025 and Provisional seat allotment order result publication on 02.02.2025 .  
3. **Detailed programme and process for Round-3 online Counselling of PGMAC-2024 [MD / MS / PGD / DNB (Degree & Diploma) Course] has been published through Adv. no. BCECEB(PGMAC)-2024/17 dt. 29.01.2025.**

Controller of Examination

## HC junks pleas against 27% OBC quota in MP

### Says challenged executive order, not amendment

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
BHOPAL, JANUARY 29

THE MADHYA Pradesh HC has dismissed two petitions challenging an executive instruction related to 27% reservation for OBCs, ruling that the petitions were "not maintainable" as they failed to challenge the underlying amendment that increased the quota.

There are multiple plea still pending before HC, both for and against increase in OBC reservation, and the court is yet to decide on these.

The HC bench of Justices Suresh Kumar Kait and Vivek Jain

**ANDHRA PRADESH TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED**  
#55-17-2 to 4, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Stalin Building, Autonagar, VIJAYAWADA-7. Email : [engg@apdte.in](mailto:engg@apdte.in)


**"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE**  
Tender Notice No. 11/A/SE/Engg/APDTC/2024-25, Dt: 29-01-2025  
Name of the work : Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Agency under SASCI Scheme for Development, Operations, Maintenance and Management of Premium Tent City at Gandikota, YSR District, Andhra Pradesh, with Project Cost Rs. 5,06,67,957.00. The details can be seen at 'e' procurement market place. i.e [www.approcurement.gov.in](http://www.approcurement.gov.in), for further clarification please contact on 9846306437.  
Sd/- Smt. K. Amrapali, IAS, Managing Director.

**The Kerala Minerals & Metals Ltd**  
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam-691583  
Phone : +91-476-2631215 to 217, E-Mail : [info@kmml.com](mailto:info@kmml.com), URL : [www.kmml.com](http://www.kmml.com)

**TENDER NOTICE**  
For more details, please visit E- Tendering Portal <https://tenders.kerala.gov.in> or [www.kmml.com](http://www.kmml.com)  
No. E-Tender ID Items  
1. 2025 KMML 72048 1 For the supply of Class I Brick Acid Resistant for Digester  
2. 2025 KMML 73188 1 For the Supply of Quick Opening Door for Rotary Digester-4 Nos  
3. 2025 KMML 73189 1 For Supply of Integrated Condensate Recovery System  
4. 2025 KMML 73140 1 For the supply of Gear Box for Digester with Fabricated casing-1 No  
Chavara. 29.01.2025 Sd/ Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd


**Government of Rajasthan**  
Office of the DSO DUNGARPUR  
Email:-dsfood-dun-rj@nic.in Phone No.: 02964-232425  
F( )/PDS/Tender/2024-25 Date: 14-01-2025

**NOTICE INVITING BID**  
e-Bids for selection of Handling and Transportation of Food grains Under PDS from FCI Depots in District Dungarpur are invited from interested bidders up to 30-01-2025. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajabhawan.gov.in> or <http://ppp.rajabhawan.gov.in>) of the state. The approximate value of the procurement is Rupees 3.6 Crore for One year.  
NIB No. :- FCC2425A0079  
UBN No. :- FCC2425SLO800109  
DIPRC/893/2025 Sd/- District Supply Officer  
Dungarpur

**UJVNL LIMITED**  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: [www.ujvnl.com](http://www.ujvnl.com)

**Tender Notice**  
Letter No. 58 Date: 29/01/2025  
Office of the Executive Engineer, Project Distribution Division, Dakpathar (D Dun), invites online bids for the following works:  
**Tender No.PDD-11/2024-25:** AMC of 2 Nos. 500 kVA DG sets (Make: Cater Pillar) at DPH Khodri under PDD.  
**Estimated cost:** Rs. 9,83,364/- + GST extra.  
**Date of availability of bid document on website:** 31.01.2025  
**Last date for submission of tender:** 21.02.2025 (up to 13:00 Hrs.)  
For eligibility criteria and full & further details, kindly visit our website, [www.ujvnl.com](http://www.ujvnl.com).  
Tenders can only be downloaded from our website "[www.ujvnl.com](http://www.ujvnl.com)".  
Executive Engineer (PDD)  
**"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"**

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
E-Auction Notice No.: Catering-16-25  
The divisional Railway Manager (commercial), East Central Railway, Dhanbad for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-Auction for award of contract for Catering Services A1 & D category stations for GEMU & SMU category over Dhanbad Division for a period of five (05) years.  
Sl.No. Contract type Lot No. Stations Category PF No. Stall No.  
1 Catering Services DHN-BRW-DGMU-53 Barwadhi General 01 03  
2 Catering Services DHN-DHN-SMU-123 Dhanbad SC(W) 01 02  
Date & Time of e-Auction for lots : 13.02.2025 at 15:00 hrs.  
Catalogue No:- Catering-16-25, Website: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
Note: (4) The e-Auction will be online on the IREPS (e-Auction) portal on the prescribed date and time. (5) Desirous of participating in the e-Auction shall pay Rs. 10000/- + GST (non refundable) Online submission of one time registration is required and also having current account linked to IREPS, Payment/Deduction of Security Deposit (EMD) online from the same account. (6) Complete information about the terms and conditions related to e-Auction is available in the e-Auction leasing selection of the IREPS portal ([www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in))  
PR/02015/DHN/COML/N/24-25/40 ACM/EC. Railway, Dhanbad

**Sub Divisional Officer (C) Badshahpur**  
Add:- Sector -57, Near Rail Vihar, Wazirabad, Gurugram  
Contact :- 0124-2570029 , E-Mail:- [sdm-badshahpur.grg@hry.gov.in](mailto:sdm-badshahpur.grg@hry.gov.in)

**Tender Notice**  
It is informed to the general public that the committee constituted under the chairmanship of Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil), Badshahpur is going to issue a tender for house keeping work in the office of Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil) Badshahpur and office of Tehsil Wazirabad. Regarding which notification is issued that any contractor / firm who is interested in taking the contract can submit its complete documents and bid form (in a sealed envelope) by 03:00 pm on 14.02.2025 in the office of Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil), Badshahpur. The work details and conditions related to the tender can be obtained from the Bill Clerk, Office of Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil), Badshahpur on any working day.  
Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil)  
Badshahpur  
No. 32119/HR



**बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda**

**NOTICE**  
(Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, (SARFAESI Act)

**NOTICE**  
(Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, (SARFAESI Act)

In respect of loan availed by below mentioned Borrower through **Bank of Baroda, Donar Road Branch** which have become NPA on 01.10.2024 with below mentioned balance outstanding of dates mentioned below. We have already issued detailed demand notice dated 04.11.2024 mentioned below under section 13(2) of Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 by registered post with acknowledgment due to you, which has been returned undelivered/due to not accepted by borrower. We have indicated our intention of taking possession of hypothecated securities and Mortgaged Property Owned by following Borrower/Guarantors as per section 13(4) of the Act in case of your failure to pay amount mentioned below within 60 days Details are hereunder.

Name & address of Borrowers/Guarantor	Demand Notice Date Outstanding Amount as on 04.11.2024 (inclusive of interest up to 04.11.2024)	Security agreement with brief description of securities
<b>Borrower: 1. M/s New Shyama Medical Hall, Proprietor-Mr. Haridev Kumar Chaudhary S/o Late Bisheshwar Choudhary, Moh-Allalpatti, Post-DMC, PS-Laheriasarai, Dist.-Darbhanga, Bihar-846003.</b> <b>2. Mr. Haridev Kumar Chaudhary S/o Late Bisheshwar Choudhary, Moh-Allalpatti, Post-DMC, PS-Laheriasarai, Dist.-Darbhanga, Bihar- 846003.</b> <b>Branch: Donar Road Branch.</b>	Demand Notice Date 04.11.2024 <b>Rs. 2,91,602.70/- (Rupees Two lakh ninety one thousand six hundred two and paise seventy only) + Unapplied interest from 01.10.2024 plus other charges (if any)</b>	Hypothecation of Stock: Equitable mortgage of property (description mentioned below) Khata No.403, Khesra No.-829(Old), 153(New), Mohalla-Haveli Darbhanga, Marufe Mohalla-Gangasagar, Pargana-Haveli Darbhanga, P.S-Laheriasarai, Anchal-Sadar, Tauzi No.-3331, Thana No.-509, Ward No.-509, Ward No.22, Sub-registry & District-Darbhanga, Area-261.38 sqft(02 Dhur 12 Kanma) in the name of Mr. Haridev Kumar Chaudhary and Mr. Shyam Kumar Choudhary, Boundary (As Per Sale Deed):- North-Self Mokir, South-Self Purchaser, East-Self Purchaser, West-Gali.

You are all advised the above demand notice letter send to you through postal authority by authorised officer of **Bank of Baroda, Donar Road Branch**. (1) Please collect the notice copy from bank for more and complete details. (2) Please pay the balance outstanding amount with interest and costs etc. as mentioned in above within 60 days from the date of notice publication referred to above to avoid further action under the **SARFAESI Act**.  
Place : Darbhanga  
Date : 29.01.2025  
Authorised Officer  
Bank of Baroda

## SC asks Centre to consider bringing law to protect domestic workers' rights

*New Delhi:* The Supreme Court Wednesday directed the Centre to set up an expert committee to consider the desirability of a law to protect the rights of domestic workers across the country.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan said this while quashing criminal proceedings in a case over allegations of trafficking and wrongful confinement of a domestic worker.

The bench in its judgment said, "We direct the Ministry of Labour and Employment in tandem with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the Ministry of Women and Child Development, and the Ministry of Law and Justice, to jointly constitute a Committee comprising subject experts to consider the desirability of recommending a legal framework for the benefit, protection and regulation of the rights of domestic workers."

The court also said that though there was no central law on the subject, states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Kerala "have taken initiatives to safeguard their rights and welfare".

## JOB TALKS ON WITH NORTHEASTERN STATES

# Taiwan set to take in 1,000 Indian workers

**DIVYAA**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

TAIWAN IS ALL set to bring in a preliminary batch of 1,000 Indian workers this summer under a 2024 agreement with New Delhi to plug shortages in its domestic industries.

Sources in Taiwan said Taipei has expressed a preference to hire these workers from India's north-eastern states, citing cultural similarities and easy assimilation.

Talks have reached advanced stages with states such as Assam, Mizoram and Nagaland, it is learnt, and the recruitment process is set to begin in a few months. Workers proficient in English will be prioritised under the programme and orientation sessions will be conducted by Indian authorities in collaboration with the Taiwanese companies before their departure, said sources.

Under the February 2024 agreement, Taiwan will deploy Indian blue-collar workers in sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture and construction amid labour shortages created by an ageing population and lower birth rates.

The pact says India will recruit and train these workers while Taiwan will decide on the duration of the programme, the number of workers to be absorbed (based on the success of the pilot) and the industries they are assigned to.


After the signing of the pact in February, Indian and Taiwanese officials met in Taipei in November 2024 to chart out roadmap. The next set of issues including wages and duration of employment, will likely come up during the next meeting that will be held virtually in February, sources in Taiwan said.

During November's meeting, after discussing the preliminary plan for introducing Indian migrant workers, Taiwan and India reached a number of agreements including allowing for 5% direct hiring by local businesses and setting up a dedicated window for the same.

Indian officials will register these workers on the Ministry of External Affairs' eMigrate portal so that their rights and interests are taken care of, sources said. If all goes well, the industry category and number of people will be expanded, they said.

**PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(Regd. Office PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001)  
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813  
Website: [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in), Mobile No. 96461-55525

**Open E-Tender Enq. No. 7650/P-3/EMP-12922 dated 24.01.2025**  
**Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. ID: 2025\_POWER\_133642.1 for Procurement of spares for Soot blowers of stage -II & III units at GGSSTP Rupnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 28.01.2025/05.00 PM onwards.**  
**Note:** Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>  
No. 41221 /PB RTP-13/25

**TAMIL NADU GREEN ENERGY CORPORATION LIMITED**  
Notice Inviting Expression of Interest

Sl. No.	Expression of Interest No.	Name of Work / Materials	Due Date & Time for submission of EoI
1	CE/Hydro/SE/ PD&C/ EoI No.01/2024-25	Expression of Interest (EoI) for Selection of Developer for Development of Pumped Storage Plant at a Self-Identified Location under Project Proponent Mode	16.03.2025 upto 12.00 hours

The Expression of Interest document can be downloaded from TANGEDCO website [www.tangedco.gov.in](http://www.tangedco.gov.in), from Tamil Nadu Government Website i.e [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in) and from National Informatics Centre Website <https://ntenders.gov.in/nicgpc/app> free of cost.  
Sd /- xxx  
Chief Engineer/Hydro  
DIPRC/364/Tender/2025

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
TENDER NOTICE  
(Through e-tendering)

Name of work with its location	Provision of Fiber based GPON Technology at San Martin Railway Offices Colony New Delhi.
<b>App. Cost of the work (₹)</b>	₹ 55,00,468.33/- only
<b>Earnest Money Deposit (₹)</b>	₹ 1,10,000/- only
<b>Address of the office</b>	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, Annex-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055.
<b>Date &amp; Time for upload the tender/closing of tender</b>	Tender uploading / closing date & time- 21.02.2025 up to 15.00 hrs.
<b>Website particular &amp; notice board/location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.</b>	See the Northern Railway website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> & Notice board at S&T branch, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.
<b>Tender No. 558-Sig-16-Tele-OT-1003 Dated: 29.01.2025</b>	318/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA**  
TENDER NOTICE

Sr.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/ CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HPGCL	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT (AMC) FOR CONTROL AND INSTRUMENTATION (C AND I) SYSTEM OF UNIT-1 AND UNIT-2 AT RGTTP (2x600MW), KHEHARJHAR.	27.01.2025 27.02.2025	1.82 CRORES	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	8222023562 <a href="mailto:sencil.rgtpp@hpgcl.org.in">sencil.rgtpp@hpgcl.org.in</a>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) No- 32109/HRY

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA**  
CORRIGENDUM

Sr.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/ NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/ CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HPGCL	NIT NO 01/CAE-18/RTTP/12 DATED 08.01.2025 2025_SBC_42397_1	DUE DATE OF BID SUBMISSION 03.02.2025 OPENING DATE 05.02.2025 SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, ERECTION, COMMISSIONING AND TESTING FOR UPGRADEATION OF PRESENTLY INSTALLED M/S MEGGITT MAKE VIBRO VIBRATION MONITORING SYSTEM IN UNIT-1, RGTTP, HISAR.	<a href="http://www.hpgcl.org.in">www.hpgcl.org.in</a> <a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	816866632 <a href="mailto:sencil.rgtpp@hpgcl.org.in">sencil.rgtpp@hpgcl.org.in</a>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) No- 32130/HRY

**REGIONAL OFFICE:**  
Bank of Baroda, First Floor, Diamond Complex, Dilli More, Darbhanga-846004 Cont. No. 8969513429  
Website: [www.bankofbaroda.com](http://www.bankofbaroda.com)





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#ExpressExplained

If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to [explained@indianexpress.com](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

EXPLAINED FOREIGN POLICY & STRATEGY

# India-China thaw: What fine print of the countries’ statements says

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

IN A major diplomatic breakthrough, New Delhi and Beijing have decided on a slew of measures to repair bilateral ties: resuming Kailash Mansarovar Yatra this summer, restoring direct flights between the two capitals, issuing visas for journalists and think tanks, and sharing trans-border river data, a statement from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Monday. These decisions follow Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri’s recent visit to Beijing, where he met China’s Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong, and Minister of International Department of the CCP Liu Jianchao. While undoubtedly signalling a potential thaw in ties, the fine print of the two countries’ respective statements reveals some notable divergences.

## Framing & overall approach

On the face of it, New Delhi’s statement is more nuanced and cautious compared to Beijing’s, which seems to have a more optimistic assessment of the talks. They also highlight the two country’s overall approach. While the Indian statement emphasises on a “step-by-step” approach to address areas of “interest” and “concern” — referring to the border situation — the Chinese statement emphasises on a more “long term” strategy. “The two sides took stock of the extant mechanisms for functional exchanges. It was agreed to resume these dialogues step by step and to utilise them to address each other’s priority areas of interest and concern,” said the Indian statement. In contrast, the Chinese statement said that “both sides should view and handle China-India relations on the basis of the fundamental interests of the two countries and two peoples and from a strategic height and

long-term perspective... so as to promote the development of China-India relations along the sound and stable track.

## Some major developments

**MANSAROVAR YATRA:** On Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, the two statements almost echo each other, but the Chinese statement reflects more urgency. The Indian statement said the two sides “decided to resume the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra in the summer of 2025; the relevant mechanism will discuss the modalities for doing so as per existing agreements”. The Chinese statement concurred, adding that the two sides “will discuss relevant arrangements as soon as possible.” **DIRECT FLIGHTS:** As many as 539 scheduled direct flights, with a cumulative capacity of more than 1.25 lakh passengers, operated between India and China each month, as of 2019. They were paused dur-

ing the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. And following the Galwan clash in June that year, they never resumed. On this issue, a careful reading of the two statements shows that while Delhi wants a new pact, China has linked this to visas and resident journalists. The Indian statement said: “They agreed in principle to resume direct air services between the two countries; the relevant technical authorities on the two sides will meet and negotiate an updated framework for this purpose at an early date”. China said: “The two sides agreed to resume direct flights between Chinese mainland and India, support the competent authorities of the two countries to coordinate and push it forward, and take measures to facilitate personnel flows and exchanges of resident journalists”. Currently, there is only one Indian resident journalist in China. There is no Chinese

journalist in India. **TRANS-BORDER RIVERS:** On trans-border rivers like the Brahmaputra, both sides agreed to hold an early meeting of the India-China Expert Level Mechanism. This will involve sharing of data, which has been an issue in recent times. Beijing in December cleared the construction of the world’s largest dam on the Tsangpo (Siang or Brahmaputra in India) close to the Indian border, triggering worries in the lower riparian states of India and Bangladesh. New Delhi said it was not informed by the Chinese side about the dam project, something that has long been the convention between the two countries, and learnt of it from media reports. Indian officials then reached out to their Chinese counterparts about sharing information in advance, and consulting India and Bangladesh. Regular meetings and information sharing at the level of an expert-level mechanism —

like the one both sides have agreed to hold soon — can prevent such situations in the future.

## Notable silences

One of the two countries was silent on some key issues. On trade, the Indian side spelt out its concerns on market access and tariff barriers. “Specific concerns in the economic and trade areas were discussed with a view to resolving these issues and promoting long-term policy transparency and predictability,” New Delhi’s statement said. The Chinese statement makes no mention of this. Conversely, on SCO, China said: “The Indian side will extend full support for Chinese presidency of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and will actively participate in the meetings under the SCO umbrella.” India makes no mention of this. **LONGER VERSION ON** [indianexpress.com/explained](https://www.indianexpress.com/explained)

EXPLAINED HISTORY

# WHAT WAS THE ROLE OF RIPUDAMAN MALIK IN 1985 KANISHKA BOMBING?

ONE OF the two hitmen who shot dead Khalistani separatist Ripudaman Singh Malik in 2022 has been jailed for life in Canada. Malik was implicated in the 1985 bombing of Air India Flight 182 which killed all 329 individuals aboard, and was the deadliest act of aviation terrorism till the September 11 attacks in 2001. Malik would be acquitted in 2005. On July 14, 2022, Malik was shot dead in his car in Surrey, British Columbia. Two Canadian youth — Tanner Fox, 24, and Jose Lopez, 26 — pleaded guilty to Malik’s murder. Fox was sentenced on Tuesday (January 28); Lopez will be sentenced on February 6.

## The Kanishka bombing

On June 23, 1985, Air India Flight 182 was on its way from Montreal to London when it disappeared from radar screens while flying over the Atlantic, near the Irish coast. The wreckage of the Boeing 747 jumbo jet christened “Emperor Kanishka” was located within hours. All 329 people on board — 268 Canadian citizens, mostly of Indian origin, 27 British citizens, and 24 Indians — were declared dead. Investigations revealed that behind the deadly crash was the detonation of a bomb, likely placed inside a suitcase in the forward cargo hold of the aircraft. Roughly an hour before the Kanishka went down, a suitcase bomb went off inside the terminal building at Tokyo’s Narita airport. The bomb was meant to explode aboard Air India Flight 301 from Tokyo to Bangkok, but detonated prematurely. Investigations later found that the two bombings were related.

## Role of Babbar Khalsa, Malik

Investigations concluded that the bombings were orchestrated by Khalistani separatist outfit Babbar Khalsa. The attacks were retribution for Operation Blue Star which saw the Indian Army enter the Golden Temple in Amritsar in 1984 to flush out militants led



Wreckage of Air Flight 182 retrieved from the Atlantic. Wikimedia Commons

by Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale.

Talwinder Singh Parmar, the founder of Babbar Khalsa, was the alleged mastermind of the bombings. He was killed in an encounter by Punjab Police in 1992. The trial in Canada revolved around three main accused: Ripudaman Singh Malik, Inderjit Singh Reyat, and Ajai Singh Bagri, all Canadian citizens. While Reyat was arrested in 1988 in the UK, Malik and Bagri were arrested in Vancouver in 2000. Malik, said to be a close associate of Parmar, was the alleged financier of the plot. Both Malik and Bagri were associated with Babbar Khalsa.

## A questionable acquittal

The trial for the Kanishka bombing began in 2003. Reyat was made a prosecution witness against Malik and Bagri after he pled guilty to “assembling parts for the bombs” that blew up Flight 182 in return for a five year sentence. But on the witness box, Reyat refused to implicate his comrades and pretended to remember nothing. The judge called him “an unmitigated liar under oath”. Reyat would be convicted on perjury charges in 2010, and sentenced to nine years in jail. Because of his “unreliable” testimony, and other procedural lapses by Canadian prosecutors, Malik and Bagri walked free.

**ARJUN SENGUPTA**



AMITABH SINHA

AN EXPERIMENTAL nuclear fusion reactor in China last week triggered a lot of excitement by keeping its operational state maintained for more than 1,000 seconds, or over 17 minutes, which is a new record. Nuclear fusion is what produces the energy in the Sun, or any other star. Scientists across the world have been trying to recreate this process to produce electricity. The technology can eliminate the world’s energy crisis, and the problem of climate change, but it has not been mastered yet. The Chinese reactor did not produce electricity. It did not even carry out a fusion reaction. The technology has not yet reached that stage. However, the reactor managed to maintain plasma in a steady state of confinement for a long time, longer than it had previously been towards the dream of realising a fusion-based nuclear reactor in the near future.

## Extreme conditions

Fusion reactions require very high temperatures, hundreds of millions of degrees Celsius — higher than the temperatures in the Sun’s core. At such high temperatures, matter exists only in the plasma state, in which atoms get split into positively and negatively charged particles. But such hot plasma cannot be handled by or contained in any material. Within the reactor, this plasma needs to be kept suspended in a confined space, surrounded by very strong magnetic fields acting as walls. Charged particles respond to magnetic fields, and this property is used to guide the flow of plasma within an enclosed space, separated from any matter. This condition, necessary for facilitating fusion reactions, is extremely delicate and unstable, with the tiniest of changes in the magnetic field disturbing the whole set-up. Scientists have not been able to maintain these conditions for longer than a few seconds. That is why the achievement of the Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) reactor, located at the Institute of Plasma Physics in Anhui province in eastern China, is being seen as so important. It is a significant improvement on this reactor’s previous record of a little over 400



A technician works on the Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST), a nuclear fusion reactor, in Hefei, Anhui province, China, in 2018. Reuters

seconds achieved in 2023.

Real-life electricity-generating reactors would require this state to be maintained for hours, even days, at a stretch. Only then would continuous operations be possible, like current nuclear reactors which are based on fission technology.

## Energy source of future

Fusion technology has been under development for more than 70 years but progress has been slow. Even the optimistic forecasts, at least till a few years ago, suggested a functional fusion reactor, producing electricity at a commercial scale, would not be realised before 2050.

For this reason, none of the global energy transition pathways for a net-zero world in 2050, or 2070, factor in the potential of fusion electricity. Each one of those pathways, incidentally, is heavily dependent on the success of several other uncertain technologies such as carbon sequestration and carbon removal, whose technical and economic viability remain under doubt. However, the promise of fusion energy is alluring. If, and when, it comes through, other sources of alternative clean energy being explored, like solar or wind, to tackle the climate crisis are likely to become peripheral or even redundant. The fusion process produces far greater amounts of energy than any other source — one gram of fuel can yield as much energy as burning about eight tonnes of coal. It uses

cheap input materials, available in almost limitless supply (deuterium and tritium, two heavier isotopes of hydrogen that are used as fuel, are easily available in nature), has a zero emission footprint, and can be set up and operated almost anywhere. Unlike the fission process, it does not leave dangerous nuclear waste.

## Recent breakthroughs

In the last few years, fusion research has produced a string of breakthroughs. In December 2021, the United Kingdom-based JET laboratory set a new record in the amount of energy produced through fusion. It produced about 12 MW of electricity for five seconds, enough to cater to the demands of about 10,000 homes for that period of time. A year later, a reactor in the United States achieved a net gain in energy for the first time. The extreme conditions needed in a fusion reactor require a very large amount of input energy. Fusion would be viable only if the output energy is significantly larger. The performance of this US reactor has improved since then. Last year, researchers at MIT said they had developed a new material that could better withstand the extreme conditions within the reactor. The feats of the Chinese EAST reactor, in 2023 and now, are the latest additions to these successes. This week, fresh evidence emerged to show that China was building a large laser-ignited fusion research centre that could also be used to develop thermonuclear weapons,

commonly known as hydrogen bombs. The US facility at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California, which was the first to produce a net gain in energy in 2022, is based on a similar technology.

## Greater optimism

The recent breakthroughs have triggered a big surge in interest, and ambition, for fusion energy, particularly among private companies which have entered the field in a major way. A total of 163 fusion reactors, in about 30 countries, are currently in operation, under construction, or being planned, according to the Fusion Device Information System (FusDIS) database maintained by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The Fusion Outlook 2023 report, published by IAEA, said private companies operating in this space had attracted \$6.2 billion in investment that year. There were at least 43 such companies operating in more than 10 countries. Helion, a US-based company backed by tech billionaires Sam Altman and Peter Thiel, has promised to generate 50 MW of electricity by 2028, which will be provided to Microsoft. The company aims to become the first firm to start producing commercial electricity from fusion reactions. Another US company, Commonwealth Fusion Systems, is collaborating with MIT to generate 400 MW grid-scale electricity by the early 2030s from a plant it is building in Virginia.

## ITER

The largest fusion reactor, an international collaborative project called ITER, is coming up in southern France. More than 30 countries are participating with India being one of the seven member countries contributing to the reactor’s construction and research. This project, which has been under development since 2005, is slated to become one of the biggest international science facilities in the world. According to its current timeline, it would begin deuterium-tritium fusion reactions by 2039, producing 500 MW of fusion power. ITER would not be converting the output heat energy into electricity. But its success is expected to pave the way for other machines to start using fusion energy as a regular source of electricity generation. Dr Indranil Bandyopadhyay, group leader, Council Support and Knowledge Management, at ITER India, said, “A 15-year timeline for nuclear fusion energy to reach commercial scale is very aggressive but not implausible.”

# ISRO celebrates 100th launch: Its journey so far, some upcoming ventures

**ANONNA DUTT**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

WITH ITS first launch of 2025, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) clocked a century of launches, a significant milestone for the space agency. Starting from humble origins, ISRO has developed several rockets. It has also carried out numerous scientific missions which provide useful data to researchers around the world.

## Six generations of rockets

ISRO has so far developed at least six generations of launch vehicles, of which four remain operational. The first two generations of launchers, which are no longer in service, saw limited use. The SLV-3, that could carry a measly 40 kg to Low Earth Orbit (LEO), saw

three developmental and one operational flight. Its successor ASLV — an augmented version of the SLV-3 which could carry upto 150 kg to LEO — saw four developmental flights. It was with the third generation PSLV, which continues to be ISRO’s workhorse launcher today, that ISRO truly came into its own. The four stage rocket with solid and liquid fuel-based engines is capable of carrying just under 2,000 kg to LEO. Till date, the PSLV has gone to space 62 times, including three developmental flights. Only two PSLV launches have been unsuccessful. The PSLV was followed by the GSLV, whose initial flights used cryogenic engines supplied by Russia. India later developed its own cryogenic engine — the GSLV-F15 utilise for the 100th launch was India’s eleventh successful flight using indigenously developed cryogenic engines. The

100 LAUNCHES, BY VEHICLE	
LAUNCH VEHICLE	MISSIONS
Satellite Launch Vehicle	4
Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle	4
Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle	62
Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle	16
Launch Vehicle Mark III (previously GSLV Mk III)	7
Small Satellite Launch Vehicle	3
Reusable Launch Vehicle	1
Test Vehicle Mission	1
Pad Abort Test	1

GSLV can carry upto 6,000 kg to LEO. The GSLV MkIII, now called LVM3, is capable of carrying nearly 8,500 kg to LEO. It is the heaviest launch vehicle in ISRO’s arse-

nal at the moment. The LVM3 has thus far been used for seven launches, all of which have been successful. It was notably used for the Chandrayaan 2 and 3 missions, and a modified, human-rated version of the vehicle will be used for the Gaganyaan mission. ISRO has also developed the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle to transfer to private industry for commercial launch of small satellites. The SSLV has thus far seen three developmental flights. **548 satellites placed in orbit** In its 100 launches, ISRO has placed in orbit 548 satellites weighing 120 tonnes in total. This includes 433 satellites weighing 23 tonnes that came from outside India. ISRO has launched communication satellites, earth observation satellites, navigation satellites, and experimental satellites. With its 100th launch, ISRO put in orbit the NVS-02 satellite on Wednesday. This is

one of the five replacement satellites for the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System, also referred to as NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation). The new generation of NavIC satellites are heavier, have a longer mission life, carry an indigenously developed atomic clock on-board, and are enabled to send signals in the L1 frequency band, something that will facilitate the greater adoption of NavIC. NavIC is a seven-satellite regional positioning system that can provide location data on the Indian mainland, and up to 1,500 kms around it. A fully-functional NavIC system, with all seven satellites and ground stations outside of India, is likely to be more accurate than GPS in the region it covers since NavIC satellites are placed directly over India. Apart from satellites, ISRO has also launched several scientific missions such as the space-based observatory AstroSat, the Mars Orbiter Mission or Mangalyaan,

Chandrayaan 1, 2 and 3, the space observatory XpoSat, and the solar mission Aditya L1. **Upcoming ventures** With ISRO targeting big ticket missions such as a sample return mission from the Moon, a mission to Venus, setting up an Indian space station, and sending a man to Moon, the space agency is working towards developing a heavier rocket called Next Generation Launch Vehicle. NGLV will be capable of carrying up to 30,000 kg to LEO. It will also have a re-usable first stage, which would be utilised 15 to 20 times, in order to make launches affordable. The Union Cabinet has green-lit the construction of a third launch pad at Sriharikota for NGLV launches. The pad would be capable of launching human missions, and also facilitate in increasing the number of LVM3 launches. This would increase ISRO’s capability to carry out heavy commercial missions.



TOPOF THE WORLD



Nasa Astronauts in the International Space Station, last year. File

Trump, Musk suggest speedy return of 2 NASA astronauts

Washington: President Donald Trump said Tuesday night he had asked Elon Musk's SpaceX to return two NASA astronauts from the ISS who were already scheduled to fly back on a SpaceX capsule in March. Musk earlier Tuesday said Trump had asked him to return the two astronauts "as soon as possible," suggesting a change to NASA's current plan for a late March return. "We will do so," Musk said. "I have just asked Elon Musk and @SpaceX to 'go get' the 2 brave astronauts who have been virtually abandoned in space by the Biden Administration," Trump wrote on Truth Social. A NASA spokesman did not immediately return requests for comment. **REUTERS**

SYRIA '14 killed in strike by Turkey-allied forces in north'

Damascus: At least 14 civilians were killed and 29 wounded in attacks by Turkish-backed forces in northern Syria on Monday and Tuesday, the U.S.-backed Kurdish militia group said. The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) said Turkish-backed forces targeted a market in the city of Sarrin with drones on Tuesday, killing eight civilians and injuring 20 others. Some of the wounded were in critical condition, they said. Shelling by Turkish-backed forces on another area in northern Syria killed three civilians and injured nine on Tuesday, as per the SDF. **REUTERS**

CONGO Rebels move southward after seizing east city

Goma: Rwandan-backed M23 rebels in Democratic Republic of Congo were moving south on Wednesday towards Bukavu, the capital of South Kivu province, apparently bidding to expand their area of control in the country's east after capturing the city of Goma. M23 forces were advancing south from the town of Minova, along the western side of Lake Kivu, according to five diplomatic and security sources, one of whom was in direct contact with the rebels. **REUTERS**

WILL BE FIRST FOREIGN LEADER TO VISIT U.S. PRESIDENT IN FRESH TERM

Trump invites Netanyahu to White House, mediators look ahead to ceasefire phase 2

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
GAZA, JANUARY 29

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump has invited Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the White House next week as the first foreign leader to visit in Trump's second term, Netanhayu and the White House said Tuesday.

The announcement came as the United States pressures Israel and Hamas to continue a ceasefire that has paused a devastating 15-month war in Gaza.

Talks about the ceasefire's more difficult second phase, which aims to end the war, begin next Monday.

The White House letter shared by Netanyahu's office, dated Tuesday, said "I look forward to discussing how we can bring peace to Israel and its neighbours, and efforts to counter our shared adversaries."

The meeting on February 4 is a chance for Netanyahu, under pressure at home, to remind the world of the support he has received from Trump over the years, and to defend Israel's conduct of the war.

Israel is the largest recipient of US military aid, and Netanyahu is likely to encourage Trump not to hold up some weapons deliveries the way the Biden administration did, though it continued other deliveries and overall military support.

Netanyahu also wants Trump



Displaced Palestinians return to their homes in northern Gaza on Wednesday. Reuters

to put more pressure on Iran, and renew efforts to deliver a historic normalisation agreement between Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile in Cairo, a high-level Hamas team led by Mohammad Darwish, head of the group's leading council, held talks with Egyptian mediators.

Later on Tuesday, Hamas said the delegation has also discussed with Cairo officials alleged Israeli violations of the truce and ideas to achieve national unity with the rival Palestinian Authority including an Egyptian proposal to form a panel to run post-war Gaza.

A second stage, which will

decide what happens to over 60 other hostages as well as a full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza, is due to begin Tuesday.

Erdogan meets Hamas delegation in Ankara

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan met with Hamas leader Muhammad Ismail Darwish in Ankara on Wednesday, Erdogan's office said in a statement. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan and Intelligence Chief Ibrahim Kalin also attended the meeting, as well as other Hamas officials.

WITH REUTERS INPUTS

ISRAELI FIRE IN WEST BANK KILLS TWO MEN

Jerusalem: The Palestinian Health Ministry says two Palestinians were killed by Israeli fire in the West Bank overnight into Wednesday. A 23-year-old man was shot dead in Tulkarem and a 25-year-old man was killed in a strike on Jenin, where Israel launched a large operation earlier this month. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military. **AP**

Meloni under probe over release of Libyan cop wanted by ICC

REUTERS  
ROME, JANUARY 29

ITALIAN PRIME Minister Giorgia Meloni said on Tuesday she had been placed under judicial investigation following a government decision to release a Libyan police officer wanted by the International Criminal Court.

Osama Elmasry Njem was freed last week and flown home by an Italian state aircraft just days after being detained in the northern city of Turin under an ICC arrest warrant for alleged crimes against humanity, including murder, torture and rape.

The ICC has demanded an explanation, saying it had not been consulted over the deci-



Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni

sion to let him go. Meloni said in a message posted on social media that she had been placed under investigation by Rome's chief prosecutor, Francesco Le Voi, for allegedly aiding and abetting a crime and misuse of public funds.

"I will not be blackmailed, I will not allow myself to be intimidated, which may be why I am, let's say, disliked by those who do not want Italy to change and become better," Meloni said in a video posted on Facebook.

Putin says Kyiv unwilling to take 'legal way' for talks, Zelenskyy rejects claim

REUTERS  
MOSCOW, JANUARY 29

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday that Ukraine could find a legal way to hold peace talks with Russia on ending their nearly three-year-old war, but Moscow sees no willingness on Kyiv's part to engage.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy immediately dismissed President Putin's statements questioning his legitimacy, saying that the Kremlin chief had shown he was



Vladimir Putin is afraid of strong leaders: Zelenskyy

afraid of talks and sought to prolong the war.

Putin told Russian state television that negotiations with Ukraine were complicated by

Questions arise on French govt's survival as budget talks collapse

REUTERS  
PARIS, JANUARY 29

FRENCH BUDGET talks teetered on the brink of collapse on Wednesday, a day after Socialist party officials suspended their participation in protest over remarks about immigration by Prime Minister Francois Bayrou, threatening his government's survival. The flare-up over the comments by Bayrou, who said many people felt "submerged" by immigration, underlines the complexity of his balancing act.

His comments were cheered by far-right lawmakers from the National Rally, the largest single party in parliament, but prompted the Socialists to abandon budget talks, raising fresh doubts about the stability of Bayrou's administration.



PM Francois Bayrou at the National Assembly Tuesday. Reuters

The Socialists' walkout comes at a crucial moment, with the 2025 budget Bill entering its final stage. On Thursday, a panel of senators and parliamentarians is due to thrash out a final text before it heads to the lower house Monday. Philippe Brun, a Socialist law-

maker, said Wednesday the Socialists could return to the table if Bayrou withdrew his immigration remark. Government spokesperson Sophie Primas said the premier had no such plans and the budget must not be "taken hostage" by the dispute.

15-yr-old girl killed by Pak family over TikTok videos

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
QUETTA, JANUARY 29

A 15-YEAR-OLD girl born and raised in the US has been killed by her father and uncle in the Balochistan province of Pakistan for making TikTok videos, police said on Wednesday.

The police have arrested both the accused who have confessed to the "honour killing" after the girl and her family arrived in Quetta on January 15.

"The father said he had told his daughter to stop making

videos on TikTok but she refused to listen. So he and his brother-in-law decided to kill her while they were visiting their home town Quetta," senior police official Abad Baloch said.

The official said the accused initially claimed the girl was hit by stray bullets during an aerial firing outside their home and rushed to the hospital where she was declared dead.

"The family has been living in the USA for the last 28 years and the girl was born and raised there. This was her first visit to her ancestral home," Baloch said.

2 mn US federal workers enticed to resign in bid to reduce workforce

Feb 6 deadline, those who choose to quit will receive 8 months' pay: Govt

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 29

THE TRUMP administration announced Tuesday that it is offering buyouts to all federal employees who opt to leave their jobs by next week — an unprecedented move to shrink the US government at breakneck speed.

A memo from the Office of Personnel Management also said it would begin subjecting all federal employees to "enhanced standards of suitability and conduct" and ominously warned of future downsizing. The email sent to millions of employees said those who leave their posts voluntarily will receive about eight months of salary, but they have to choose to do so by February 6.

Katie Miller, who serves on an advisory board to the Department of Government Efficiency, a department headed by Tesla CEO Elon Musk and tasked with shrinking the size of government, posted on X, "This email is being sent to more than TWO MILLION federal employees." The federal government employed more than 3 million people as of November last year, which accounted for nearly 1.9 per cent of the nation's entire civilian workforce, according to the Pew Research Centre.

Even a fraction of the workforce accepting buyouts could send shockwaves through the

US court pauses freeze on federal grants and loans

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 29

A FEDERAL judge on Tuesday temporarily blocked a push from President Donald Trump to pause federal funding while his administration conducts an across-the-board ideological review to uproot progressive initiatives.

The Trump administration plan plunged the US government — and states and organisations that rely on federal funding — into panic and confusion and set the stage for a constitutional clash over control of taxpayer money.

The order from US District Judge Loren AliKhan came minutes before the funding freeze was scheduled to go into effect on Tuesday afternoon.

The administrative stay, prompted by a lawsuit brought by nonprofit groups that receive federal funds, lasts until Monday afternoon and applies only to existing programmes.

Administration officials said the decision to halt loans and grants — a financial lifeline for local governments, schools and nonprofits — was necessary to ensure that spending complies with Trump's recent blitz of executive orders. Democrats argue that the president had no right to unilaterally stop spending appropriated by Congress.

What if one doesn't quit?

THE LETTER sent to the workers says that the deferred resignation offer is "completely voluntary," and that employees who don't respond to the email will retain their jobs. But it warns those who choose to remain in their positions that retaining their jobs is not guaranteed. "...we cannot give you full assurance regarding the certainty of your position," it said.

economy and trigger widespread disruptions throughout society as a whole.

In response, American Federation of Government Employees union President Everett Kelley said it should not be viewed as voluntary buyouts, but pressuring workers not considered loyal to the new administration to vacate their jobs.

The emailed message includes a "deferred resignation letter" for federal employees to begin leaving their posts. "If you resign under this program, you will retain all pay and benefits regardless of your daily workload and will be exempted from all applicable in-person work requirements until September 30," it says.



The administrative stay on President Donald Trump's order lasts until Monday. File

Just minutes after AliKhan ruled, Democratic attorneys general from 22 states and the District of Columbia filed their own lawsuit seeking to block and permanently prevent the administration from cutting off federal funding. "There is no question this policy is reckless, dangerous, illegal and unconstitutional," New York Attorney General Letitia James said.

AliKhan said in halting the spending freeze, "It seems like the federal government currently doesn't actually know the full extent of the programmes that are going to be subject to the pause."

Trump administration officials said programmes that provide direct assistance to Americans would not be affected, such as Medicare, Social Security, student loans and food stamps.

PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERTS CALL FOR REFORMS OF AGENCY, BUT SAY NOTHING CAN REPLACE ITS EXTENSIVE NETWORK

Crucial scientific data, influence over global health: What US loses with WHO exit

APOORVA MANDAVILLI  
SAN FRANCISCO, JANUARY 29

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S decision to withdraw the United States from the World Health Organization could have harsh consequences for countries around the world that rely on the agency to achieve important health goals, including routine immunizations, outbreak control and nutrition programs.

But it could also have unfortunate, unintended repercussions for Americans.

Disengaging from the W.H.O.

would rob the United States of crucial information about emerging outbreaks like mpox and resurgent dangers like malaria and measles, public health experts said. It may also give more power to nations like Russia and China in setting a global health agenda, and it could hurt the interests of American pharmaceutical and health technology companies.

The WHO's work touches American lives in myriad ways. The agency compiles the International Classification of Diseases, the system of diagnostic codes used by doctors and in-

surance companies. It assigns generic names to medicines that are recognizable worldwide. Its extensive flu surveillance network helps select the seasonal flu vaccine each year.

The agency also closely tracks resistance to antibiotics and other drugs, keeps American travelers apprised of health threats, and studies a wide range of issues such as teen mental health, substance use and aging, which may then inform policies in the United States.

"There's a reason why there was a W.H.O.," said Loyce Pace, who served as an assistant sec-



WHO medical aid from arriving in south Gaza in 2023. File

retary of health and human services under former President Joe Biden. "It's because we saw value, even as a superpower, in the wake of the world war to come together as a global community on global problems."

"America, no matter how great we are, cannot do this work alone," she said.

Though it will take a year for the withdrawal to take effect — and it is not entirely clear that it can happen without congressional approval — Trump's announcement has already prompted drastic cost-cutting measures at the WHO

Many public health experts have for decades called for reforms of the agency, noting that it is too timid in calling out its members' missteps, holds a rigid view of what constitutes medical evidence and has too many areas of focus. The criticisms escalated during the pandemic, when the W.H.O. was months late in acknowledging that the coronavirus was airborne and that the virus could spread in the absence of symptoms.

Yet there is no other organization that can match the WHO's reach or influence in the world, said Dr. Thomas Frieden, who

has worked with the WHO for decades, including as a former CDC director.

"Are there lots of things they could be better at? Of course," he said. But, he added, "are they indispensable? Yes."

For all its scope, the W.H.O. has a relatively modest budget, totaling about \$6.8 billion for 2024 and 2025. For comparison, the health department of the tiny state of Rhode Island spent just over \$6 billion in 2024 alone.

The United States is the W.H.O.'s largest donor, accounting for nearly 15 percent of its planned budget. **NYT**



GOLD

₹83,750

USD RATE

₹86.55

OIL

\$80.49

SILVER

₹93,000

Note: Gold, silver rates are at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) per barrel as of January 28

International market data till 1900 IST

AIM TO BOOST DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN EXPLORATION, SUPPORT RECYCLING

# Cabinet approves critical minerals mission with ₹16,300 crore outlay

AGGAM WALIA  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

THE UNION Cabinet has approved the setting up of the National Critical Minerals Mission (NCMM) on Wednesday with a budgetary outlay of Rs 16,300 crore over seven years, with an additional Rs 18,000 crore expected in investments from central public sector undertakings (PSUs).

With Rs 3,000 crore budgeted for the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) and Rs 4,000 crore for the Geological Survey of India (GSI), the NCMM targets 1,200 domestic critical mineral exploration projects till 2030-31. The Ministry of Mines also aims to auction over 100 critical mineral blocks by then.

A boost in exploration of critical minerals will provide potential investors with key data on reserves, which in turn will increase interest and participation in auctions. Till now, GSI has undertaken 368 exploration projects over the past three years, with 195 projects currently underway, and the mines ministry has auctioned off 24 critical mineral blocks.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the NCMM as a "major step towards self-reliance" in critical minerals. "The Union Cabinet's decision on National Critical Mineral Mission will encourage India's high-tech, clean energy, defence and other key industries," he posted on X.

## C-ethanol procurement price hiked

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a 3 per cent increase in the procurement price for ethanol made from C-heavy molasses to Rs 57.97 per litre for the 2024-25 supply year. The price increase, aimed at boosting ethanol production from sugar industry by-products, comes as India pushes to meet its accel-

Under the mission, an additional Rs 5,600 crore is allocated to the NMET to finance risk coverage for foreign sourcing and to support exploration activities outside India. The mines ministry seeks to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act to enable the NMET to fund the proposed activities of the mission. Announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in last year's Union Budget, the mission aims to strengthen India's critical minerals value chain by building a technological, regulatory, and financial ecosystem to ensure mineral availability from both domestic and foreign sources. The mission is set to boost access to raw materials used across strategic sectors, from clean energy and electronics to defence and agriculture.

NCMM will receive Rs 1,000 crore from the Anusandhan National Research Foundation

erated target of 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol by 2025-26. Prices for ethanol produced from B-heavy molasses and sugarcane juice/sugar/sugar syrup remain unchanged at Rs 60.73 and Rs 65.61 per litre, respectively. The decision was taken at a meeting of the CCEA chaired by PM Narendra Modi. PTI

(ANRF) and other R&D schemes, and Rs 2,600 crore in budgetary support. In a meeting with officials from the Department of Economic Affairs in November, the mines ministry had proposed external funding for the NCMM through the World Bank's Resilient and Inclusive Supply-Chain Enhancement (RISE) initiative. As of February 2024, only \$50 million have been pledged as initial contributions to the RISE initiative, with Japan contributing \$25 million and the remaining from other countries, including Canada, Germany, Italy, the Republic of Korea, and the UK.

Through the past year, the mines ministry led stakeholder consultations to develop the mission's framework, including a public seminar in August where it identified key areas of support, including a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for mineral recycling pilot projects. The mis-

## EXPLAINED Why Centre is betting on NCMM

THE MISSION aims to strengthen India's critical minerals value chain by building a technological, regulatory, and financial ecosystem to ensure mineral availability from both domestic and foreign sources. It is set to boost access to raw materials used in strategic sectors, from clean energy and electronics to defence and agriculture.

sion envisages an incentive scheme for mineral recycling to the tune of Rs 1,500 crore targeting 400 kilotonnes (kt) of recycled material, which will be prepared in consultation with the Ministry of Finance. Under the mission, central PSUs and their joint ventures will be expected to invest Rs 18,000 crore. These include Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL), Coal India Ltd, National Mineral Development Corporation, NTPC Mining Ltd, Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Ltd, Steel Authority of India Ltd, Indian Rare Earth Ltd, Oil India Ltd, and ONGC Ltd. NCMM also targets the acquisition of 50 critical mineral mines abroad, by both PSUs and private companies. So far, KABIL, under the mines ministry, has acquired

over 15,000 hectares in Argentina's Catamarca province for the exploration of lithium.

"The Government of India will motivate Central PSUs and encourage private sector companies to allocate funds for acquiring critical mineral assets overseas, empowering Central PSUs, their joint ventures, and subsidiaries to invest abroad by issuing necessary guidelines," according to a note on the mission.

As part of the mission, the government also plans to create four mineral processing parks and prepare separate guidelines for the recycling of critical minerals, with a focus on streamlining India's massive informal recycling sector. NCMM also seeks to promote Critical Minerals Partnership Agreements with resource-rich countries and to integrate chapters on critical minerals in existing bilateral trade agreements with countries of interest.

"The mission is also an invitation for international partnerships and global investment opportunities. India has already taken significant steps in this direction, with agreements signed with Argentina, Zambia, and the United States, among others. These partnerships are critical for diversifying supply chains and securing access to mineral-rich regions," Union Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy said. The mission will be coordinated by an Empowered Committee chaired by the Cabinet Secretary.

## Tata Motors profit down 22.4% in Q3

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, JANUARY 29

TATA MOTORS Ltd reported a 22.4 per cent year-on-year drop in consolidated net profit to Rs 5,451 crore for the third quarter (Q3) ended December 2024 as against Rs 7,025 crore a year ago in the wake of weaker margins and subdued Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) volumes despite a sequential improvement.

Total revenue rose to Rs 113,575 crore for the December quarter as against Rs 110,577 crore a year ago. "The fundamentals of the business are strong and therefore despite external challenges we are confident of delivering another strong performance this year," PB Balaji, Group Chief Financial Officer, Tata Motors said.

The HCV segment saw robust sequential recovery, even as the year-on-year sales declined 9 per cent due to limited growth in end-use segments, Girish Wagh, ED, Tata Motors said. JLR's revenue for the quarter was £7.5 billion, up 1.5 per cent while YTD revenue at £21.2 billion was flat YoY.



The Fed cut its benchmark policy rate by 1 percentage point in 2024. Reuters

## US Fed may keep rates stable as it awaits data

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 29

THE US Federal Reserve is expected to hold interest rates steady on Wednesday as it awaits further inflation and jobs data and more clarity on the economic impact of US President Donald Trump's policies before deciding whether to cut borrowing costs again.

Trump, who has already said interest rates should be lowered regardless while asserting he knows more about the matter than Fed policymakers, has in his first week in office provided a sample of the potential disruption ahead. Since being sworn in as president for a second time on January 20, Trump has rolled out dozens of executive orders, including one on Monday that halts some federal spending—a potential fiscal shock to consumption and growth. A federal judge on Tuesday halted the spending freeze until at least next Monday pending a further legal review.

Trump also has ramped up deportation of immigrants and threatened 25 per cent import tariffs on goods from Mexico and Canada as

soon as Saturday, moves that most economists see as more likely to aggravate inflation than contribute to cooling it further. Preliminary data released on Wednesday showed the US monthly goods trade deficit jumped nearly 18 per cent in December to \$122.1 billion, a record high, with a surge in imports of industrial supplies suggesting companies may be trying to front-run expected new import taxes. "The Fed would prefer to stop short on rate cuts than reverse course and have to raise rates if inflation were to reignite," said Diane Swonk, chief economist at KPMG.

# Rise in unincorporated, non-agri units headed by women; West Bengal, Karnataka lead

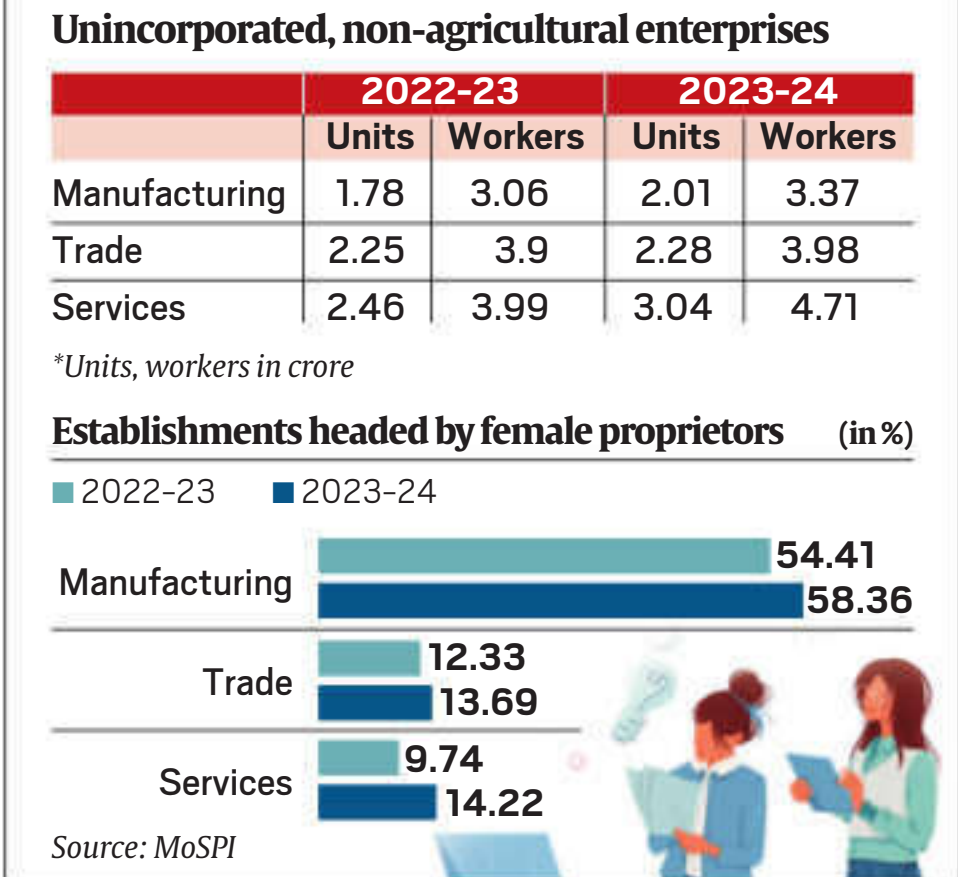
AANCHAL MAGAZINE  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

THE PERCENTAGE of proprietary units headed by females in the unincorporated, non-agricultural enterprises increased to 26.2 per cent in 2023-24 from 22.9 per cent in 2022-23, with the highest share seen in manufacturing, the full report of Annual Survey of Unincorporated Enterprises (ASUSE) 2023-24 released by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Wednesday showed. Of the total 12.06 crore workers employed in the unincorporated, non-agricultural enterprises, which refer to the non-corporate entities that are broadly informal in nature, female workers comprised 28.1 per cent of the total workers, with 46.5 per cent in manufacturing, 22.5 per cent in other services and 19.2 per cent in trade in 2023-24, the survey showed.

Among the three broad sectors in the unincorporated, non-agricultural enterprises, manufacturing recorded the highest share of units headed by female proprietors (58.4 per cent) in 2023-24, followed by other services (14.22 per cent) and trade (13.69 per cent). In 2022-23, the share of units headed by female proprietors had been recorded at 54.41 per cent for manufacturing, 9.74 per cent for other services and 12.33 per cent for trade.

Among major states, the highest percentage share of unincorporated establishments headed by females in 2023-24 were recorded in West Bengal (36.4 per cent), followed by Karnataka (35.20 per cent), Telangana (34.10 per cent) and

## SURVEY OF UNINCORPORATED ENTERPRISES



Gujarat (32.20 per cent), ASUSE 2023-24 showed.

In terms of workers' share, the highest share of female workers with respect to the total workers employed in unincorporated establishments in 2023-24 was recorded in Andhra Pradesh (38.5 per cent), Telangana (37 per cent) and West Bengal (35.9 per cent). Among units that saw high female workers, 'manufacture of wearing apparel' accounted for the highest number of female workers (22.77 per cent) in 2023-24, followed by 'other retail trade' (21.49 per cent) and 'education' (10.03 per cent).

In terms of value addition, three states—Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat—were the top states, contributing about one-third of the total Gross Value Added (GVA) output from the unincorporated, non-agricul-

tural enterprises. Delhi, Gujarat and Haryana were the top three states in terms of GVA or output per establishment. For GVA per worker, or labour productivity, Delhi, Kerala and Haryana were the top three states. Labour productivity, as measured by GVA per worker, increased to Rs 1,49,742 in ASUSE 2023-24 from Rs 1,41,769 in ASUSE 2022-23.

The total number of workers in the unincorporated sector was recorded at 12.06 crore in 2023-24, 10 per cent higher than the previous year, with the highest rate of growth seen in other services. The total number of establishments in the sector increased to 7.34 crore in 2023-24 from 6.5 crore in 2022-23, a 12.8 per cent growth, with the number of establishments in other services rising by 23.6 per cent, followed by a 13 per cent increase in the manufacturing sector.

## Govt launches credit guarantee scheme for MSMEs announced in FY25 Budget

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

TWO DAYS before the presentation of the Union Budget for the next financial year 2025-26, the government on Wednesday approved the introduction of a new credit guarantee scheme for the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that was announced in the FY25 Budget. The scheme, which is called Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs (MCGS-MSME), will extend credit guarantee coverage to lending institutions for credit facilities of up to Rs 100 crore to eligible MSMEs, for the procurement of equipment and machinery, a statement by the Ministry of Finance said.

The MCGS-MSME aims at providing 60 per cent guarantee coverage by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGT) to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) for

credit facility up to Rs 100 crore to eligible MSMEs for purchase of equipment/machinery, the Ministry said. "The scheme will facilitate collateral-free loans by banks and financial institutions to MSMEs who are in need of debt capital for their expansion and growth," it said.

Under the scheme, the MSMEs should have a valid Udyam Registration Number; the loan amount guaranteed under the scheme will not exceed Rs 100 crore; project cost could be of higher amounts, and minimum cost of equipment/ machinery will be 75 per cent of project cost. Loan up to Rs 50 crore under the scheme will have repayment period of up to 8 years with up to 2 years moratorium period on principal installments. For loans above Rs 50 crore, higher repayment schedule and moratorium period on principal installments can be considered, it said. An initial contribution of 5 per cent of the loan amount will need to be deposited

at the time of application of guarantee cover. The Annual Guarantee Fee on loan under the scheme will be nil during the year of sanction, it said, adding, it would be 1.5 per cent per annum of loan outstanding as on March 31 of previous year for the next three years, and thereafter, annual guarantee fee shall be 1 per cent per annum of loan outstanding as on March 31 of previous year, it said.

The scheme will be applicable to all loans sanctioned under MCGS-MSME during the period of four years from the date of issue of operational guidelines of the scheme or till cumulative guarantee of Rs 7 lakh crore are issued, whichever is earlier, it said.

The scheme is expected to facilitate the availability of credit for purchase of plant and machinery / equipment by MSMEs and give a "major boost to manufacturing and thereby to 'Make in India'", it said.

FULL REPORT ON  
www.indianexpress.com

## PPP MODEL

# Expansion plans at Indian Railways' wagon repair workshop in Vadlapudi

DHEERAJ MISHRA  
VISAKHAPATNAM, JANUARY 29

ARJUN KUMAR is preparing himself for more work to do as more wagons are set to arrive in upcoming years at the Indian Railways' repair workshop in the coastal region Vadlapudi, a neighbourhood in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. A daily wage worker from Jharkhand, Kumar specializes in the gas cutting and welding of the damaged wagon body, an important part of the Periodic Overhaul (POH) of the freight wagon.

"I have been working here for the last three years. I get Rs. 865 per day as my wage. The working condition in the workshop is better than the northern part, that is why we did not go back. I have heard that the authorities are going to develop more workshops here, which is good for us as well as more workers will arrive," said 40-year-old Kumar, who is among the workforce of around 500 people at the workshop. Spread in around 203 acres in Vadlapudi,

the Indian Railways' only Public Private Partnership (PPP) based wagon repair workshop, which has been outsourced to Braithwaite & Co. Limited (BCL), a miniratna company of the Ministry of Railways, is planning to expand and start construction of more workshops at the remaining part of the land. Started in 2021 by the East Coast Railway (ECOR), currently its only workshop of 93 acres, including 23 acres of exchange yard area and 57 acres of admin block and residential area, is under utilisation and rest of it is vacant.

"It is railways' first project where the PPP model has been implemented in wagon workshop repair. Currently we do the periodic overhaul of over 200 wagons in a month. Our plan is to repair at least 1,000 wagons per month. For this the rest of the area will be developed soon. As the railways' target is to increase freight movement, this workshop becomes more important because of its proximity to the ports," said SK Senapati, the Chief Project Manager of BCL. Explaining the



Spread in around 203 acres in Vadlapudi, the Indian Railways' only PPP-based wagon repair workshop is planning to expand and start construction of more workshops at the remaining part of the land.

unique feature of the workshop, he said, "One of the important things about this workshop is that it has been constructed in a very small area, as compared to the others. Because of the Uni-flow repairing system of the wagon, the dismantling and assembling of the wagons are done in an orderly, step-wise manner. We do not need to store the wagon in the

workshop and then do the repairing. Shunting or wagon driving is being done by Rail-cum-Road Vehicles. We also have an Automatic Stores Retrieval System which automatically stores and retrieves inventory in a warehouse."

JV Apparao, deputy chief project manager of the Vadlapudi, said that in every six years, the wagons arrive at the workshop for the pe-



riodic overhaul. "In the uniflow system, body repair, bogie repair, wheel repairing, painting and testing is done in one flow and the product is the repaired wagon. We repair wagons of the East Coast Railways. Currently we have the capacity of repairing around 2,400 wagons per year and process it underway for its expansion. There is vacant land in the north-east

side where we have planned for expansion," said Apparao at the workshop.

Sudhakar, a senior section engineer at the covered workshop, which is 750 m long and 200 m wide, said that it takes around 4-5 days to dismantle a wagon and then repair it. "It involves a number of works such as ultrasonic testing of axles, testing of brake

cylinders, cutting of the body etc. While a wagon has a life of around 35 years, it needs repairing from time to time. The new wagon is repaired in six years and the repaired wagon comes back for repairs at the workshop in 4.5 years. Around 9-10 wagons are being repaired everyday," said the engineer. The Vadlapudi wagon repair workshop, which is one of the 18 such workshops of Indian

**ABOUT THE WORKSHOP**

- Total Area: 203 acres
- Workshop Area: 93 acres
- Project sanctioned on: 25.04.2017
- Construction completed on: 30.11.2020
- Construction Cost: ₹381.26 crore
- Work outsourced to: M/s BCL
- First repaired wagon: 31.10.2021
- Capacity: 2,400 wagon per year

Railways, was sanctioned on April 25, 2017 and its construction was completed on November 30, 2020. It was constructed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) at the cost of Rs 381 crore. After outsourcing the workshop to BCL, the first wagon turn out from the workshop was on October 31, 2021. According to the BCL, it has completed Periodic Overhauling (POH) of 2,193 wagons by December 2024 for the current financial year 2024-25. In 2023-23, it repaired a total of 2,866 wagons, 2,005 wagons in 2022-23 and 309 wagons in 2021-22.

"There are a total of 18 workshops in Indian Railways which are engaged in the Periodic Overhaul (POH)/repair of wagons. During the year 2024-25, these workshops have been entrusted to undertake repair/POH of approximately 69,000 wagons," said a senior official of Ministry of Railways. Indian Railways currently has over 3 lakh freight wagons across the country, which carry more than 1.4 billion tonnes of freight traffic every year over a network of 68,000 km.



Classifieds

PERSONAL

It is for general information that I, VISHAL,S/O,SUMER,R/O TAJA MAJRA(95), ROHTAK,HARYANA, 124001,declare that name of my father has been wrongly-written as SAMER in my 10th-class educational documents. The actual name of my father is SUMER,which may be amended accordingly. 0040771314-10

I, Sangita Prataap W/o Sandip Mishra R/o Flat no. 704a, Park View Apartments, Plot No. 36c, Sector-36, Gurugram Haryana-122011, have changed my name to Sangita Pratap 0130048707-1

I,Virinder Kataria,W/o Late Tajinder Singh Kataria, R/o B-2/9,Africa Avenue, Safdarjung Enclave,New Delhi-110029,have changed my name to Virender Kataria for all purpose. 0040771321-1

I,Vijender Kumar,S/O Girdhari Lal,R/O-Flat.No.218,Pocket-2,Sector-23,Rohini,Delhi-110085,have Changed my name to Vijender Kumar Saini. 0040771413-5

I,VIJAY KUMAR PANDEY,S/O-RAJ NATH PANDEY,R/O H.No.2070/A,GROUND FLOOR,GALI NO.57-B, MOLARBAND EXTENSION, BADARPUR,SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110044,have changed the name of my minor daughter AANYA PANDEY ALIAS SAMRIDHI PANDEY aged-07-years and she shall hereafter be known as SAMRIDHI PANDEY. 0040770046-13

I,Suri Ashvini Kumar Brhamdatt, Residing at,H.No.-M-49,Near-SBI Personal Banking Branch, Sector-25,Jai Vayu Vihar, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301,have changed my name from Suri Ashvini Kumar Brhamdatt to Ashvini Kumar Brhamdatt Suri, vide-affidavit,dated-28.01.2025,at Delhi. 0040771383-9

I,Sunesh Kumar,S/O-Nanhe Lal R/O,RZ B-22A,New Janki Puri, Street No-5,Uttam-Nagar,New Delhi-110059,Have Changed my Name to Sunesh Kumar Chaurasia. 0040771314-2

I,Santosh Dewangan, S/o Gulab Chand Dewangan, R/o D-15, D-Block, Sector-41, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301, have changed my Name to Santosh Kumar Dewangan, for all, purposes. 0040771383-1

I,SHEKHAR JAIN alias Sekhar Jain alias Shekher Jain,S/o Shri N.C.Jain, R/o-F-1,Mukhram-Garden, Tilak Nagar,New Delhi-110018, have changed my name to SHEKHAR JAIN,for all purposes & all the names pertain to one and the same person,i.e. SHEKHAR JAIN. 0040771304-1

I,SHADMA SHAH,W/O MOHAMMAD AZIM SARFARAZ SHAH MUJAWAR,R/O-FLAT-40,4th-FLOOR,M P STREET PATAUDI HOUSE DARYAGANJ CENTRAL, DELHI-110002, have changed my name to SHADMA AZIM SHAH MUJAWAR, for all future purposes. 0040771414-1

I,SEHRISH ZEHRRA, W/O SIBTAY AMIR, R/O, N-107, GALI.NO.10 BATLA-HOUSE JAMIA NAGAR, N DELHI-110025, IN MY PASSPORT MY HUSBAND NAME WRONGLY- MENTION SIPTHEY AMIR CORRECT NAME IS SIBTAY AMIR. 0040771314-7

I,Rupesh Gaur,S/o-Suresh Chand R/o E-30,Vidhyawati Niwas,Near Rama Auto Mobile,Jawahar-Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092,have changed the name of my-minor son Molik Gaur, aged-10-years and she shall hereafter be known as Maulik Gaur. 0040771414-3

I,Rajat Tyagi,R/o WZ-48, Basai Darapur,New.Delhi-110015, have changed, my daughter's name,from Aadya Anand Tyagi to Aadya Tyagi. 0040771413-1

I,Rajiv Chopra,S/o Ram Nath Chopra,R/o C-1601,Gulshan Dynasty,Sector-144,Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201306,have changed my name to Rajeev Chopra,for all purposes. 0040771414-6

I,Praveen Kumar,S/O,Ram Kumar Gupta,R/O.H-90,Ashok Vihar,Phase-1,Delhi-110052, have changed my name to Praveen Kumar Gupta. 0040771413-6

I,Pinky W/O,Vikas,R/o,H.No-44, Gali.No-02,Sadat Pur,Karawal Nagar,Delhi-110094,have changed my name to PINKY CHOUDHARY. Permanently 0040771383-3

I,POONAM MESSI,D/O AZIZ MESSI,R/O D-62-63,GROUND-FLOOR,J COLONY,SECTOR-25, ROHINI,DELHI-110085.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO POONAM,FOR ALL,PURPOSES. 0040771314-8

I,PINNIBOYANA LAXMI as per service document, dependent of V SIVA RAMARAO P, resident of SMQ-153/2,Air Force,Station, Rajokari,New Delhi-110038, have changed by name from PINNIBOYANA LAXMI to PINNIBOYINA SEETHA MAHALAKSHMI vide Affidavit dtd 29-01-2025,before Public,Notary at New Delhi 0040771414-8

I,Namrata Satish Jain,W/o, Divanshu Jain residence,of 1673,ATS Village,Sec-93A, Noida, U.P.201304,have changed my name from Namrata Satish Jain to Namrata Jain for,all future, purpose. 0040771413-4

I,NIDHI GOEL, W/o PUNEET GARG, R/o, B-176, YOJNA-VIHAR, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110095, have changed my name, from NIDHI GARG to NIDHI GOEL, for all, future purposes. 0040771383-4

I,Meera Lalwani W/o-Jiwat Ram Lalwani,R/o H-307,New Rajinder Nagar,New Delhi-110060,changed my name to Mira Lalwani. 0040771314-1

I,MAHADEV PRASAD YADAV,S/O -BHOLA NATH YADAV,R/O-HOUSE E-16/1268,PADAM SINGH ROAD,BAPA-NAGAR, KAROL BAGH S/O, CENTRAL, DELHI,DELHI-110005,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MAHADEV YADAV. 0040771414-2

I,JITENDER KUMAR ROHILLA S/o Prem Singh Rohilla R/o-92,Navyug Apartment, Plot No-49,Sector-9 Rohini Delhi-110085,changed my name to JITENDER ROHILLA 0040771399-2

I,Hari Prakash,S/o Mehtab Singh, R/o,H.No.-124,Ward.No-9,Shastrri Nagar,Ganaur, Sonipat (Haryana)-131101,have changed my name to Hari Parkash. 0040771314-4

I,Gininder Kaur,W/o Rakesh Bhasin,R/O 91,DOUBLE STOREY QUATER,KABOOL NAGAR, SHAHDARA, DELHI:1100 32 inform that my correct name is Gininder Kaur,would like to be known by this name in future. I,have made or required no changes in this. 0040771413-3

I,Ganesh Prasad Viswakarma S/o Uddet Prasad R/o,H.No.C-23, C-Block, Phase-I, Goyla-Dairy, Qutub-Vihar, South-West Delhi-110071, have changed my name to Ganesh Prasad. 0040771414-4

I,ESWARAMMA as per service document, dependent of SAMBA SIVA RAO KOMARU, resident of H.No.40,Rao Apartment, Pradhan Wali Gali, Rajokari,New Delhi-110038,have changed by name from ESWARAMMA to KUMARA ESWARAMMA vide Affidavit, dated-29-01-2025,before Public,Notary at New Delhi 0040771414-7

I,Deepak Kumar S/o Jagdish Kumar Gupta R/o,Flat-No.124A A-18 Block Janakpuri New Delhi-110058,have changed my name to Deepak Gupta. 0040771414-5

I,Neeraj Kumar,S/o-Gian Chand Gupta,R/o,Old GT Road,Moti Colony, Palwal,Haryana,have changed my name to Neeraj Kumar Gupta. 0040771383-5

I,DHARM PAL GURJAR,S/O SADHU RAM GURJAR,R/O HNO.204,THIRD-FLOOR,GALI-KINARI WALI NAYA-BANS CHAWRI-BAZAR,DELHI-110006,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DHARAMPAL. 0040771314-9

I,Bhupesh Bansal,S/o Sh.Indser Singh Bansal R/o-1954,Ganesh Pura-A,Tri Nagar,Delhi-110035 (New Address)and 3892/13, Kanhैया Nagar,Tri Nagar,Delhi-35,(Old-Address),have changed my name to Bhupesh Kumar Bansal. 0040771383-8

I,Bharti Dewangan, W/o Santosh Kumar Dewangan, R/o, D-15, D-Block, Sector-41, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301, have changed my Name to Bharti Bala Dewangan, for all, purposes. 0040771383-2

I,Ashwani Verma S/o Mohinder Kumar Verma R/o Flat-No.T-401, Paramount Emotions Sector-01, Greater Noida-West, Bishrakh, G.B.Nagar, declare that that my father's name wrongly written as Mahandra Kumar Verma in my passport (No.P9235458) the correct name is Mohinder Kumar Verma. 0040771316-1

I,Anil Bhagwan Sachdev,S/o Sh. Sudesh Sachdev,H.No-13,Sunder Nagar,Lodhi-Road,Central-Delhi, Delhi-110003,have changed my name Anil Sachdev. 0040771314-3

I,Amit Thakral,R/O C-902,BPTP Park Serene, Sector-37, Gurgaon (Haryana), have changed my Minor-Daughter name,from Aanya to Aanya Thakral. 0040771314-5

I, VIRONIKA ARORA, D/O ASHOK ARORA, R/ 655/7, GOVINDPURI, KALKAJI, NEW DELHI-110019 have changed my name to VIRONIKA TAKKAR for all purposes. 0070947810-1

I, Tajas Kumar S/o Shri Pradeep Kumar R/o A-307, A-Block, Sector-31, Noida, District Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301 have changed my name to Tejas Choudhary for all future purpose. 0040771381-1

I, T Y Yaheya Khan S/o T Y Amanathullah Khan R/o 23-25/12, Jyothi Nagar, Road No-1, Near Jyothi Theatre, Lingampally, Ramachandrapuram, Medak, Telangana-502032, have changed my minor daughter's name from Taimur Younus Manha Naima Khan aged 3 years to Manha Naima Khan forever 0070947852-1

I, Saumya W/o Ritu Raj R/o C-166, Ground Floor, Sector-122, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P.-201301 have change my name form Saumya to Saumya Srivastava for all purposes in future as per the Affidavit sworn in before the Notary Public on 27.01.2025. 0050259217-1

I, Devki Devi Bisht W/o Lachhman Singh Bisht R/o RZ-43B, Palam Vihar, Dwarka Sec-6, Delhi-110075 have changed my name to Dayawaty for all purposes. 0070947889-1

I, Saroj Devi W/o Late Gopal Singh R/o Vill-Inayatpur PO-Jhajhar, Teh-Sikandrabad, Dis-Bulandshahr UP-203203. Above name and address is true and correct. My DOB 01/01/1960 this is true and correct for all future purposes. 0040771368-1

I, SHABNAM D/o Randhir Singh resident of B-35B, DDA Flats, 12-Block, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi declare that SHABNAM and SHABBNAM KATOCH both are my names and those names denote one and the same person i.e. me and I will be known as SHABBNAM KATOCH for all future purposes. 0040771307-1

I, Rajiv Kumar S/o Charan Singh R/o B-156, Noida Sector-31, G.B nagar U.P.-201301 Declare that mine name mentioned incorrectly as Rajeev Kumar in my Driving license Correct name is Rajiv Kumar amend accordingly. 0070947888-1

I, Arpit Saini S/o Damyanti R/o 72, Masjid Moth, Delhi-110049 have changed my name to Arpit for all purposes 0070947902-1

I, Pankaj Ahuja W/o Arun Gulati R/o B-5/23, 2nd-Floor, Sector-11, Rohini, Delhi-85 have changed my name to Neha Gulati for all purposes 0070947884-1

I, Mohammed Abdul Maqtadir S/o Mohammed Abdul Hodi R/o 10-2-8 Flat No-404 A Block, Metro Classique Apartment AC Guards, Khairatabad, Hyderabad, Telangana-500004, have changed my minor daughter's name from Iqbalunissa Begum aged 14 years to Shiza Maqtadir forever 0070947854-1

I, JAHERAN NISA W/o MUMTAZ ALI R/o Vill-Nima Kalan Lalmitia, Post-Lalmitia Colliery, Distt-Godda, Jharkhand-814165 declare that my name is wrongly written as ZAHIRUN NISHA in my Aadhar Card, PAN Card (NoBPRPN1969L), in educational and other documents of my son Akram Haque and as JAHARUN NISHA in educational and other documents of my son Anwar Alam/ daughter Sabana Nazmi. My actual name is JAHERAN NISA for all purposes. 0070947920-1

I, Deepa Sharma D/o Sh. Devi Dutt Budhori R/o House No-36D, Pocket-F, GTB Enclave, Delhi-110093, declare that name of my father has been written as Devi Dutt in my educational documents. The actual full name of mine father is Devi Dutt Budhori which may be amended accordingly. 0040771320-1

I, Balvir Singh s/o Harbhajan Singh r/o M-83, Hari Nagar, Delhi-110064 have changed my name to BALVEER SINGH. 0040771303-1

I, Anuj Pratap Singh S/o Gyanendra Singh Chauhan R/o A-173, Gulshan Bellina, Sector-16B, Bishrakh, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP-201306 have changed my name to ANUJ PRATAP SINGH CHAUHAN for all purposes. 0070947876-1

I,AMIT KUMAR AGGARWAL S/o Shri Gopal Dass R/o B-25, Maharana Pratap Enclave, Pitam Pura, Delhi-110034. In some documents my name is mention as AMIT KUMAR And AMIT AGGARWAL And AMIT KUMAR AGGARWAL But my actual and correct name is AMIT KUMAR AGGARWAL. 0040771356-1

I,Sharvna Kumar Gupta S/O Radhelaal Gupta R/O Flat No-105, Tower T-6, Ace Divino, Plot No-GH-14-A, Sector-01, Greater Noida, Bishrakh, G.B.Nagar U.P-201306 have changed my name to Sharvan Kumar Gupta for all future purposes. 0070947901-1

I,Raj Rani Alias Raj Khurana D/o Mehar Chand Khurana and W/o Raj Kumar Setia R/o KD-42, Pitampura, North West Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Ranjana Setia. 0070947826-1

I,Prashant Kumar Jha S/o Shyam Chandra Jha R/o Ward No-12, Jhansiharpur, Madhubani, Bihar-847404, have changed my name to Mukesh Kumar 0070947849-1

I,Nitin Makhija S/o Darshan Lal Makhija R/o H.No.119, Near Amit Nursing Home, Village-Tihar, Tilak Nagar, Rajouri Garden, West Delhi, Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Nitin Makhija for all purposes. 0040771302-1

I,MOHD FARID S/O MOHD SIDDIQUE, R/O HOUSE NO-81-82, P-4 BLOCK, SULTAN PURI, DELHI-110086 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM MOHD FARID TO MOHAMMAD FAREED 0070947822-1

I,Km Meena Rani alias Meena Rani alias Meena Agrawal D/o Birdhi Chand Agrawal W/o Devanand R/O D-40, Second Floor, Near Arya Samaj Mandir, Vikas Puri, West Delhi, Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Meena Agrawal for all purposes. 0040771302-2

I,Harish Kumar S/o Dharamvir saini R/o Gali no 01, Friends colony, najafgarh road, opposite sector 09 police post, Bahadurgarh, Haryana Pin 124507 have changed my name to Harsh saini for all Future purposes vide Affidavit no- 81419 dated 27/01/2025 0050259217-1

I,Vimal Kumar,s/o Jagdish Alawadhi,R/O D-22-Third-Floor,Bhagwan Dass Nagar,East Punjab-Bagh,New. Delhi-110026,also known as Vimal Alawadhi.Both are the same,person. 0040771413-2

I,GUDIYA YADAV W/O RAVINDRA SINGH R/O..A-173, POCKET-3 KENDRIYA VIHAR-II SECTOR-82 NOIDA Gautam budh nagar (U.P.) have changed my name from Guduya Yadav To Sunita yadav Henceforth I would be known by the name of Sunita Yadav For all future purposes. 0070947873-1

I,Twinkle Singh D/o Hanumant Singh R/o SD-464, Pitampura Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Twinkle 0040771399-1

I,YOUSUF ALI,S/O ALADEEN,R/O T-16,PUL PRAHLADPUR GAON, NEAR BADI MASJID,BADARPUR, SOUTH,DELHI,DELHI-110044,have changed my name to YUSUF ALI. 0040771314-6

I,hitherto known as SUBASH CHANDER MALHOTRA alias SUBHASH MALHOTRA S/O K. N. MALHOTRA R/O C-2/63, SECTOR-36, NOIDA GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR. UTTAR PRADESH-201301 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SUBASH CHANDER MALHOTRA.It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection. 0040771493-1

LOST & FOUND

Lost Original Allotment Letter of H 704, The Retreat, South City 1, Gurgaon. If found please contact 981115454 0050259221-1

I Prashanth Gadiyar lost Letter of Possession of K12A01, Ajanara Daffodil, Noida, UP. If found please contact 9650590554. 0040771317-1

I, Brijesh Kumar Singh Chauhan, hereby declare that my 300 shares certificate with Certificate No.2215 Folio No.CFL123590/ Distinctive No.234523-2434822 of M/s Coramandel International Ltd. has been lost and not traceable. 0040771312-1

I,Mr.Paramjeet Singh S/O Harcharan Singh, R/O D-1302, Jaipuria, Sunrise Greens Indirapuram Ghaziabad, had Lost BBA, Allotment Letter, For Flat.No.101, Block-C, 1st-Floor, Shri Balaji Residence On Plot.No.9, Mohiuddinpur Kanawani Pargana Loni, Tehsil Dadri, Gautam Budh Nagar If Found Please Contact Mr.Paramjeet Singh #9999913570. 0040771413-7

PUBLIC NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
My Client Smt. Geeta Mathura Wo Late Sh. Prem Pal Mathura R/o D-55, First Floor, Greater Kailash, Enclave-II, New Delhi-110048 has decessed and daughter their younger son AJAY MALHOTRA, Debtor in-law VIDHU MALHOTRA and Grand daughter NISHA MALHOTRA from their all movable and immovable properties and severed all relations with immediate effect. They are residing separately since long time, have been disrespectful, abusive and aggressive towards my client and not in control of my client. My client and other family members shall not be responsible and/or liable for any act, dispute, debt, transaction or omission of Ajay Mathura and his family members.  
Sd/-  
DILEEP KUMAR MISRA  
Advocate  
Chamber No.-276,  
Patilra House Court,  
New Delhi-110001.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Be it known to all concerned that my clients Sh. Parvinder Anand S/o Sh. Shan Singh and his wife Smt. Meena Anand, both R/o B-10B-15, Ground Floor, Usha Park, Hari Nagar, Delhi-110064 who are senior citizens have debarred/disowned their real son namely Vishal Anand and his wife Smt. Priyanka Rattan D/o Sh. Anil Rattan from their all moveable/immovable properties/assets and also have severed all worldly relations with them with effect from today onwards due to their unuly and disrespectful behaviour towards my clients. If anybody dealing with them in any manner, would be doing at his or her own risks and consequences and my clients shall not be responsible for any act done by them.  
Sd/-  
Sanjeev Yashrith  
Advocate  
C/o.No.264, Patilra House  
Courts Near Delhi-110001.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is for general information that I, SWAPNIL GANGADHAR KHAIRNAR S/O GANGADHAR PANDEIT KHAIRNAR R/O B1-301, DELHI GOVT. OFFICERS RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX, HADDERPUR, VTC SHALIMAR BAGH, PO. SHALIMAR BAGH, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110088 declare that name of my wife and my minor daughter has been wrongly written as YASHASHRI KHAIRNAR and VIDIVIDHA KHAIRNAR in my minor daughter VIDIVIDHA SWAPNIL KHAIRNAR aged 06 years in her school records and name of my minor daughter has been wrongly written as VIDIVIDHA in her Birth Certificate No. B-2018-27-90355-00192. The actual name of my wife and my minor daughter are YASHASHRI SWAPNIL KHAIRNAR and VIDIVIDHA SWAPNIL KHAIRNAR, which may be amended accordingly.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
My client Sh. SANJIV BHASIN S/O SHRI SOHAN LAL BHASIN R/O A-19/JANAK PURI,SH HARI MANDIR LANE, NEAR PARKIN, ROAD NO. NEW DELHI-110058, HAD LOST HIS ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS, i.e. (1) IDA ALLOTMENT LETTER, IDA POSSESSION LETTER, IDA SITE POSSESSION LETTER, PERPETUAL LEASE DEED, CONVEYANCE DEED, MCD SANCTIONED MAP, SANCTION LETTER, MCD HOUSE TAX DEED (CERTIFICATE OF PROPERTY NO.A-1/92, LAND AREA MEASURING 270 SQ.MTRS, JANAK PURI, SH HARI MANDIR LANE, NEAR PARKIN ROAD, NEW DELHI-110058 & (2) Original Passbook of Bank of Baroda/Vijaya Bank ON 07/26/1202 at 12:00 Hrs. AT JANAK PURI DISTRICT CENTRE, SINGRA TOWER-I, FIRST FLOOR, NEW DELHI 110018, AND IF ANYONE FOUND THEIR INFORMATION ON MOBILE No.91215152440, e-mail: sanjivbhasin@yahoo.co.in, ALSO IDVIDHA VIDIVIDHA NO.2344253/2024/0727/1/2024), Sd/- B. B. D. Rao, Advocate, SR-Ind B Compound, Janak Puri No-58

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Be it known to the General Public at Large that my client Sh. Randeep Singh Seghal, S/o Mahinder Singh Seghal & Mrs. Tarvinder Kaur Seghal, W/o Ravinder Singh Seghal both R/o 1-8-1007 1st Floor, Rajat Garden, New Delhi-110027 are the absolute owner of above mentioned property. That my clients have severed, debarred and disowned their Son & Daughter-in-law Harpreet Singh Seghal & Gurpreet Kaur respectively, from all their relations and properties from both movable & immovable, with immediate effect, due to their uncontrollable, disobedient, unfamiliar & irresponsible attitude towards my clients. Whosoever deals with them in monetary form or in any other nature shall do so at his/her own risk & responsibility.  
Sd/-  
Anil Yadav  
Advocate  
Enrt. No.6402018  
WZ-84, Jwala Heri  
Paschim Vihar-110063

**"IMPORTANT"**  
Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

COURT NOTICE

**PROCLAMATION** REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT (ORDER V, RULE 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure) IN THE COURT OF MR. VINEETA GOYAL, DISTRICT JUDGE (COMMERCIAL COURT), ROOM NO. 24, PATIALA HOUSE COURTS, NEW DELHI ROOM NO. 24 CASE NO. CS (Comm)/289/2024 TITLE: STATE BANK OF INDIA VS DEEPIKA KAPOOR To: DEEPIKA KAPOOR W/O SH. MUKESH KAPOOR PROPRIETOR OF M5 NATURE CART GROCERY AND BAKERS) OFFICE NO. 301/9201, THIRD FLOOR, NAINWALA, KAROL BAGH, DELHI-110005 MOBILE: 851000285, 9289178868 Aho At: C 95A, SECOND FLOOR, ARBEE CITY, SECTOR-52, GURUGRAM, SECTOR-56, GURUGRAM, HARYANA-120011 Aho At: SHOP NO. 123, SHYAM LAL KHURANA MARKET, EAST PATEL NAGAR, DELHI-110008 WHEREAS above named PLAINTIFF has instituted a suit against you. You are hereby summoned to appear before this court in person or by pleader on 03.02.2025 at 10:00 AM to answer the same. Take notice that, in default of your appearance on that day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence. GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 30th day of November, 2024.  
Sd/-  
Judge

कार्यालय अति. मुख्य अभियंता, सानि.वि., सम्भा-द्वितीय, जयपुर  
पोइन्नु.डी. कैम्पस, जैज्ज रोड, जयपुर क्लब के सामने, जयपुर  
फोन:- 0141-2226537, एक्स-299 फैक्स : 0141-2226537  
क्रमांक-3119 दिनांक: 15/01/25

निविदा सूचना संख्या-19/2024-25  
जिला जयपुर, कोटपुतली-नहरगो, डैक्कल निजाम एवं अलवर में निर्माण सूचकिका एवं चौकीईकन के कुल 07 कबो हेतु इन्कन निविदादानांो द्वारा क्रम संख्या-01 पर अंजित कबो हेतु दिनांक 20.02.2025 सों 5.00 बजे तक एवं क्रम संख्या-02 से 07 हेतु दिनांक 10.02.2025 सों 5.00 बजे तक निविदाएं अमनन की जाती है। निविदा से संकीन अन्य विवरण सय की उपान पोर्टल (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>) एवं विभागीय वेवसाई <http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in> पर देखे जा सकते है। उपसय की अंुमनन तालाव सपर 20785.26 लाख है।

S no.	URN	S no.	URN
1.	PWD2425WLB013814	6.	PWD2425WLB013833
2.	PWD2425WLB013815	7.	PWD2425WLB013923
3.	PWD2425WLB013823	7.	PWD2425WLB013925
4.	PWD2425WLB013824		

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**TENDER NOTICE (Through e-Tendering)**  
Name of work with its location  
Approx. Cost of work(₹)  
Address of the office  
Date and time for uploading the tender/closing of the tender  
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.  
Tender No.: 558-Sig-16-M-Tender-1441 Dated : 29.01.2025  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Excelling work in connection with Provision of dual axle counter (excepting supply, installation & commissioning of Axle Counter) in block sections with absolute block working over Delhi Division.  
₹ 6,16,03,901.17  
₹ 4,58,000/-  
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055  
Tender uploading 29.01.2025 / closing date & time 20.02.2025 up to 15:00 hrs.  
See the Northern Railway website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) & Notice board at the S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055  
Hस्ता/-  
आतरीक सय अभियाना  
सानि.वि. सम्भां द्वतीय, जयपुर

**Project Management Unit**  
**Jal Marg Vikas Project-II (Arth Gang)**  
**INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA**  
(Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Govt. of India)  
Head Office: A-13, Sector -1, Noida - 201 301;  
Phone: 0120-2544004, Fax: 0120-2543976 vc.iwal@nic.in  
**National Competitive Bidding**  
**Request For Bids For**  
**Procurement and Services for Water Level and Discharge Monitoring Stations on National Waterway No. 1 (River Ganga).**  
e-Bids are invited from interested bidders for "Procurement and Services for Water Level and Discharge Monitoring Stations on National Waterway No. 1 (River Ganga)". The Tender Documents and other relevant details are available at IWA! website [www.iwal.nic.in](http://www.iwal.nic.in) and e-procurement site <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.  
Date: 30.01.2025 Vice Chairman & Project Director (JMVP)

**UJVN LIMITED**  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006, Telephone:- 0135 - 2763808 Fax: 0135 - 2763508  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: [www.ujvnl.com](http://www.ujvnl.com)  
Ref. No.: 56  
**Tender Notice**  
Office of Executive Engineer (E&M-I), Lakhwar Project, Dakpathar, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of the tender is given below:  
**Tender No: 10/EE(E&M-I)/LP/2024-25**  
**Name of the Work:** Shifting of 33 kV line Crossing over STP premises near Shanti Dham Vikasnagar.  
**Estimated Cost:** Rs. 13,70,308.00 (taxes extra)  
**Date of availability of bid document on website :** 30/01/2025  
**Last Date for submission of tender:** 19/02/2025 up to 16:00 hrs.  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website [www.ujvnl.com](http://www.ujvnl.com)  
**Executive Engineer (E&M-I)**  
"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Corrigendum**  
**पत्र सं 182-Med/Outsource**  
**Diagnostic Investigation/E.O.I/CH/ NCR/PRYJ/2025 Dated : 27.01.2025**  
The first Corrigendum for "Expression of Interest (E.O.I.) tender process for various diagnostic tests and therapies published by the Central Hospital N. C. R. Prayagraj on 17.01.2025, the revised latest applicable CGHS rates has been uploaded on website [www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in) on 27.01.2025".  
**92/25 (AS)**  
[www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in) @CPRONCR  
**S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER**  
e-Tenders against open tenders are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), S.E.Railway, Chakradharpur for & on behalf of the President of India for the following works. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offer received shall be



**भारतीय विज्ञान विभाग एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान मोहाली**  
(एनएसटीआई द्वारा सरकार द्वारा मान्यता प्राप्त)  
ब्लॉक-83, गैरवाणिज्यिक क्षेत्र-14, मोहाली, पंजाब 140 306  
**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH MOHALI**  
(Established by Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)  
Sector-81, Knowledge City, Gurgaon, Haryana, Sector-14, Mohali-140306, Punjab  
PAN No. -AAJAA1781K GST No. 03AAJAA1781K225  
Phone: +91-72-2401211, 104, Ext. 20, 31, Fax: +91-72-2601201, [www.iisermohali.ac.in](http://www.iisermohali.ac.in), Email: [services@iisermohali.ac.in](mailto:services@iisermohali.ac.in)

**IISEM/1687/1609/24-25/Pur-GtE** **GLOBAL TENDER ENQUIRY** **Date : 28.01.2025**

Sr. Tender Ref. No.	Description	Last date & time for upload the tender
01 IISEM/1687-24-25-Pur-GtE	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Combined Steady-State and Time-resolved (using TCSPC) Fluorescence Spectrometer/ Microscope adapted to a microscope ID: 2025, ISRM, 645827.1	18-02-2025 up to 02.30 PM
02 IISEM/1689-24-25-Pur-GtE	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Circular Dichroism (CD) Spectrometer along with accessories ID: 2025, ISRM, 840051.1	20-02-2025 up to 02.30 PM

please visit the website for online submission of bids <https://gem.gov.in>  
<http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> <http://www.iisermohali.ac.in>

आचार्य कुलविद्यालय (नगर एवं सहरी) /  
Assistant Registrar (Nagar & Purcha)



**UJVNL**

## UJVNL LIMITED

H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006  
 Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax- 0135- 2763508  
 CIN No. U40101UR2001ISGC025866. Website: www.ujvnl.com

पत्रांक सं. 50

### e-TENDER NOTICE

दिनांक 28.01.2025

The office of Executive Engineer (Maint.), Vyasi Project Hathiyaari invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below :

**Tender No: NIT-23/EE(M)/VP/2024-25**

**Name of work / Supply/Services: "Hiring of one no. 27 Seater Bus for one year on contract basis for transportation of staff of Vyasi Project, Hathiyaari, Dehradun"**

**Estimated Cost: Rs 44,00,000/- only + GST extra,**

**Date of availability of bid document on website:-28.01.2025**  
 from 16:00 Hrs

**Last date for submission of bids on website:-21.02.2025 up to 16:00 Hrs.**

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>

**Executive Engineer (Maintenance)**

**"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"**

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING  
THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**See Section 82 (2) (ii) Cr.PC (84 BNSS)**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused  
Namely: **Yog Raj @ Yogi, S/o. Sh. Rajbir, R/o.: VPO, Dhamar  
District,, Rohtak, Haryana** has committed (or is suspected to have  
committed) the offence in a case vide **FIR No.44/2023 U/s. 380/34  
IPC** registered at **P.S Jaffar Pur Kalan, Delhi** and it has been  
returned on a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the  
said **Yog Raj @ Yogi** could not be found and whereas it has been  
shown to my satisfaction that accused **Yog Raj @ Yogi** is  
absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said  
warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Yog  
Raj @ Yogi** is required to appear before the court to answer the  
said complaint on or before **08.03.2025**.

**By Order  
ABHINAV AHLAWAT  
Judicial Magistrate First Class-09  
South-West District,  
Dwarka Courts, New Delhi**

**DP/1179/DW/2025**

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE  
APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED**


**See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Manish @ Vishal S/o Lala Ram R/o Vagabond Patni Nanak Piao Gurudwara, Delhi** has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 1028/22 U/s 356/379/411/34 IPC, P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Manish @ Vishal** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Manish @ Vishal** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Manish @ Vishal** of case **FIR No. 1028/22 U/s 356/379/411/34 IPC, P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **12.03.2025**.

**By Order**  
**Ms. Niharika Kumar Sharma**  
**Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate**  
**Room No. 117, First Floor,**  
**Rohini Courts, Delhi**

**DP/1146/NW/2025(Court Matter)**



**बिहार सहस्रा**

## जल संसाधन विभाग

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय  
जमानियाँ पम्प नहर प्रमण्डल, मोहनियाँ  
Email- [eeprc2mohania@gmail.com](mailto:eeprc2mohania@gmail.com)

**पुनर्निविदा**

**अल्पकालीन आमंत्रण सूचना सं०-०१/2024-25**

(केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर)

**1. कार्य का विवरण –**

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	प्रमण्डल/राशि (लाख रु में)	अवधि की राशि (रु में) (अंतिम अनुमानित राशि में)	परिमाण-विभव का अनुमान (अवसरगोचरी) (केवल ऑनलाईन मोड में प्रयुक्त) रु में	वेबसाइट की बिड प्रोसेसिंग फी (अवसरगोचरी) (केवल ऑन लाईन मोड में प्रयुक्त) रु में	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि	अनुक्ति
1.	जैलुपा पम्प नहर खोजना अर्थात् विद्युतीक संयंत्रों को उपलब्ध ओआरपी-01 से निष्काटित करके (एकमात्र नाला) का निर्माण कार्य।	26.48	53000.00	5000/-	590.00	31.05.2025	
2.	जैलुपा पम्प नहर खोजना अर्थात् विद्युतीक संयंत्रों को उपलब्ध ओआरपी-01 से निष्काटित करके (एकमात्र नाला) का निर्माण कार्य।	26.61	53300.00	5000/-	590.00	31.05.2025	
3.	जैलुपा पम्प नहर खोजना अर्थात् मुक्त नहर के उपलब्ध ओआरपी-08 से निष्काटित करके (एकमात्र नाला) का निर्माण कार्य।	16.71	33500.00	5000/-	590.00	31.05.2025	

**2. निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि** : दिनांक-**28.01.2025**

**3. निविदा कागजात डाउन लोड एवं बीड अपलोड करने की तिथि** : दिनांक-**06.02.2025** को 10:30 बजे पूर्वोक्त से दिनांक-**13.02.2025** के 3:00 बजे अपराह्न तक (सिर्फ वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर)

**4. प्री-बीड मीटिंग का समय, स्थान एवं तिथि** : दिनांक-**08.02.2025** को 3:00 बजे अपराह्न में, अवैधान्तिक अभियंता का कार्यालय, सिचाई अंचल, मुजफ्फर (बैंगलूर)

**5. तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय** : दिनांक-**17.02.2025** समय 3:30 बजे अपराह्न। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर)

**6. सिवील बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय** : सक्षम पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में घोषित की जायेगी (सिर्फ वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर)

**7. निविदा खोलने का स्थान** : [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर

**8. निविदा की वापस क़ायम** : 120 दिन

**9. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता** : कार्यपालक अभियंता, जमानियाँ पम्प नहर प्रमण्डल, मोहनियाँ।  
मोबा०-7463898401

**10. विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) एवं [www.wrdfmsicrbihar.gov.in](http://www.wrdfmsicrbihar.gov.in) पर देखा जा सकता है।**

उक्त सूचना [state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

PR-018353 (WRD) 2024-25

कार्यपालक अभियंता  
जमानियाँ पम्प नहर प्रमण्डल, मोहनियाँ

**नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार**

**Office of Superintending Engineer,  
Meerut Circle, P.W.D. Meerut**  
**E-Procurement Notice Inviting Tender Notice**

**No 5402/11 Cashier(PD-Meerut)-M.C./24-25**
**Dated: 30-12-2024**

1. The S.E. Meerut Circle, U.P.P.W.D. Meerut on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites bids on item rates Basis on SBD online for the construction of work detailed in the table given below. The Bidder is advised to examine carefully all instructions including addendum/amendments to ITB, conditions of contract, contract data, forms, terms, technical specifications, bill of quantities etc. in the bid Document, in the bid Document.

Sl. No	Name of Work	Approximate value of work (Rs.in lakh)	Bid Security (Rs. in lakh)	Cost of Document (in Rs.)	Period of completion including rainy season	Contractor's Registered Category
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Four-laning work by widening and strengthening of Meerut Bulandshahr road, Dhirkheda Kaili (other district road).	906.00	18.12	2000+300+ GST @ 18% = 2714.00	12 Months	Road "A" Category
2	Work of widening and strengthening of Falavada to Mandwadi road (other district road) in Meerut district.	451.00	9.02	2000+300+ GST @ 18% = 2714.00	12 Months	Road "A" Category
3	Work of widening and strengthening of Mubarkpur Kaul Rahawati Dadupur road from Mawana Falavada Ghatayang Marg.	508.00	10.16	2000+300+ GST @ 18% = 2714.00	12 Months	Road "A" Category
4	Work of widening and strengthening of Samaypur Jisauri Kota Harnathpur (other district road) from km 31 of Garh Meerut Baghat Sonipat road.	1662.00	33.24	2000+300+ GST @ 18% = 2714.00	12 Months	Road "A" Category
5	Work of widening and strengthening of the road from Commisnerate Chowk to Yashoda Kunj on Meerut Mawana Pauri road from Km 0.00 to Km 11.500.	1003.00	20.06	2000+300+ GST @ 18% = 2714.00	12 Months	Road "A" Category

➤ The Rates in the BOQ including all taxes but excluding GST.

➤ Bids must be accompanied with the copy of UTR (Unique Transaction Receipt) bid security (EMD) and tender cost of the amount specified for the work in the table. Bid security and Tender Cost should be deposited online only by Net Banking

2. Website <http://tenderup.nic.in> may be referred for detailed terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bids (IFB) and Bidding documents which is available online.

3. Tender will be available online on website <http://tenderup.nic.in> from 31-01-2025 to 06-02-2025 upto 12:00 PM. Bids must be submitted online on or before 12:00 PM on 06-02-2025 and technical bids received online will be opened on 06-02-2025 at 12:30 PM.

4. The prospective bidders who do not possess Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) may get the same issued from approved agency.

5. All Conditions of GO No 692/23-2024PW Anu-7 dt 09-08-2024 shall be applicable about Prahari Application Bidder has to provide/upload all information/document on PRAHARI after uploading bidder has to download technical sheet E1 from Prahari Bidder has upload this E1 sheet on E-Tender portal

6- Maintenance cost of the work will be paid extra for 5 years as per GO No 17/2024/Sa-113/23-1-2024-23-1099/11/2023 PWAAnu-07 dt 16-01-2024

(Satendra Singh)

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**

Provincial Division, P.W.D.

**Meerut.**

**(Jagdish Prasad)**

**SUPERINTENDING**

**ENGINEER**

**Meerut Circle, P.W.D.**

**Meerut**

**UPID--227528 Dt. -28/01/2025**  
[www.upidadv.gov.in](http://www.upidadv.gov.in)

भारत सरकार - अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE  
 निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह, एससीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR  
 श्रीहरिकोटा / नेल्तूर (जिला), आंध्र. / SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

**संक्षिप्त ई-निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE**

ई-निविदा सूचना सं/ e-Tender Notice No: CMG/C/CON/248736 तिथि/Date: 29.01.2025

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, "(पैकेज 2): ईपीसी मोड-III के एसएसएलवी प्रमोशन परिसर (एसएसएलवी), तिरुचेंदूर तथा सतनकुलम तालुक, शृंगुक्की जिला, तमिलनाडु में सड़कों (बेस कोर्स), आरसीसी बॉक्स पुर्णियाँ का निर्माण तथा अन्य संबंधित सिविल कार्य" (₹1183.00 लाख) के लिए ई-निविदा के माध्यम से नम्र दूर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दर्स्तावेज 19/02/2025 को 14:30 बजे तक डाउनलोड किए जा सकते हैं। विस्तृत सूचना हेतु इच्छुक निविदाकार हमारी वेबसाइट [www.isro.gov.in](http://www.isro.gov.in) या [www.tenderwizd.com](http://www.tenderwizd.com) ISRO देखें।

On behalf of President of India, online EPC tenders are invited through e-tendering for "(Package 2): Construction of Roads (Base Course), RCC box culverts, and other allied civil works at SSVL Launch complex (SLC), Tiruchendur & Sathankulam Taluk, Tuticorin District, Tamilnadu in EPC Mode-III" (₹1183.00 Lakhs). Tender documents can be downloaded up to 19/02/2025, 14:30 hrs. Interested tenderers may visit [www.isro.gov.in](http://www.isro.gov.in) or [www.tenderwizd.com](http://www.tenderwizd.com)/ISRO for details.

हस्ताक्षरित-समूह प्रधान, सीएएनजी / एससीएससी शार / Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR



## कार्यालय अधिक्षण अभियन्ता, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान वृत्त-गोपेश्वर

दिनांक: 28.01.2025

### ई-टेंडर नोटिस

निविदा सूचना सं. 882/ई-टेंडर नोटिस/2024-25/

1. **कार्य का नाम:-** आपदा न्यूनीकरण निधि मद (SDMF) के अन्तर्गत निम्न कार्य हेतु जल संस्थान / जल निगम में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों / फर्मों से ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र. सं.	पेयजल योजना का नाम	विकास क्षेत्र	कार्य का विवरण	निविदा प्रतिभूति	अवधि
1	कर्णप्रयाग नगरीय	कर्णप्रयाग	योजना पर एम.एस.ई. आर.डब्ल्यू. पाईप विछाने एवं तद् सम्बन्धी कार्य सामग्री सहित।	356000	06 माह

2. पोर्टल पर निविदा उपलब्ध होने की तिथि :- 30.01.2025
3. पोर्टल पर निविदा प्राप्ति की अन्तिम तिथि :- 14.02.2025
4. पोर्टल पर निविदा खुलने की तिथि :- 14.02.2025

5. उक्त कार्य कि निविदा टू बिड है, निविदा की पूर्ण जानकारी, शुद्धि पत्र एवं निरस्तीकरण आदि हेतु [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) पर लॉग इन करते रहे।

हस्ता./-

**अधिक्षण अभियन्ता**

# punjab national bank

...the name you can BANK upon

## E-AUCTION NOTICE

**CIRCLE SASTRA CENTRE: CIRCLE SASTRA, SCO-170, SECTOR 13-17, PANIPAT**

**Ph. : 0180-2620334, Email : cs8293@pnb.co.in**

### SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of movable assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement Rules, 2002).

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described movable property mortgaged /charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive / physical / symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Bank / Secured Creditor will be sold on "As is Where is", As is What is, and "Whatever There is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below for recovery of its due to the Bank / Secured Creditor from the respective borrower(s) & guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS				
Name of Branch Name of Account Name & Addresses of the Borrower / Guarantors Account	Description of the Immovable Properties (mortgaged / Owner's Name (mortgagors of property(ies)	A) Date of Demand Note u/s 13(2) if Sarfesi Act 2002 b) Outstanding Amount as on c) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFESI ACT 2002 d) Nature of Possession Symbolic / Physical / Constructive	A. Reserve Price B. EMD C. Bid increase Amount	Date / Time of E-Auction  Detail of the encumbrance Known to the Secured Creditors.
<b>1. PNB Branch</b> <b>Office : Sonapat</b> <b>Main</b> <b>(1) M/S Pytex</b> <b>Jewelers Pvt Ltd</b> <b>(Through Directors</b> <b>Sh. Pardeep Tayal</b> <b>S/o Sh. B. B. Tayal</b> <b>and Mr. Ankur Tayal</b> <b>S/O Sh. Pardeep</b> <b>Tayal) at Office Unit</b> <b>No. 200, GD ITL</b> <b>Northex Tower, Plot</b>	<b>Equitable Mortgage of Office</b> <b>unit measuring Super Area of</b> <b>3224.50 Sq. Ft. and built up</b> <b>area of 1897.15 Sq. Ft. at Unit</b> <b>No. 200, GD ITL Northex Tower,</b> <b>Plot no. A-9, Netaji Subhash</b> <b>Place, Pitam Pura, Delhi-</b> <b>110034 vide sale deed</b> <b>registered agreement 21272</b> <b>dated 08.07.2004 and</b> <b>Conveyance Deed no. 5409</b> <b>dated 30.03.2015 in the name</b> <b>of Sh. Pardeep Tayal and Smt. Satya Tayal</b>	<b>a) 11.02.2022</b> <b>b) Rs. 15,45,55,857.26. (Rs Fifteen Crore</b> <b>Forty-Five Lakh Fifty-Five Thousand Eight</b> <b>Hundred Fifty-Seven and paise Twenty-Six</b> <b>only) as on 10.02.2022 in CC &amp; TL account</b> <b>interest calculated up to 10.02.2022, with</b> <b>further interest in w e f 11.02.2022 at</b> <b>contracted rate plus charges if any, minus</b> <b>recoveries if any</b> <b>C) 03.05.2024</b> <b>D) Physical</b>	<b>a) Rs. 6,24,00,000.00</b> <b>b) Rs. 62,40,000.00</b> <b>c) Rs. 1,00,000/-</b>	<b>20.02.2025</b> <b>from</b>  <b>11:00 to 4:00 P.M.</b> <b>with unlimited</b> <b>extensions of 10</b> <b>minutes</b>  <b>Not know</b> <b>to Bank</b>
<b>no. A-9, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitam Pura, Delhi-110034 (2) Sh. Pardeep Tayal S/o Sh. B. B. Tayal Address: House No. HD-32, Vishakh</b> <b>Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-34, 3. Smt. Satya Tayal W/O Sh. Pardeep Tayal (since deceased) through her legal heirs 3a. Mr. Pardeep Tayal,</b> <b>3b. Mr. Ankur Tayal, 3c. Mr. Ashish Lal R/O House no. HD-32, Vishakh Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034</b>				
<b>2. PNB Branch:</b> <b>Model Town, Sonipat</b> <b>(195200)</b>  <b>(1) Smt. Meenakshi</b> <b>W/o Sh. Karambir R/O</b> <b>House No-749/26,</b> <b>Gali No-4, Arya Nagar,</b> <b>Sonepat, Haryana -</b> <b>131001 (2) Sh.</b> <b>Karambir S/o Sh.</b>	<b>Residential House No 2/432</b> <b>Khasra no. 1172/330, 1173/330,</b> <b>1174/330, 1176/1109/324 min</b> <b>measuring 177 square yards,</b> <b>Kalupur, Arya Nagar, Sonipat vide</b> <b>sale deed no 3321 dt 31-05-2013</b> <b>in name of Smt Meenakshi W/O Sh</b> <b>Karambir. Bounded as under:</b> <b>East – Gali Aam Raasta, West –</b> <b>of Satvir Dahiya, North – House of Shakuntala, South – Gali Rastra Aam</b>	<b>a) 07.03.2022</b> <b>b) Rs. 31,62,050.16 (Rupees Thirty One</b> <b>Lakh Sixty Two Thousand Fifty and Sixteen</b> <b>Paise Only) as on 25-02-2022 with further</b> <b>interest and other expenses minus</b> <b>recovery if any until payment in full</b> <b>C) 20.05.2022</b> <b>D) Symbolic</b>	<b>a) Rs 30,10,000/-</b> <b>b) Rs. 3,01,000/-</b> <b>c) Rs. 10,000/-</b>	<b>20.02.2025</b> <b>from</b>  <b>11:00 to 4:00 P.M.</b> <b>with unlimited</b> <b>extensions of 10</b> <b>minutes</b>  <b>Not know</b> <b>to Bank</b>
<b>Manohar Lal R/o House No-749/26, Gali No-4, Arya Nagar, Sonepat, Haryana -131001</b>				

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions:

1. The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"
2. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
3. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://baanknet.com> on 20.02.2025 @ 11:00 AM
4. For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer <https://baanknet.com> & [www.pnbindia.in](http://www.pnbindia.in).
5. Interested bidders may consult with the Dealing Officer Mr. Vishal Yadav, Mobile No. 89305 95759

Place : Panipat

Date 29.01.2025

Authorised Officer,  
Punjab National Bank (Secured Creditor)

#### STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

# POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL

**No. PHQ/15/GPC/592-1/2025 Bhopal,** **Dated 24-01-2025**

## **“ONLINE TENDER NOTICE”**

Online tender are invited for 3 months For Rate Contract by Assistant Inspector General of Police (Provisioning) Police Head Quarter, Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for FSL Items on website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>

S. No.	Name of Item	Approx Quantity	EMD Paid Online Through <a href="https://mptenders.gov.in">mptenders.gov.in</a>	Tender Fees (Rs.)
1	Drug Detection Kits	57 Nos	86,184/-	3000/-

- Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & must submit online through website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>.
- Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police ([www.mppolice.gov.in](http://www.mppolice.gov.in))
- Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>
- Critical Date Sheet:**

Published Date	24/01/2025 Time 19:00 PM
Bid Document Download Start Date	25/01/2025 Time 12:00 PM
Pre Bid Meeting Date	30/01/2025 Time 12:00 PM
Bid Submission Start Date	05/02/2025 Time 11:00 AM
Bid Submission End Date	13/02/2025 Time 14:00 PM
Bid Opening Date	14/02/2025 Time 16:00 PM

5. Intending Bidders are advised to visit this website regularly till closing date of submission to keep themselves updated as any change/ modification in the tender will be intimated through this website only by corrigendum / addendum/ amendment.

6. Bids will be opened as per date/time as mentioned in the Tender Critical Date Sheet. After online opening of Technical/Bid the results of their qualification as well Price-Bid opening will be intimated later.

Sd/-  
(Sandeep Dixit)  
A.I.G. (Provisioning)  
For: Director General of Police M.P.

G-22322

**ASSESSMENT OF THE STRENGTH OF THE PIER & ABUTMENT**

**Tender Notice No. DCBL/01/2025/MLG, Date: 24-01-2025.** E Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work:

Tender	No.
DCBL012025MLG; Name of Work	: Assessment of the strength of the Pier & Abutment with RDSO standard of 25T loading-2008 standard PSC Slab.
Approximate Tender Value:	₹5,14,73,515.60/-
Earnest money:	₹4,07,400/-

The tender document can be received upto 17-02-2025 at 15:00 hrs. Date & time of opening of tender at 15:05 hrs. on 17-02-2025. For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in the website <http://www.irops.gov.in>

YE/CE/Bridge-Line, Maligaon

**NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**

Serving Customers With A Smile

**NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY**

**S-Tender Notice**  
**No.: S- T-JU-23-024-25**

**256 Slg/23/2024-25      Dated: 24/01/2025**

Open E-tenderer is invited by DRM(S&T), Jodhpur for and on behalf of the President of India for S&T work. Details as below.

**1. Name of Work:** S&T works in c/w replacement of overaged ELB batteries with miscellaneous S&T works and associated signaling works for TTR (MTD-JU-LN-MJ 66 sets) over JU division of NW Railway under DST/JEU.

**2. Estimated cost of the work:** Rs. 2,09,28,325/- (R/O).

**3. Address of the NIT Issuing office:** Sr.DSTE/JU NWR, DRM Office Harish Joshi Marg Jodhpur, 4.

**Bid security to be deposited:-Rs 2,54,700/-.**

**5. Last Date & time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender:** 19/02/2025 Upto 11:00 Hrs through E-tendering online submission on IREPS, Tender will be opened at 11:00 Hrs.

**6. Website particulars, where complete details of tender can be seen and participated:** [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

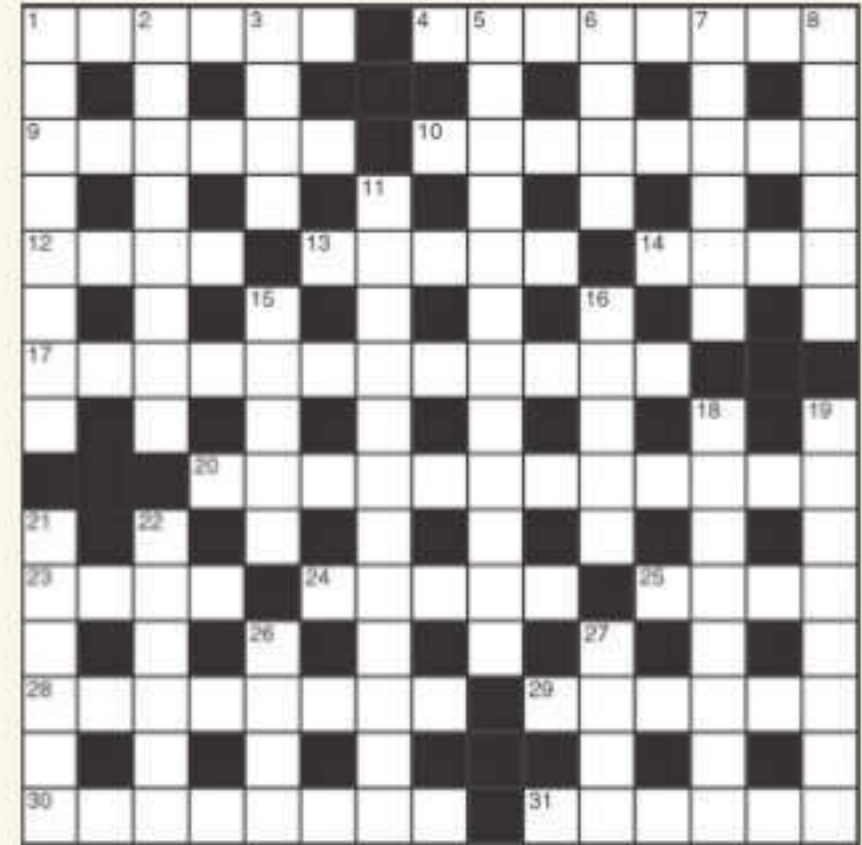
**Note:** This is a E-Tender, so tenderer can participate through e-tendering process only on mentioned website.

**114-AN/25**

Please join us on [NWRailways.in](https://www.nwrailways.in)



CROSSWORD 5587



**ACROSS**  
1 It makes a place look like a pigsty (6)  
4 Frequently out of date (8)  
9 Jabbing a petty officer with a ruler (6)  
10 Embraces sweetheart and wives (8)  
12 Vehicle turns to leave (4)  
13 Acquit the prisoner and empty the court (5)  
14 The bird is flown (4)  
17 Unpleasant comedown for highway travellers (5,7)  
20 Strike up a friendship as yokemates? (4,8)  
23 Establish the basic cause (4)  
24 It's comparatively bold (5)  
25 Performs with wild cats (4)  
28 Word for word in Latin (8)  
29 Building it's the custom to be silent going round (6)  
30 Sustaining benefits from those who are waiting (8)  
31 Well acquainted with the metric system (6)

**DOWN**  
1 Cosmetic combination of sauce and jam? (8)  
2 Select a method to subtract (4,4)  
3 A bird watcher never hides it (4)  
5 Bound but also not bound to be unreliable (4,3,5)  
6 Double figures (4)  
7 High level of service provided (6)  
8 Decorations in the windows (6)  
11 Yet a foghorn may give it (5,7)  
15 A note of asperity (5)  
16 A spirited harp player? (5)  
18 Auditor's game (8)  
19 Supposed it was the piano one had taken up again (8)  
21 Wine vaults (6)  
22 More unfortunate choice in the marriage ceremony (6)  
26 Laid out in Salvador (4)  
27 Score a point being clever (4)

**Solutions Crossword 5586 Across:** 1 Wild, 4 Unclear, 8 Eat, 9 Credulous, 10 Tea urns, 11 Sifts, 13 Evil, 15 Asleep, 18 Steam, 19 Heaten, 21 Capitally, 23 Ida, 24 Strides, 25 Sides **Down:** 1 Wreathe, 2 Extradite, 3 Decor, 4 Uneasy, 5 Courses, 6 Ego, 7 Rasps, 12 Fresh wind, 14 Limited, 16 Punkahs, 17 Chills, 18 Socks, 20 Abyss, 22 Par

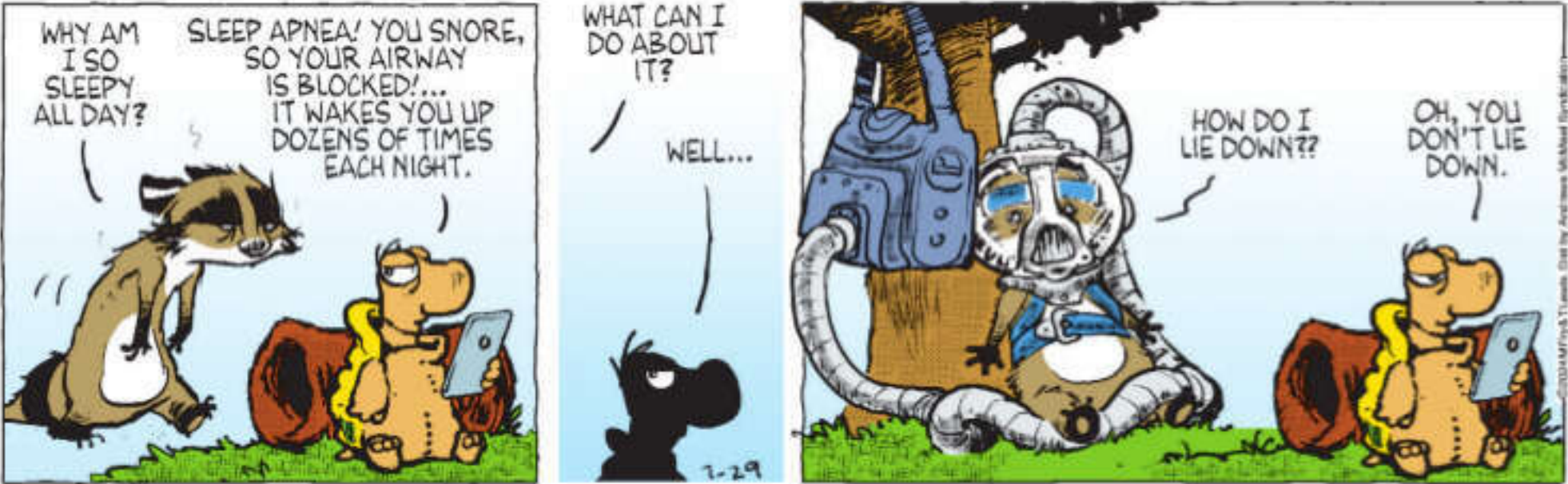
JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.  
We don't understand life any better at forty than at twenty, but we \_ it and \_ it. - Jules Renard (4,...,5)

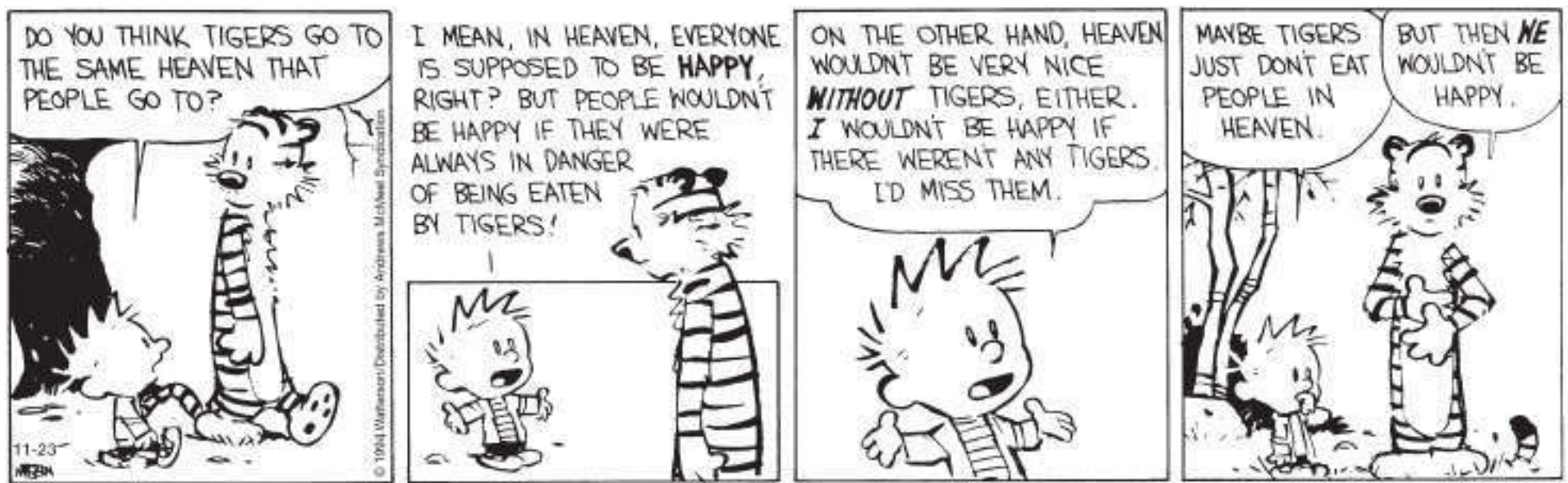
**DRAIO**  
[Shaded squares: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100]  
**AAEMDM**  
[Shaded squares: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100]  
**FUTON**  
[Shaded squares: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100]  
**AQSUKW**  
[Shaded squares: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100]

**Solution:** DRAIO, FUTON, AAEMDM, AQSUKW  
Answer: We don't understand life any better at forty than at twenty, but we **know** it and **know** it and **know** it and **know** it.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



**SUDOKU 5851**

Difficulty Level 3s  
Instructions  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level  
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

**SOLUTION SUDOKU 5850**

7	5	1	6	9	3	8	4	2
9	8	4	2	7	5	3	6	1
3	2	6	1	8	4	5	7	9
4	9	8	7	2	1	6	5	3
5	6	7	9	3	8	1	2	4
2	1	3	4	5	6	9	8	7
8	4	5	3	1	2	7	9	6
1	7	2	8	6	9	4	3	5
6	3	9	5	4	7	2	1	8

DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL

**ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
It's impossible to completely let go of the past, however hard you try. Certain members of the family may now wish to reopen an old discussion. If so, they are responding to yesterday's colourful Moon, but you may still have to sit and listen to their out-of-date complaints.

**TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**  
Most of your current problems seem to stem from a clash of personalities or wills. Yet, with the Moon playing up today, you can probably correct the balance in your favour, and feel a whole lot better as a result. Don't let foolish pride get in the way of a reconciliation.

**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**  
You are likely to be feeling emotionally under the weather. However, the stars are favouring extremes, so with careful attention to exercise and diet you could very rapidly begin to feel better than ever. Some people say there's no gain without pain, but you may prove them wrong.

**CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**  
You're difficult to fool, and you are well aware that others have been deceitful or dishonest, yet there is no reason for anger. Sometimes people just get themselves in an emotional twist, and they probably require your sympathy more than condemnation.

**LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**  
You may realise that not everyone shares your vision of the future. The most positive way forward at work is to treat employers and colleagues as if they're part of one vast family. Even in community, you should act on emotional bonds.

**VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**  
Some people may be giving you less support than you expected, others may be offering more. In a sense it doesn't matter, for even if nobody was on your side, you would still manage events to your advantage. Everyone needs to see your talents now.

**LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**  
As far as personal complaints are concerned, it is a case of least said, soonest mended. There is no point in dwelling on the past, especially as the people who caused trouble may have even forgotten what they were angry about.

**SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**  
Let employers and people in authority see that you are not only capable and reliable, but also that you have the best ideas. It often takes you a long time to formulate your suggestions, but no matter, you must take as long as you need to come up with the right answers. Other people may just have to wait.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)**  
There doesn't seem to be any sharp line between right and wrong. It's more a question of finding the appropriate course of action. Don't use a sledge-hammer to crack a nut, or carry on about what other people should or should not have done.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 24 - Jan 20)**  
Out of all the confusion and uncertainty in close personal relationships, something of lasting value is bound to emerge. Today's sympathetic Moon, by the way, opens the door towards pleasurable rewards, self-indulgence and an encounter with the past.

**AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**  
Someone in a position of power and authority is about to give you a break or champion your cause. It is very important indeed that you offer them a chance to speak, so avoid the tendency to shout other people down. You might even decide that they're right.

**PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
Some planets make life easy, but others couldn't be more awkward. Venus and Jupiter are churning you up emotionally, but positive planets elsewhere in your chart are enabling you to take firm decisions. The truth may hurt, but there is no avoiding it now or in the future.

**Govt. of Bihar**

**BIHAR STATE POWER (HOLDING) COMPANY LIMITED**  
(A Government of Bihar Undertaking)  
Regd. Office – Vidut Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna, 800021

(GST - 10AAFCB2394A2ZD CIN – U40102BR2012SGC018495)

(Power Management Cell, BSPHCL)  
Email ID – pmc1.bsphcl@gmail.com

**Tender Notice**  
NIT No. 04/PR/BSPHCL/2025

**Engagement of Trader for Trading Power in Power Exchange(s)**

Description of work	EMD (Rs.)	Cost of RFP (including 18% GST)	Contract Period
Engagement of Trader for Trading Power in Power Exchange(s)	Rs. 36,50,000/-	Rs. 11,800/-	36 months from zero date
Starting date for sale of RFP (through <a href="https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in">https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a> )		From 10:00 Hrs of 13.02.2025	
Date of Pre Bid Meeting		At 11:30 Hrs of 18.02.2025	
Last date of online sale of RFP document:		Upto 16:00 Hrs. of 06.03.2025	
Last Date of submission of BG of EMD (at Vidut Bhawan, Patna office)		Upto 17:00 Hrs. of 06.03.2025	
Last Date of Online Submission of Tender		Upto 17:00 Hrs. of 10.03.2025	
Date of opening of Technical Part (Part-I)		12:00 Hrs., 11.03.2025 onwards	
Date of opening of Price Part (Part-II)		To be notified after Technical Bid Evaluation through e-procurement website.	

For further details please visit website [state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar)

PR- 18426 (B & C) 2024-25 Chief Engineer (PMC)

नरो की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

**Government of Odisha**  
Commerce & Transport Department

“Public Notice to operate scheduled Commercial Flight from BPI Airport, Bhubaneswar and VSS Airport, Jharsuguda to different Domestic and International Destinations under New Destination Policy”

Reference No. /T Dt. XX.XX.2025

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
COMMERCE & TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

**NOTICE**

**TO OPERATE SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL FLIGHT FROM BPI AIRPORT, BHUBANESWAR AND VSS AIRPORT, JHARSUGUDA TO DIFFERENT DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL DESTINATIONS UNDER ODISHA NEW DESTINATION POLICY**

- Commerce & Transport Department, Government of Odisha has Notified vide Gazette Notification No. 1969, dated 25.10.2024 the New Destination Policy 2025 to facilitate the establishment of air services to new destinations from airports in Odisha by providing Viability Gap Funding (VGF)/ incentives.
- In view of the above, Proposals are hereby invited from interested Scheduled Commercial Airlines to operate scheduled flight from (i) BPI Airport, Bhubaneswar and (ii) VSS Airport, Jharsuguda to different Domestic and International destinations under New Destination Policy of Government of Odisha.

Domestic Destination	International Destination
Goa	Bahrain
Jammu	Oman
Surat	Kuwait
Shirdi	Abu Dhabi
Port Blair	-

Interested airline operators can submit applications for other new destinations as per their assessment, within the provisions of the policy.

The New destination Policy document is available for download at <https://ct.odisha.gov.in/sites/default/files/2025-01/New%20Destination%20Policy.pdf>

- Proposals should reach the undersigned at e-mail-transcivilaviation@gmail.com.
- Commerce and Transport Department reserves the right to amend / modify the applications and/or to reject any or all proposals under the scope of the New Destination Policy.

Sd/-  
Additional Secretary to Govt. & Director of Aviation,  
Commerce & Transport Department Government of Odisha

OIPR-38001/11/0013/2425

**Govt. of Bihar**

**Urban Development & Housing Department**  
Office of the Executive Engineer,  
Urban Development Division , Azimabad,  
SBD Based detailed Notice Inviting Tender  
(through e-procurement mode only-[www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in))  
(only e-tendering system through website : [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in))  
Local/ National Competitive Bidding NIT No.-: 14/E/AZIMABAD/2024-25 (Re-Tender)

- Designation and Address of the Advertiser : Executive Engineer, Urban Development Division, Azimabad, PMC
- Date of issue of Notice Inviting E-Tender : 28-01-2025
- Period for download of Tender Document : 05-02-2025 (10.00AM) to 14-02-2025 (03-00PM)
- Date, Time & Place of Pre Bid meeting : 06-02-2025
- Last Date of uploading tender documents by : 14-02-2025 (03.00 PM) bidder.
- Date, time and place for submission of : 15-02-2025 (03-00PM)  
Original instrument of EMD (in the case of BG)
- Opening of Technical Bid : Azimabad Division 15-02-2025 (04.00PM)
- Details of work:-

Bid No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost/ECV (In Rupees)	Amount of Earnest money ( In Rupees) Online/Offline mode	Cost of BOQ in Rs. (Non Refundable payment only through online mode)	Bid processing fee in Rs. (Non Refundable payment only Online mode in favor of Beltron)	Time of Completion	EMD Payable at
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
01	Construction of Garbage transfer station at Azimabad Yard (Re- Tender)	6,25,55,497	12,51,200	10,000	As per Eproc2	6 Months	EE, PCD (A), PMC

For further details please visit : [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar)

**Executive Engineer,**  
Urban Development Division, Azimabad,  
Patna Municipal Corporation, Patna.

PR. No.18306 (B & C) 2024-25

नरो से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

**Directorate of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of Haryana**  
Plot No. C-3, HSVP Complex, Sector – 6,  
Panchkula – 134109, Ph. No.: 0172-2996509,  
[www.msme.haryana.gov.in](http://www.msme.haryana.gov.in)

Directorate of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Haryana being the State Nodal Agency invites online applications for the position of District Resource Person (DRP) under Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PM-FME Scheme).

**Post:** District Resource Persons for all 22 districts of Haryana for achievement of the targets allocated by the Central Government to the State Government. Please refer to detailed Scheme Guideline on <https://pmfme.mofpi.gov.in/pmfme/#/Home-Page>.

**Eligibility:** Any Organizations/Firms or suitable person(s) (like retired Govt/Bank Officials, Insurance Agents, Bank Mitras, individual professionals etc.) having bachelor's or equivalent degree in any field with relevant knowledge/experience in Detailed Project Report (DPR) preparation. Preference will be given to MBA/BBA/Retired bank officials or Chartered Accountants having experience/knowledge in preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR).

**Note:** - The empanelment of Firms/Organizations and DRPs would be job work basis only as per scheme guidelines and pay-out would be released as under:

- Rs.10,000/- would be released after sanction of bank loan.
- Rs.10,000/- after formalization of the unit and obtaining of FSSAI Certificate, Udyam Certificate and GST registration (wherever required).

**How to Apply:** The interested candidates may apply on <https://msme.haryana.gov.in/DRP>. The shortlisted candidates will be called for interview on monthly basis

**Director General**  
Directorate of MSME, Panchkula, Haryana

No. 32137/HRY

**BIHAR STATE POWER (HOLDING) CO. LTD., PATNA**  
(A Government of Bihar Undertaking)  
Regd. Office – Vidut Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna, 800021  
(GST - 10AAFCB2394A2ZD CIN – U40102BR2012SGC018495)  
(Power Management Cell, BSPHCL)  
Email ID – pmc1.bsphcl@gmail.com  
Tender Notice  
NIT No. - 03/PR/BSPHCL/2025

**PROCUREMENT OF POWER ON SHORT-TERM BASIS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES THROUGH TARIFF BASED COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCESS**  
(Through e-bidding mode only – [www.msctecommerce.com](http://www.msctecommerce.com))

Online Application are invited by Chief Engineer, Power Management Cell, Bihar State Power (Holding) Company Limited, 3rd Floor, Vidut Bhawan-I, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Patna-800021 on behalf of Discoms (NBPDC & SBPDCL) from eligible applicants to participate in e-bidding process for the procurement of power on short term basis from utilities/traders/generators/ discoms :

Sl. No.	Particular	Time/Date
1	Cost of Request for Proposal (RFP)	Rs. 10,000/- plus 18% GST
2	Publication of Tender Document/ Request for Proposal (RTP/ Activation of Event	From 10:00 Hrs of 13.02.2025
3	Last date of submission of RFP Bids including EMD & Cost of RFP	Upto 16:00 Hrs of 18.02.2025
4	Opening of non-financial technical Bids	At 12:00 Hrs of 19.02.2025
5	Opening of IPOs	At 13:00 Hrs of 20.02.2025
6	Start of e-RA	At 15:00 Hrs of 20.02.2025
7	Issuance of LOA	After the approval of Hon'ble BERC
8	Period for supply of power	01.04.2025 to 30.09.2025

Bidding will be done through e-bidding portal (DEEP) only as per the guidelines for short term procurement of power notified by the Ministry of Power as amended from time to time. The link for the bidding portal is [www.msctecommerce.com](http://www.msctecommerce.com), and is also available on the website of Ministry of power ([www.powermin.nic.in](http://www.powermin.nic.in)) and PFC Consulting Limited ([www.pfcclindia.com](http://www.pfcclindia.com)). Bidders are requested to familiarize the revised guidelines notified by the Ministry of power carefully before submitting the offer. Further BSPHCL reserves the right to amend/cancel the tender notice without assigning any reasons whatsoever and without any liability. However for any enquiry, bidders may contact on 9264449860 / 7033291928 or mail to pmc1.bsphcl@gmail.com

For further details please visit : [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) Chief Engineer (PMC)  
PR- 018428 (B & C) 2024-25

**नरो से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार**

**Govt. of Bihar**

**Urban Development & Housing Department**  
Office of the Executive Engineer,  
Urban Development Division , Patna City,  
SBD Based detailed Notice Inviting Tender  
(through e-procurement mode only-[www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in))  
(only e-tendering system through website : [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in))  
Local/ National Competitive Bidding NIT No.-: 08/E/PCD/2024-25 (Re-Tender)

- Designation and Address of the Advertiser : Executive Engineer, Urban Development Division , Patna City, PMC
- Date of issue of Notice Inviting E-Tender : 28-01-2025
- Period for download of Tender Document : 05-02-2025 (10.00AM) to 14-02-2025 (03-00PM)
- Date, Time & Place of Pre Bid meeting : 06-02-2025
- Last Date of uploading tender documents by : 14-02-2025 (03.00 PM) bidder.
- Date, time and place for submission of : 15-02-2025 (03-00PM)  
Original instrument of EMD (in the case of BG)
- Opening of Technical Bid : Patna City Division 15-02-2025 (04.00PM)
- Details of work:-

Bid No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost/ECV ( In Rupees)	Amount of Earnest money ( In Rupees) Online/Offline mode	Cost of BOQ in Rs. (Non Refundable payment only through online mode)	Bid processing fee in Rs. (Non Refundable payment only Online mode in favor of Beltron)	Time of Completion	EMD Payable at
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Construction of Garbage Transfer Station Under Patna City Circle area	12,89,88,444	22,89,900	10000.00	As Per Eproc2	6 Months	EE, Nagar Vikash Pramandal, Patna City

For further details please visit : [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar)

**Executive Engineer,**  
Urban Development Division, Patna City,  
Patna Municipal Corporation, Patna

PR. No.18311 (B & C) 2024-25

**नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।**



# 19 SPORT

## BRIEFLY

### Holness joins as 400 metre coach

*New Delhi:* Renowned Jamaican athletics coach Jerry Lee Holness, who has mentored the likes of multiple Olympics and World Championships gold medallist sprinters Elaine Thompson and Nesta Carter, has taken charge of the Indian women's 400m team ahead of some high-profile events coming up this year. Holness, a highly-experienced and much travelled coach, joined the National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) at the Lakshmi Bai National College of Physical Education in Thiruvananthapuram. **PTI**

### Srikanth advances to second round

*New Delhi:* Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth entered the second round of the Thailand Masters BWF Super 300 event with a straight-game win over his opponent here on Wednesday. Srikanth defeated Israel's Danii Dubovenko 21-13 21-18 in the men's singles opening round. This is Srikanth's second straight win over Dubovenko, having defeated him previously in the 2024 Macau Open back in September 2024. Srikanth will next face Hong Kong's Jason Gunawan. Among other Indians in men's singles, S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian defeated Malaysia's June Wei Cheam 15-21 21-15 21-19 in a tough three-game contest. **PTI**

### NorthEast United thrash Hyderabad

*Guwahati:* NorthEast United FC completed the league double over Hyderabad FC with a 4-1 victory in their Indian Super League match here on Wednesday. The Highlanders scored early courtesy through a goal from Guillermo Fernandez while Alaaeddine Ajarai extended the lead at the stroke of half-time with a fantastic free-kick. Hyderabad FC did pose some threat in the second half with Manoj Mohammed pulling a goal back, but it wasn't enough as Asheer Akhtar and Mohammed Bemammer scored late goals to seal maximum points at home. This was the first win in the last five matches for the Highlanders this season. **PTI**

### Desinghu, 14, wins 3 gold medals in pool

*Haridwar:* Fourteen-year-old swimmer Dhinidhi Desinghu was the cynosure of all eyes as she stamped her authority with three golds as Karnataka made a splash on the pool, grabbing five gold and two silver to take the top spot in the 38th National Games medal tally here on Wednesday. The day certainly belonged to Desinghu, who first won the women's 200m freestyle event in a Games record time of 2 minutes and 3.24 seconds before adding a gold each in 100m butterfly and 4x100m freestyle. **PTI**

### French police arrest Feyenoord fans

*Lille:* Dozens of Feyenoord fans banned from traveling to Lille for a Champions League game between the two clubs have been turned away or arrested at the border, French authorities said. The Prefecture du Nord, which represents the French state in the Lille region, said 86 fans of the Dutch team have been refused entry to France and that 30 have been arrested. Police officers seized pyrotechnic devices and various objects that could be used as weapons during their checks, the prefecture said. **AP**

# Samson falling short

Well-directed bouncers have troubled the T20 opener with Jofra Archer only exposing weakness further

## SANDIP G

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

THE BOUNCER, arguably, is cricket's great survivor. It has outlasted fire and flood, wars and plagues, restrictive laws and format evolutions, advent of meatier bats and micro-boundaries to still breath a chilling intimidation.

At the hands of a callous operator, it recites notes of dread. The Caribbean quicks were its most proficient prophets. Jofra Archer, of Barbadian heritage, reproduces the same fire as his predecessors. This series, he has employed it with raging success against one of India's foremost T20 batsmen, Sanju Samson. In three outings, the Archer short ball has consumed his Rajasthan Royals captains thrice. That, though, tells just half of the horror story that Sanju is watching.

It's a three-layered tale of struggle. The short ball troubles him in the format. Of the 17 times he has been caught off seamers in T20s, the short-balls have accounted for him eight times. There is a pattern in that too — either he gets out to the quicks or the medium pacers operating at a slower bandwidth. The spectrum ranges from Jofra Archer to Blessing Muzarabani. He is an excellent puller, but if the ball is within a certain pace-scale. He disdains those in the 130-140kph range. But those upwards hustle him and those beneath tax him with their sluggishness. Undoubtedly, the nature of pitch too plays a decisive role. On a fast wicket, even a 130kph-er could trouble him, or on a slow surface even a 145kph-er would not.

But the heart of the short-ball working over is not his ineptitude to hit the short-ball to the fence, but the methods he has sought to address it.

It began at Eden Gardens when Mark Wood and Archer strangled him. Twenty two of his 26 runs came off one Gus Atkinson over. From the other 14 balls, Archer and Wood combined, he mustered only four. A good number of them were hard length balls into his body, strangulating him for the width he relishes to swing those quick hands. So he began to counter-intuitively premeditate, and got himself into self-entangled tangles.

A few balls before his dismissal, he backed away and tried to hack a short ball from Wood through covers. He missed it altogether, like someone trying darts for the first time. When Archer came, preempting that he would go short, he tried to sell him a dummy by pulling his back-leg away before shuffling across like he normally would.

But the early movement meant he was late into the shot and his balance went off-kilter. He was on his toes, the front foot squared up and facing long-off, the upper body hardly swivelled with just the hands going through the shot. His hands are so good that he timed the ball decently, but didn't get



The bouncer is starting to become kryptonite for Sanju Samson. Reuters

**But the heart of the short-ball working over is not his ineptitude to hit the short ball to the fence, but the methods he has sought to address it.**

the required distance to clear the fence.

In Chennai, he second-guessed that Archer and Co would examine him with short-balls again. So did Archer. Three of the seven balls he bowled at him were short (the rest were hard length).

## Mis-timed or miscued

He tried to pull all three, either mis-timed or miscued all. The third endeavour fetched Archer the wicket. He went back and across early to set himself up for the short-ball by getting inside the line. The method had yielded him boundaries on bouncy South African tracks where he scored successive hundreds. He would use the pace of the ball

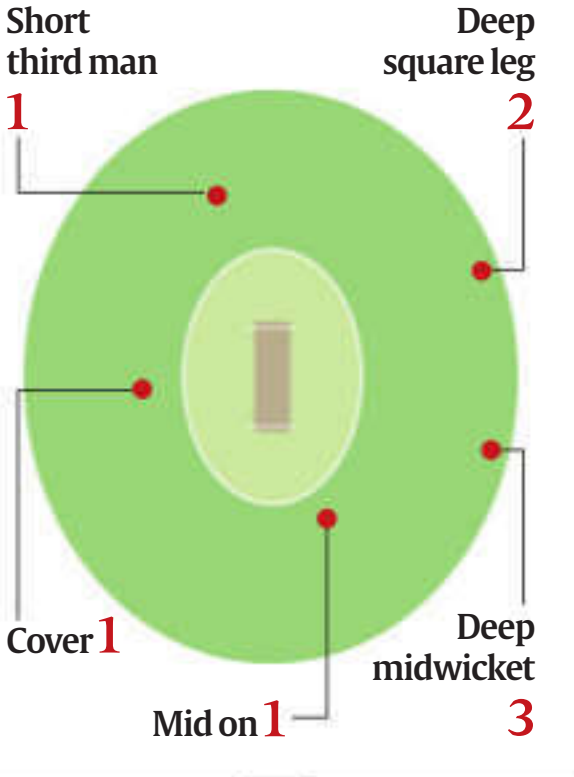
and glide it behind square, rather than hitting them in front. But the sheer pace (148 kph) and the laser-guided precision of Archer tucked him into top-edging the ball to deep square leg. Though he was waiting on the back foot, he could not transfer any weight into the shot. He could not even complete it.

However, Sanju would rather die trying than shrink away from the challenge. So during the nets in Rajkot, he faced short-ball throwdowns with plastic balls on cemented pitches to sharpen his reflexes. By then, it had inflated into a tussle of hubris, moving from technical to a psychological space. He wanted to show that he doesn't duck away from the short-ball menace, he is determined to demonstrate that he is not only unafraid of the short ball but also can dominate it. The (false) indefatigability only served the purpose of putting him into even worse impossible positions to counter the short ball.

In Rajkot, Archer straightaway interrogated him with a couple of short stuff which darted into his body. Both times, he repelled

## BOUNCER TROUBLE IN T20s

Samson's been caught off fast bowlers 17 times — short balls accounting for 8 dismissals.



with control. On both instances, he was still, his movements minimalistic and consequently got into comfortable positions. There was a conscious effort to rise with the ball, hands held high and head unwavering.

But when he faced Archer next — after five balls from Wood — he couldn't resist backing away and pulling a rib-tickler (more hard than short length). Yet again, his feet remained stuck at the crease after the initial movement. At the point of impact, his back-leg was unusually bent, the slouched front-foot faced the bowler and the upper body semi opened-up, rendering him utterly unbalanced to pull, which he instinctively, and fatally, performed.

Some of his short-ball woes, thus, are self-inflicted. Like his pre-delivery movements that leave him unbalanced and static at the crease, impeding a smooth transfer of weight. He gets a fraction too low in his stance. Digging up old clips could instruct him about the virtues of minimalism and stillness. He could also learn from past masters on how to dodge past flaws.

He could be smarter in manipulating the bowler's pace for runs behind the square; he could burn a bit of the ego, or more prudently see off the bouncer barrage and harness the stronger facets of the game. Or perhaps, he needn't be this desperate to hit every ball towards the fence.

But his problem needs immediate redressal, lest the news would gather fire and the short ball would consume him, as it had several other careers touted to achieve greatness. The short-ball, though, is cricket's greatest survivor, breathing and bathing in intimidation.

# Gukesh era off to a flying start

## AMIT KAMATH

MUMBAI, JANUARY 29

IF HISTORY is any indication, **D Gukesh's** reign as world champion could have gone one of two ways. He could have found the crown incredibly heavy to wear, like his predecessor Ding Liren did. After becoming world champion in 2023, the Chinese Grandmaster went on a stretch of 304 days without a classical win leading into the 2024 world championship. Or, Gukesh could have felt bullet-proof as the occupier of the coveted throne, like Magnus Carlsen did ever since he became the world champion for the first time in 2013.

The 10 games at Tata Steel chess tournament have shown that the Gukesh era of chess is firmly following the path once charted by Carlsen. The 18-year-old, who became the youngest world champion in history last month, maintained his grip on the top of the standings at the Tata Steel chess tournament with a flawless victory over Dutch grandmaster Max Warmerdam in Round 10 of the prestigious event in Wijk aan Zee, staying half a point ahead of the field. He is now unbeaten in 10 games as world champion.

Gukesh came into the event with barely any preparation, spending too much of his time over the past few weeks away from the board tending to media, sponsor and other obligations. In fact, Gukesh landed in the quaint Dutch town after a long haul flight from New Delhi about four hours before his first round against Anish Giri.

But if there was any doubt about what winning the world championship would do to his appetite, or whether he would be too exhausted by all the work he had been doing off the board as a history-maker, the boy from Chennai has quickly dismissed those apprehensions.

It was just a few days back that Gukesh talked about "drifting a bit" after becoming world champion.

"I have to admit the success has not been easy to handle. I might've drifted a bit here and there. But the most important thing is that there are people around me who are always there to remind me whenever I go off track," Gukesh told Dutch public broadcasting organization NOS.

At Wijk aan Zee, Gukesh has so far strung five wins and five draws. Wednesday's win over Warmerdam (rated 2646) is his first win with black pieces. Previously, he had defeated Giri, Vincent Keymer, Pentala Harikrishna and Leon Luke Mendonca with white. With just three rounds remaining in the tournament, Gukesh heads into the final rest day with a tally of 7.5/10. He's also closing in on the 2800 club: his live rating is 2793.6.



# Rudrankksh searching for formula to peak under pressure

## NAMIT KUMAR

DEHRADUN, JANUARY 29

AT THE Olympic selection trials for shooting in New Delhi last year, Rudrankksh Patil cut a sorry figure. The reigning 10m air rifle world champion was on his way to failing to book his ticket to Paris and his body language betrayed a huge burden. His demeanor was rigid and downbeat.

As he arrived for the pre-event training for the National Games in Dehradun on Wednesday, he was anything but.

Bouncing into the room with the playful ease of a young man as accomplished as him, he looked lighter both mentally and physically. It was the result of a six-month long exercise in recovering from the heart-break — a "life-changing experience," as he describes it. "My biggest learning is to not take myself too seriously," the 21-year-old marksman says.

As the world champion, expectations had

been heavy on Rudrankksh to not only make it to Paris, but harbour medal hopes among India's extremely competitive shooting contingent. However, at the selection trials he was pipped by Arjun Babuta and Sandeep Singh quite surprisingly. Two years of expectation had been withered over the four-week trial, and Rudrankksh was left to make an appraisal of what went wrong.

In a sport that requires total stillness of body and mind, Rudrankksh has always thrived in inner turmoil.

It happens to be a by-product of his personality, he says, that he performs best when the panic sets in.

"I feel I have always shot my best when I'm scared," he says with a knowing laugh.

But being overly anxious led to excessive fatigue, and caused him more problems than just bad results at the range.

Shortly before the trials, he had noticed some physical distress. "I was losing my hair, my skin was going dull, I had psoriasis in my ankle. But I thought I'd leave it and focus on



Rudrankksh says his biggest learning is not to take himself too seriously. Insta

my game," he says.

Eventually the illness was diagnosed as an auto-immune disease caused by stress. After the Olympic miss, this was another reminder to the 21-year-old to control the nerves. He's now searching for the equilibrium between panic and composure that will allow him to peak under pressure.

## Mental serenity

But mental serenity is not the only change he is seeking. Rudrankksh has entered the men's 50m 3-position event at the National Games too, just as he had done at the national championships a few months ago. Another rifle event is likely to improve medal chances in the future, but participation in the more physically enduring event requires greater commitment to fitness.

He has also changed his rifle, and says he plans to trial a technical change at the Games, although he's coy on what it is exactly, keeping his cards close to his chest for now.

And if it is the right balance between

peace and competitiveness he is seeking, the National Games make for a good platform. There is an excitement and newness of interacting with athletes from all kinds of disciplines, while also playing on a newly-made top-class range against the best shooting talent in the country.

Both Babuta and Sandeep are his competition in the 10m air rifle category, while in 50 3P, Olympic bronze medallist Swapnil Kusale is representing Maharashtra along side him and fellow Olympian Aishwary Singh Tomar is also in the fray.

"It really does feel like a mini-Olympics," he says. "It is like an international tournament. Come here, play your match and go back. It's not like a domestic trial where the pressure for a spot and repetitive shooting can play on your mind. Atmosphere is great here. Playing this National Games is part of a plan to play more domestic competitions and I want to increase my scores. This is the best time to do it," the 21-year-old, on the comeback trail, asserts.

## INTERVIEW: CRAIG FULTON

# ‘Balancing’keepers is key, looking for 6-7 goalies to fulfill need across teams’

## VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN

ROURKELA, JANUARY 29

AFTER THE hectic 2024 season, India chief coach Craig Fulton spent a well-earned break in Cape Town with his family. Among other things, he could watch his daughter Milla Fulton, who plays hockey for Ireland U-18s and U-21s, in an indoor tournament. But of course, that didn't mean a complete break from hockey though as he kept a close eye on the Hockey India League. This week, with the tournament coming to a close in Rourkela, Fulton is in attendance in person. And with the FIH Pro League coming up, he's been taking notes. *The Indian Express* caught up with him on the sidelines of the league at the Birs Munda Hockey Stadium. *Excerpts:*

**Have you been watching the Hockey India League? What's your takeaway so far?**

We're on game 40 now and I think I've missed only two matches, I've seen the other 38, pretty much seen it all. It's been good. It's positive from an Indian perspective to have

the internationals that are here, the quality and the coaches. Plus a lot of our younger players getting the exposure. Those who are in the under-21 program and even those who aren't, and also seniors, both included. It's a nice balance to see everyone play.

**Before discussing Indian talent, what do you think of the league from a neutral perspective?**

I think there have been some great matches. Initially, you're unsure, but then the tournament starts to open up. There have been some thrilling games: there was that incredible 5-5 between Lancers and Pipers, then the 6-5 between Dragons and Gonasika. There's been a lot of attacking hockey and then obviously not too much defense. But at the same time, some great goals.

**You mentioned the different coaches. How does it impact Indian players working with international coaches and their unique methodologies?**

It really helps Indian hockey. I say that because we play both man-to-man and zonal,



Craig Fulton at the HIL.

high-zone or high man-to-man, based on the situation. Some coaches use full man-to-man, where defense is crucial. Others focus on zone defense. Like the Tigers play half-court zone and high-pressure zone. Toofans play both. Soorma play half-court man-to-man and then high-pressure man-to-man. There is a balance between the principles that each coach has. Different approaches enhance the players' understanding.

### Dragons, Soorma Club enter last 4

*Rourkela:* Tamil Nadu Dragons left it late to clinch the fourth and final semifinals spot, fighting back from 0-2 down against UP Rudras to earn a 2-2 draw in regulation time, the point that sealed their spot in the knockouts. Earlier in the day, JSW Soorma Hockey Club became the third team to qualify, as they clinched the shootout bonus point against table-toppers Bengal Tigers. **ENS**

■ **Semifinals lineup (Jan 31):** Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers vs Tamil Nadu Dragons; JSW Soorma Hockey Club vs Hyderabad Toofans.

**How does that fit into your framework as the Indian head coach?**

We employ both styles. If a player specialises in one, he improves in it, but we still need to develop his other skills. If he plays in

both systems, he benefits more. It's all about game intelligence.

**What has caught your eye with the younger players, not the senior core?**

The Indian players have flair, in that younger group, naturally. There are some really good midfielders in this younger lot who are able to hold the ball under pressure, which is important. It's essential to find ways to keep the ball alive, carrying it out of congested areas and transferring it to space.

**From an Indian team perspective, post-Paris and looking ahead to bigger tournaments, have you identified specific areas of need?**

Naturally, if a position is vacated, we need to fill it. We've been preparing for Sreejesh's departure by focusing on Pathak, Suraj (Karkera), Pawan, and junior keepers, and they are all getting to be part of the HIL. Balancing our goalkeepers is important. We're looking to have six or seven goalkeepers to fulfill the need across the teams. The other thing is that we have no one retiring in

the near future. But at the same time, we are trying to push forward an under-25 team that we're working to put together.

**Are you happy with the game time Indian goalkeepers got, or is it a concern?**

It's often out of their control if they're drafted alongside a strong international goalkeeper. I am fine with it. But it's still a valuable experience. Training with other goalkeepers, doing PC-attack and PC-defence studies, and with coaches is beneficial. If more Indian goalkeepers played more minutes, it would be better obviously.

**Regarding the widening of the talent pool, you have constantly maintained we need not just 24, but 40 or 60 players.**

HIL helps in exposing more players from different regions who have played nationals but I might not have watched enough of them, or might not have been watched as thoroughly before. If their performances are consistent, it's an awesome opportunity for them.

And if any of them really stand out, it's perfect for us.



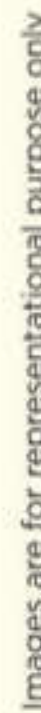
# DeChambeau biggest draw as LIV makes India debut

**PRATYUSH RAJ**  
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 29

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**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
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**Bryson DeChambeau.** *Special arrangement*



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