



Ayushman will be implemented, free treatment worth ₹10 lakh will be provided



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5 February, Vote for BJP



Published By: Bharatiya Janata Party, 14 Pandit Pant Marg, Delhi

India braces for AI challenge, Govt says own foundational model in 4-8 months

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

DAYS AFTER an upstart Chinese artificial intelligence (AI) lab launched DeepSeek, a low-cost foundational model, India has decided to build a domestic large language model (LLM) of its own as part of the Rs 10,370 crore IndiaAI Mission, Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said Thursday. The government has also se-



Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

lected 10 companies to supply 18,693 graphics processing units or GPUs — high end chips needed to develop machine learning tools — that can go into

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

IAF officer set to pilot mission to space station: ‘Journey of 1.4 bn people’

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

JUST A few months away from becoming the second Indian to travel to space — the first in 40 years — Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla on Thursday said



Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla

AT THE MAHA KUMBH STAMPEDE SITE NEAR THE SANGAM

Day after: VIP passes cancelled, no-vehicle zone, curbs on routes

Crowd control measures in place, vehicles stopped at city entry points

MANISH SAHU
PRAYAGRAJ, JANUARY 30

A DAY after 30 people died and 60 were injured in a pre-dawn stampede near the Sangam in Prayagraj, the administration issued a string of directives Thursday, cancelled all VVIP passes and declared the entire Maha Kumbh area as a no-vehicle zone.

Routes for devotees have been made one-way to avoid overlapping, given the huge rush of people heading to the ghats and returning after a dip.

Entry of vehicles from all adjoining districts has been banned and these will be stopped outside Prayagraj city. Instructions have also gone out to completely ban entry of four-wheelers inside the city until February 4.



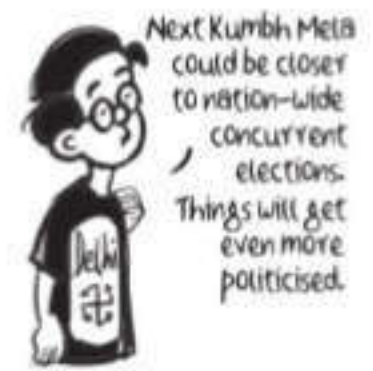
People search for their missing relatives following the Maha Kumbh stampede, in Prayagraj on Thursday. PTI

An officer on security duty said, “It has been communicated that VVIP passes have been revoked, meaning special passes will no longer allow vehicle entry. One-way routes have been introduced to facilitate smooth movement of people. Additionally, vehicle entry has been restricted at the district borders. A strict ban on vehicle entry into the city will remain in place until February 4.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



As bodies start returning home, grief echo at site of stampede

MAULSHREE SETH
PRAYAGRAJ, JANUARY 30

MUDDY FOOTWEAR, some single, some in pairs, are strewn near the Sangam ghat. So are colourful clothes and backpacks — telltale signs of the stampede that claimed at least 30 lives a day ago and left another 60 injured at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj.

As a dense fog envelops the ghat, families and friends move in single file, holding on to a security rope and looking behind nervously to check on their loved ones. A shawl or a dupatta tied to their waist binds them all together so that they don't lose each other. As they walk, there

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Poison remark row: Kejriwal slams CEC, Shah says AAP chief making excuses

Submit evidence for claim: EC; Kejriwal says CEC looking for post-retirement job

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

DAYS BEFORE Delhi votes to elect a new Assembly, a war of words erupted Thursday between AAP leader and former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and the Election Commission of India over his remark about water for Delhi being “poisoned” in Haryana.

Kejriwal accused Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar of “engaging in politics” for “a job

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DECISION 2025

DELHI

- EC, police team reach Punjab CM's house in Delhi to probe complaint
- Sirsa steps up campaign

PAGE 4

THE WORLD



OVER 60 FEARED DEAD AS U.S. PLANE COLLIDES WITH CHOPPER, CRASHES INTO RIVER

PAGE 17

MARUTI SUZUKI

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FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTSON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Day after: VIP passes cancelled, no-vehicle zone

The administration said these measures are designed to manage the crowds and ensure safety. Following the new directions, a large number of devotees arriving in vehicles were stopped at the district border, and entry regulated in small groups to prevent overcrowding in the Maha

Kumbh area. This led to large crowds gathering at the entry points to Prayagraj. Later in the day, security teams stationed at the borders started letting devotees enter the city area in controlled batches. There's heavy police presence at the Sangam Nose — it's the strip

of land at the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati — and ghats to regulate the movement of devotees. People are not allowed to remain at the Sangam Nose and ghats for an extended period. They are being told to take a dip upon arrival and vacate the area without any

delay. Additional barricades have been installed to ensure the orderly flow of the crowds at the ghats. In a preliminary inquiry into the stampede incident, security agencies found that most victims were those who had been resting at the Sangam Nose and

ghats. Some were waiting for the auspicious time to take the dip, while others were hoping to meet sadhus and members of the Akharas. "Some devotees said they were resting at the Sangam ghats and Nose after walking on foot for 15-20 km," a senior official said.

As bodies start returning home, grief echo at site of stampede

are regular announcements from PA systems to guide them to the ghats. Security personnel, stationed at regular intervals, help the devotees. The day after the stampede, traces of the incident are still visible — not only in the increased security detail and police pickets all the way to the ghat but also in the demeanour of the nervous devotees and the uneasy calm there. Ambulances are now parked as close to the ghat as possible. With police pickets and strict policing still in force at the borders of the city, there is a visible decline in devotee numbers at the mela — according to official estimates, some 1.52 crore people had taken a dip in the Sangam until 2 pm, the place where the Ganga, the Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati rivers merge, as opposed to 2.39 crore on January 28, the day before the stampede. At the ghats, there's heavy deployment of security, not only police but also paramilitary forces such as the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB). "The rush was huge yesterday. The pressure had started building a day before so we took our belongings and moved to a distance," says Neeraj who sells puja items such as flowers and diyas at the ghat. A police announcement for vendors interrupts him: "Please

take your wares away from the ghats". At a distance, security personnel are seen asking some people to step away from the ghat. Another announcement warns people not to stray too close to the river. "We are trying to persuade people, especially women, not to stay too long at the ghat," a policeman says. But neither the dense fog nor the stampede has deterred some from taking a dip at the Sangam. Sangeeta Mishra from Delhi is one of 10 women making their way to the ghat, determined yet cautious. Firmly gripping the rope, she says she's aware of the stampede but is still determined to complete what she had set out for. "All of us came in a bus from Delhi. We work as domestic help and do other odd jobs. We saw the news of the stampede on our way here. We are taking precautions but will not return without a dip at the Sangam," she says. Meanwhile, families of stampede victims are still coming to terms with the deaths of their kin. Surendra Goud regrets that his wife Tara Devi decided to go to the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj. One of the stampede victims, Tara Devi, 65, was part of a large group of 10 from Ram Nagar village in the Bhorey subdivision of Bihar's Gopalganj who went to

the Kumbh. All eight of Bihar's victims were women, four of them from Gopalganj. "As several women from our neighbourhood had been going to Prayagraj from Gopalganj, my wife also accompanied them. Now that we lost her, we realise that there was no need to go there," he says. In Kolkata's Bijoygar, the Poddars are still in deep shock following the death of their 60-year-old mother Basanti Poddar. It was she who wanted to go to Prayagraj, her son Sourav says. "If not for my mother, I wouldn't have gone," he says. Sourav describes the scenes of chaos and disarray at the Sangam ghat as "seeing death up close". "We had gone for a dip. Suddenly, we saw a huge crowd, and there was no one from the police or the state administration or volunteers in sight. There was utter chaos and it was completely disorganised. There were no lines and we were standing, but it was suffocating because there was no crowd management and there were far more people than capacity. Then someone pushed us and we all fell down, and then I don't remember anything else," he says. As more and more people fell on him, he lost sight of the rest of his family. Eventually, he managed to extricate himself and found his

sister and aunt, but his mother remained missing. "By this time, the police were there, so I asked them for help. They gave us a car and told us to go to a hospital for first-aid because we were all injured. I couldn't even take my mother to the hospital. She died at the ghat," he says. Among those who lost their lives is Nitiranj Roy, a 63-year-old proprietor of a sweetmeat shop in Hailakandi, a town in Assam's Barak Valley. He had arrived at Prayagraj on January 25 as part of a large group of 21 comprising immediate and extended family members. "Some members of our family had been to Kumbh Mela earlier. But this was more auspicious because this will happen next only after 144 years," says his younger brother Taposh Roy who is in Prayagraj, waiting to take his brother's body home. "So, we went together hoping for good but will return with tragedy." On Tuesday, the family, staying in separate tents at the Maha Kumbh, had split up after some relatives decided to get a headway and make their way to the ghat before the others. Niranjay was among them. On their way, the group fell down and were trampled upon. While the others eventually got up, Niranjay lay lifeless.

"He was just lying there for a long time because there was no ambulance to take him to the hospital. We pleaded with the police saying that we would carry him ourselves but they told us to wait. When he was taken by police, we couldn't go with him," Roy says. In Karnataka's Belagavi, Deepak Hattarwat waits for authorities to bring the bodies of his wife Jyoti Hattarwat, a 50-year-old BJP worker, and their 25-year-old daughter Megha Hattarwat. The two were part of a group of 13 travellers who had gone to the Maha Kumbh from the state. At 1 am, minutes before she died, Megha had uploaded a video warning people to stay away. "We are at the Maha Kumbh mela, and there is a massive crowd and rush. Those who are planning to come, please avoid if possible. And if you are coming, be careful and hold each other's hand," Megha said in the video. It wasn't until 3 pm Thursday that he knew of their death from a fellow traveller. "I recommended against it but she was adamant. We were planning her wedding," father Deepak Hattarwat says. "What should I do and for whom should I live now?"

— With inputs from SANTOSH SINGH in Patna, TANUSREE BOSE in Kolkata and KIRAN PARASHAR in Bengaluru

India braces for AI challenge, Govt says own foundational model in 4-8 months

developing a foundational model. This is more than the initial aim of the IndiaAI Mission, under which the government was looking to procure 10,000 GPUs. The companies empaneled to provide the GPU services include Jio Platforms, the Hiranandani Group-backed Yotta, Tata Communications, E2E Networks, NxtGen Datacenter, CMS Computers, CtrlS Datacenters, Locuz Enterprise Solutions, Orient Technologies, and Vensysco Technologies. Jio Platforms, E2E Networks, NextGen Datacenter and Cloud Technologies, Locuz Enterprise Solutions and CtrlS Datacenters have emerged as the lowest (L1) bidders for various GPU models during the price discovery process. Of the total proposed GPUs, while Yotta has submitted the highest availability (9,216 units) — almost half of the 18,693 units — it is not the L1 bidder for any class of the GPUs. DeepSeek's entry into the AI space — touted for being open source, its accuracy and claims that it has been built at a fraction of the cost as its US competitors —

has caused an upheaval in the technology industry. It has sent Nvidia's stock on a downward spiral, since DeepSeek's R1 model was trained on inferior GPUs compared with the likes of OpenAI. And its entry has reignited the conversation around stricter export controls. In India, it has prompted a discussion on whether the country is losing in the AI race for want of a domestically developed large language model. "Over the last 1.5 years, our teams have been working closely with startups, researchers, professors etc. Today, we are calling for proposals to develop our own foundational model. The model will take care of the Indian context, languages, culture, and be devoid of biases," Vaishnav told reporters. As per a deck prepared by the IT Ministry, the foundational models will be diverse and "representative of Indian contextual and relevance", "address India-specific challenges and opportunities," and "robust mechanisms for bias mitigation, fairness, and "ethical AI principles". Vaishnav said the government is in touch with at least six

EXPLAINED

One step in building LLM model

INDIA HAS been working over the past several months to put in place an AI ecosystem, and the DeepSeek R1 launch has only given it a boost to go ahead and formally announce its plan for building a foundational model. It can be seen as a step in the road to building a large language model.

developers for building the foundational model, which could take anywhere from 8-10 months. "We will have a world class foundational model in the next few months," the minister said. He also said DeepSeek can get hosted on Indian servers after security checks so that coders, developers and designers can access its open source code. The government is open to funding multiple such models

based on scalability and viability. The intellectual property of the models will remain with the entity with provision for a perpetual license for use by the government for public use. The government has envisioned a two-pronged approach for funding the models: One is an initial direct financial support for the development of the models, which would include milestone-based disbursements. The second is equity-based funding. The minister, however, did not specify how much it would cost to build the model, and the companies the government is currently in touch with. On helping procuring compute power, Vaishnav said that of the 18,693 GPUs approved to be empanelled, roughly 10,000 GPUs are ready to be installed today. Of the total, the government has received bids to install 12,896 Nvidia H100 GPUs, which are among the best units to train AI models. 1,480 units of H200 GPUs, and 742 units of AMD's MI300X and MI325X have been proposed by bidders, among other options. The government will launch

a common compute facility, from where startups and researchers can access the computing power, in the next few days. Vaishnav said the cost of accessing higher end GPUs would be Rs 150 per hour, and using lower end GPUs would cost Rs 115.85 per hour. To further ease access to these services, the government will give a 40 per cent subsidy to end users on the total price. Vaishnav said that globally, the cost of accessing GPU compute is between \$2.5 per hour and \$3 per hour, and with the government's subsidy, the price in India would be around \$1 per hour. As per the terms of empanelment, the bidder quoting the L1 rates for a particular category of compute unit will be empaneled first and all other bidders in that category will be eligible for empanelment if they agree to match the L1 bid. Under the IndiaAI Mission, the government has also selected 18 application-level AI solutions for the first round of funding. Vaishnav said that these applications focus on the areas of agriculture, learning disabilities and climate change.

IAF officer set to pilot mission to space station

he was embarking on a journey on behalf of 1.4 billion people of India, and wanted each one of them to share his experience. Speaking at an online press conference of the Axiom 4 mission from the United States, Shukla (40), who is one of the four astronauts travelling to the International Space Station, said he hoped that his journey would inspire a whole generation of Indians to undertake similar missions in future. The mission is being operated by private space company Axiom Space in partnership with NASA and SpaceX. "While we are in the station for two weeks, we will be performing several scientific missions and conducting several outreach events. I know that right now an entire team is working to ensure that every minute we spend on the station is scheduled for activities to optimise our time there. Our endeavour is to execute this mission with utmost professionalism. I also hope to ignite the curiosity of an entire generation in my country through my mission and drive the innovation that would make many such missions possible in the future," Shukla said. "I also have a personal agenda, of capturing my experi-

ence of onboard the station through pictures and videos so that I can share these with all the Bharatwaasis back home. I want them to share this thrilling experience with my eyes. For I truly believe that even though I, as an individual, am travelling to space, this is the journey of 1.4 billion people," he said. Shukla is one of the four Indian Air Force (IAF) officers selected for Gaganyaan, India's own human spaceflight mission which is now tentatively slated for 2026. The Axiom 4 mission, a result of partnership between ISRO and NASA, materialised before the Gaganyaan mission. The launch date for Axiom 4 mission, which Shukla will pilot, has not been finalised yet. The company says it would happen "no earlier than Spring of 2025", which means anytime between March and June. Just like Shukla, two other astronauts on this mission, Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski from Poland and Tibor Kapu from Hungary, also happen to be the second ever from their respective countries to travel to space. Incidentally, the first human spaceflight of these two countries also happened about four decades ago. The fourth astronaut, Peggy Whitson, is from the US. Shukla revealed that he was in constant touch with Rakesh Sharma, the first Indian to go to space, and was seeking his advice and guidance. Sharma had gone to space aboard a Soviet mission in 1984. "Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma has been actively involved in the (Gaganyaan) process, from selection of the astronauts to the kind of training we are undergoing. He is really involved with the human space mission that we are already executing. We regularly keep in touch. He is a kind of mentor for me and is advising me on a lot of things, of what to expect and how to prepare for this mission," he said. He said that he was carrying something from Sharma into space, but would not like to disclose that before the end of the mission.

Shukla said the Axiom 4 mission was extremely important for India and had come at just the right time. There could be several learnings from this mission that could be incorporated into the Gaganyaan programme, he said. The mission will take all four astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS) for a duration of 14 days, longer than Sharma's 7 days, 21 hours, and 40 minutes in space. The mission is likely to be launched in the spring of 2025, according to NASA. The mission will use SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft. The astronauts underwent training at the European Space Agency (ESA), Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), and Japan Manned Space Systems Corporation (JAMSS). The initial training was carried out at ESA's European Astronaut Centre in Cologne, Germany. There the astronauts learned about the communication systems, emergency response procedures and conducting research activities inside the Columbus module of the ISS. Columbus is a European module of ISS that has a versatile laboratory for interdisciplinary research in microgravity. India's space agency along with the department of biotechnology have been working on developing space biology experiments that may be carried out on-board Axiom-4. Afterwards, the crew underwent training at JAXA's Tsukuba Space Center in Japan, where they were trained on operations of the Japanese Experiment Module Kibo. The training included in-depth knowledge about the module's capability. A mission patch for the astronaut uniform has also been developed, which shows the Earth in the centre of a pentagon, with the names and flags of all four astronauts. There are also seven stars depicted in the centre representing the seven continents. The first private mission to ISS by Axiom space was carried out in April 2022, with a second mission in August the same year. The third mission was launched in May 2023, which included the first woman to command a commercial human spaceflight mission and the first Saudi astronaut to live and work on the ISS.

Goa advances new school session from June to April

Panaji: The Goa Government Thursday announced that the academic year for Classes 6 to 10 and Class 12 will begin from April this year as against the prevailing practice of beginning in the month of June. Director of Education, Shailesh Zingde, said the academic year 2025-26 will start from April 1 for Classes 6 to 10

and 12 for government, government-aided and unaided recognised schools. "The classes will be conducted for the above grades in the month of April up to 11.30 am. The summer vacation will be from May 1, 2025 to June 3, 2025. The schools will follow regular timings from June 4 onwards," the circular said. ENS

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GENERAL ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NCT OF DELHI - 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

BAN ON EXIT/OPINION POLLS ETC.

ATTENTION: NEWS BUREAUS, MEDIA HOUSES, RADIO & TELEVISION CHANNELS, etc.

Attention of general public especially News Bureaus, Media Houses, Radio and Television Channels etc. is drawn towards the Election Commission of India's Notification No. 576/Exit/2025/SDR/Vol.I dated 22th January, 2025 regarding BAN on EXIT POLLS, results of any OPINION POLL/ ANY OTHER POLL SURVEY in print or electronic media or dissemination in any other manner whatsoever. The notification is reproduced below for information and compliance of all concerned.

1. Whereas, the schedule for the current General Election to the Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi, 2025 was announced by the Election Commission vide Press Note bearing No. ECI/PN/169/2025 dated 7th January, 2025.

2. And whereas, as per the provisions of Section 126A of The Representation of the People Act, 1951 (in short R.P. Act, 1951), there shall be restrictions on conduct of any exit poll and publication and dissemination of result of such exit poll during such period, as may be notified by the Election Commission in this regard.

3. Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers under sub-Section (1) of Section 126A of the R.P. Act, 1951, the Election Commission, having regard to the provisions of sub-Section (2) of the said Section, hereby notifies the period between 7.00 AM to 6:30 PM on 05th February, 2025 (Wednesday) as the period during which conducting and publishing or publicizing any exit poll by means of the print or electronic media or dissemination in any other manner whatsoever, the result of any exit poll in connection with the aforesaid General Elections to the Delhi Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi 2025, shall be prohibited.

4. It is further clarified that under Section 126(1)(b) of the R.P. Act, 1951, displaying any election matter including results of any opinion poll or any other poll survey, in any electronic media, would be prohibited during the period of 48 hours ending with the hours fixed for conclusion of poll in connection with aforesaid General Election.

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Flats, Rs 10-lakh insurance: AAP's 7 guarantees to domestic helps

Kejriwal added that on the lines of a labour card, a 'Personal Servant Card' will be made.

AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh said that the issue was also raised in an all-party meeting on Thursday. "With the Parliament session about to begin, every AAP MP will raise this matter with full force. I assure you of our complete commitment on behalf of Arvind Kejriwal and the AAP," he added.

The police said that when he was questioned, Kailash allegedly spoke about how he changed addresses and kept a low profile to avoid detection. Following his arrest, he was handed over to jail authorities.

According to the police, the boy said that a family had claimed he was their missing child, but a biological test ruled out the match. In 2022, he and another boy left the home and separated. Afraid he might be punished for breaking the rules, he went into hiding, the police added.

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Yamuna Expressway: A Game Changer for Connectivity and Real Estate

The Yamuna Expressway, often hailed as one of the most ambitious infrastructural projects in India, connects Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh to Agra, covering a stretch of about 165 kilometers. This expressway, which started for the public in 2012, has revolutionized travel in the region by providing a faster and more efficient route to key destinations in Uttar Pradesh and has flawlessly connected those to cities like Delhi and Noida. However, what began as a simple road link is now evolving into a multifaceted development zone with significant implications for infrastructure, real estate and connectivity.

As of 2025, the Yamuna Expressway continues to be a critical infrastructure asset in northern India. The expressway, well known for its six lanes (Expandable to eight) and state-of-the-art facilities, has undergone several phases of expansion and upgrading since its inception. The Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) has been working diligently to improve road quality and safety features, which include better lighting, emergency services, and advanced traffic management systems.

One of the most significant impacts of the Yamuna Expressway has been on real estate. The expressway has opened up vast tracts of land,

particularly in areas around Greater Noida, Noida, and Agra, which were previously less accessible and less developed. The easy connectivity provided by the expressway has attracted numerous developers, creating a surge in residential, commercial, and industrial projects along its route.

Real estate giants and developers are capitalizing on the expressway's strategic location, offering housing solutions for both mid-income and high-income groups. The planned township developments, such as the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Area (YEIDA), have been designed to provide integrated living spaces with commercial, recreational, and educational facilities. With affordable pricing and access to high-quality infrastructure, properties along the Yamuna Expressway have seen increasing demand from homebuyers and investors alike.

The expressway's direct connectivity to the National Capital Region (NCR) and its proximity to the emerging industrial hubs of Greater Noida and Noida have made it an attractive option for businesses looking to set up operations. Not only does the expressway facilitate smoother logistics for industrial sectors, but it also serves as a magnet for retail and commercial establishments.

The rise of tech parks, data centers, and industrial corridors along the expressway has created a lucrative environment for business investment, making it a central point in Uttar Pradesh's industrial growth. According to recent reports, the region's real estate market is expected to continue its upward trajectory as more businesses and professionals flock to the area, seeking proximity to the expressway.

The future of the Yamuna Expressway looks even more promising, with several key projects already in the pipeline. Among the most anticipated is the upcoming extension of the expressway, which will link it to the Eastern Peripheral Expressway (EPE) and the new Noida International Airport at Jewar which is expected to be operational in the current year only. An Olympic city and a new film city is also coming up in this region. The completion of these extensions will further enhance the expressway's connectivity, making it an even more vital route for passengers and cargo.

The Noida Airport, being developed as an international aviation hub, is expected to be a major catalyst for growth in the area. Once operational, the airport will not only increase the number of tourists visiting the region but also provide a boost to the economy by enhancing trade and logistics

operations. The Yamuna Expressway's direct link to the airport will make travel even more convenient, offering a seamless connection between land, air, and rail transport.

Another significant future development is the proposed industrial zone along the expressway. The state government is planning to build a dedicated industrial corridor stretching from Greater Noida to Agra, which will focus on attracting investments in sectors like manufacturing, logistics, and information technology. The expressway will serve as a key artery for the movement of goods, reducing logistical costs and boosting industrial output.

From the sustainability point of view, efforts are being made through the implementation of green technologies in new real estate developments and the expansion of eco-friendly transportation infrastructure. Plans are in place to enhance the green cover along the expressway, with plantations and eco-restoration projects being carried out in parallel with infrastructure development. The future vision for the region incorporates clean energy, waste management, and water conservation systems to create a more sustainable and eco-friendly environment for residents and businesses.



Ajay Chaudhary
FOUNDER, CHAIRMAN AND
MANAGING DIRECTOR, ACE



"The Yamuna Expressway has significantly transformed the landscape of the region. As connectivity improves, so do the opportunities for growth in real estate, business, and infrastructure. We believe that this is a good start, and the future developments along the expressway will redefine how we live and do business in this area. In last year, we have started 2 residential and 1 commercial projects in this corridor and in this year we will be coming up with more."

In conclusion, the Yamuna Expressway is already a crucial piece of infrastructure, and its ongoing and future developments are set to amplify its role as a driving force for economic and industrial growth. With improved connectivity, industrial expansion, and real estate development, the expressway will continue to shape the region's economic landscape in the years to come.



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ROW OVER 'POISONOUS' RIVER WATER CONTINUES

Take a sip of Yamuna water or apologise: AAP to BJP, Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

WITH FOUR bottles of water that had “7 ppm of ammonia and chlorine”, each labelled with the names of Home Minister Amit Shah, Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva, Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, the AAP challenged the leaders to take a sip at a press conference or issue a public apology.

AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, during a press conference, said the Nayab Singh Saini-led Haryana government had ignored appeals from the Delhi government to rectify the problem of ammonia entering the riverstream from the neighbouring state.

Kejriwal said, “Today, we have kept bottles of 7 ppm ammonia water mixed with chlorine. The BJP and Congress have joined forces — both are playing with the health and lives of the people of Delhi. We are sending these bottles to: Amit Shah, Virendra Sachdeva, Nayab Singh Saini and Rahul Gandhi. Let these four leaders drink this ammonia-



AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal, with party MP Sanjay Singh, at a press conference on the Yamuna row, Thursday. ANI

mixed water in a press conference. If they do, we will accept that we were wrong,” he said.

The EC has sent notices to Kejriwal for calling the water “poisonous”.

During the press conference, Kejriwal said, “Toxic water means that the level of ammonia in it has risen significantly — up to 7 ppm. Ammonia at this level is extremely dangerous to health; it can cause irreversible damage to multiple organs and pose a severe health hazard. It can even be fatal — exposure to such high levels of ammonia in water can lead to death.”

He said his party raised this-

sue a few days ago because it was left with no choice. “... Atishi ji called Nayab Singh Saini ji — once, twice, three times, four times — requesting him to take action, as the rising ammonia levels posed a threat to lives.”

Hitting back at Kejriwal, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Thursday released a video flagging the issue of pollutants in Yamuna and challenged Kejriwal to take a dip in it.

In a post in Hindi on X, Gandhi said, “Kejriwal ji, now 2025 has come. When will you take a dip in the Yamuna? Delhi is waiting!”

Yamuna board said ammonia every year, no easy solutions

AGGAM WALIA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE RISE in ammonia levels in the Yamuna river due to pollution entering from Panipat and Sonipat was discussed by the Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB) in December 2023, with the Member-Secretary of the board stating that the problem “occurs almost every year”, according to documents obtained through the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

The Upper Yamuna River Board regulates allocation of Yamuna waters from its source in Uttarakhand up to the Okhla barrage.

A raging war has ensued between political parties in the course of Delhi election campaign with former Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party’s Arvind Kejriwal accusing BJP-ruled Haryana of “water terrorism” and deliberately contaminating the Yamuna.

In the December 2023 UYRB meeting, however, “no converging suggestions” were made by board members representing state governments in Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, and the issue was placed for discussion in a later meeting, RTI documents show.

Then, at a February 2024 meeting of the Upper Yamuna River Committee (UYRC), chaired by then Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Delhi Chief Minister Atishi – who was Water Minister at the time – raised concerns over ammonia pollution in the Yamuna. She pointed to untreated sewage from Panipat (DD-2) and leakages from drains DD-6 to DD-8, and said the resulting contamination had led to a water crisis in Delhi due to reduced supply.

The committee acknowledged the issue, noting that the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the National Mission

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW
AN EXPRESS RTI APPLICATION

for Clean Ganga (NMCG) were taking “necessary actions related to abatement of ammonia pollution”.

Responding to Kejriwal’s attack, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini hit back, demanding an apology and calling the allegation an insult to the state. “Kejriwal has insulted the land where he was born... The people of Haryana consider Yamuna a holy river and worship it. Why would they mix poison in its water?” he said.

Ammonia spikes are a recurring problem in Delhi. They become a cause of worry as water treatment plants in the Capital cannot treat water with ammonia content of over 1 ppm, resulting in supply disruptions. Over the past week, the peak concentration of ammoniacal nitrogen (a measure of nitrogenous organic matter as ammonia) in the Wazirabad pond, where water comes from Haryana and is sent to the water treatment plant, was 7 ppm.

The problem is not new. The Yamuna is driest between November and February when there is hardly any rain upstream. With fresh water falling to its lowest during winter months, the concentration of pollutants increases.

In the December 2023 meeting, UYRB, under the Jal Shakti ministry, noted that the situation regarding pollution entering river Yamuna from Panipat and Sonipat was being monitored by CPCB.

“Chairman, UYRB requested all the Members to give suggestions regarding the way forward in respect of actions to be taken by UYRB in this regard. No converging suggestions were made by Members. After deliberation, it

was decided that CPCB may examine the issue and give their views on the way forward in respect of action to be taken,” as per the minutes of the meeting.

A February 2024 report of the Lok Sabha’s Standing Committee on Water Resources found that out of 33 locations on river Yamuna, the water quality at 23 locations, 6 out of 7 in Delhi, and 6 out of 10 in Haryana, was non-compliant with pollution standards between January 2021 and May 2023.

“The Committee learn from the deposition of the representative of the NMCG that the river Yamuna has been categorised into three parts viz., the part from Yamunotri to Hathnikund Barrage may be considered as unpolluted stretch, the part from Hathnikund Barrage to Palla is moderately polluted, however, the part from Palla to Okhla, basically the Delhi stretch is severely polluted,” the report said.

The culprit is runoff from farmland, direct discharge of effluents from industries where ammonia is used and untreated sewage are all major sources of ammonia pollution. Dye units, distilleries and other factories concentrated in Panipat and Sonipat in Haryana and illegal units in Delhi, as well as untreated sewage from colonies in Delhi are behind the pollution.

During a June 2024 meeting of the board, Delhi appealed to the Haryana government on “humanitarian grounds” for an additional 150 cusecs of water per day until the monsoon, citing a severe shortage triggered by heat waves.

Haryana, however, ruled out releasing additional water, pointing to excessive demand across its rural and urban areas. In its submission, Haryana attributed Delhi’s water scarcity to its “unwillingness to improve its distribution system” and “mismanagement of water resources”, documents show.

KAPURTHALA HOUSE

At Punjab CM’s house in Delhi, EC & police arrive to probe MCC violation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

A COMPLAINT on the Election Commission’s (EC) mobile app cVIGIL alleging money was being distributed from Kapurthala House, the official residence of the Punjab Chief Minister in Delhi, sparked controversy Thursday. While a team of the EC and Delhi Police was initially denied entry, they entered the premises after nearly two hours, only to return in 15-20 minutes, claiming their search had not been completed.

Around 4.30 pm, a team of EC officials, accompanied by Delhi Police officers, reached the site for a check based on the complaint. Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann, who has been campaigning for the Delhi polls for the past several days, was participating in a roadshow with Delhi Chief Minister Atishi at that time.

On X, Atishi posted around 5 pm: “Delhi Police has raided Bhagwant Mann ji’s house in Delhi. BJP members are distributing money, shoes, sheets in broad daylight — that is not visible. Instead, they go to raid the residence of an elected Chief Minister. Wow BJP! People of Delhi will give their answer on 5th.”

Delhi votes on February 5.



Police personnel outside Kapurthala House, Thursday. PTI

The team that had reached Kapurthala House included the Returning Officer, members of the EC’s Flying Squad Team (FST), and Delhi Police officers.

Returning Officer P Pandey, who led the EC search team, told mediapersons: “We received a complaint regarding money distribution. We are required to dispose of these complaints in 100 minutes; our FST came (to Kapurthala House), we were not allowed to enter... We requested we be allowed to enter with me and a cameraperson... It is a cVIGIL complaint, anyone can file it...”

DCP (New Delhi) Devesh Mahala, meanwhile, said police officers accompanied the EC team “on requisition and requirement for safety of FST”.

In a post on X, Mann wrote: “Today, an EC team along with Delhi Police has reached Kapurthala House residence for a raid. The BJP is openly distributing money in Delhi, but the Delhi Police and EC are not seen to be doing anything. In a way, the EC and Delhi Police are disrespecting Punjabis at the BJP’s directions. This is deplorable.”

In a clarification, the District

Election Office, New Delhi, wrote on X: “It has come to our attention misleading claims are being circulated regarding the inspection conducted at Kapurthala House... In the interest of transparency, we wish to set the record straight with the following facts: 1.Complaint and arrival of FST: A cVIGIL complaint... was received on January 30 at 3.40 pm, alleging distribution of cash at Kapurthala House. The Flying Squad Team of AC-40, New Delhi Assembly Constituency, led by Executive Magistrate reached Kapurthala House at 4.15 pm to investigate the complaint. 2.Denial of entry and police complaint: Upon arrival, the FST team requested entry but was denied access by security officials, who stated they required approval from higher authorities as the premises served as the official residence of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Punjab. After multiple attempts..., the FST team lodged a formal complaint with the SHO (Tughlak Road) at 5.50 pm for obstruction of official duty.”

“3. Not allowed entry to bungalow rooms: At 6.40 pm, after prolonged delays, the FST team and the official were finally allowed entry till security point. Security personnel of Kapurthala House frisked the FST and offi-

cials. They then agreed for an inspection of the periphery and lawns but denied access to the rooms of the bungalow, which remained locked. 4. No search conducted, complaint remains unresolved: As the rooms were locked and access was restricted, the FST team... left the spot without conducting any search. Consequently, the cVIGIL complaint could not be resolved...”

“The claims that the FST thoroughly searched every ‘hook and corner’ of Kapurthala House are factually incorrect. The Returning Officer’s official report confirms the team was denied entry into the locked rooms... The obstruction of an official investigation into an electoral complaint is a matter of concern and has been duly reported to competent authorities.”

Condemning the action, AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal posted on X, “Look at the open hooliganism of BJP! Its leaders are openly distributing money, jackets, saris, shoes. Police and the EC are turning a blind eye despite seeing everything. The law has become a joke for the BJP. On the other hand, they are raiding the house of the Punjab CM without any proof. If this is not hooliganism, what is? The BJP has turned government institutions into its fiefdom...”

Jhaadu will wipe out BJP’s dishonesty... don’t waste your vote: Akhilesh in Kirari

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

APPEALING TO the people of Delhi to not “waste” their ballot, Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday urged residents “wipe out” BJP and its “dishonesty”. Akhilesh, who was in the city to campaign for his INDIA bloc ally AAP, participated in a roadshow in Outer Delhi’s Kirari with AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal.

Standing atop a tempo, Yadav said AAP has made it clear that it is going to defeat the BJP in the February 5 polls. Brandishing a *jhaadu* (AAP’s party symbol), he told the crowd, “Do you see this *jhaadu*... this is going to wipe out BJP’s dishonesty. I appeal to the people here to wipe out BJP. Vote in favour of the broom.”

“Each of your votes should go in favour of the broom... Your vote should not be wasted. To defeat BJP, every single vote should be cast for AAP... the work they have done in Delhi — be it education, health sector or providing 24 hours of electricity — shows they care for you...,” he added.

“The AAP model of governance is an example not only in the country but also across the world,” he added. “Even BJP is saying they will not stop Kejriwal ji’s model in Delhi... They are so scared of these (AAP’s welfare) schemes...,” said Akhilesh.

Addressing mediapersons after the roadshow, Yadav said, “People of Delhi are very smart and will not fall into the trap of BJP.” “The AAP will form the government again in Delhi and BJP will lose all 70 seats,” he added.

The SP chief, however, did not speak about another INDIA bloc ally, the Congress. Despite being



AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav at a roadshow in Kirari on Thursday. Tashi Tobgyal

part of the INDIA bloc, several key parties — including SP, Trinamool Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT), and NCP (Sharad Pawar faction) — have extended their support to AAP over Congress in Delhi.

Kejriwal, however, accused Congress of collaborating with BJP to defeat AAP in Delhi. At the roadshow, he said: “*Congress aur BJP mai inu inu, I love you I love you ho raha hai*... be careful... Voting for Congress means you are making BJP win. And if BJP comes to power, Delhi will become hell and all schemes — free electricity, water, bus travel for women, health and education — will be stopped.”

“If you want save Rs 25,000 every month, vote for AAP on February 5 and ensure it gets

majority,” he added.

From Kirari, AAP has fielded Anil Jha, a former BJP MLA who had joined the party in the run-up to the polls. He replaced sitting AAP MLA Rituraj Jha. Anil will take on BJP’s Bajrang Shukla and Congress’ Rajesh Gupta.

Kirari, densely populated with unauthorised colonies, is home to Purvanchalis — a term used to describe migrants from Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh in Delhi. The people here mostly belong to the lower middle class and economically weaker sections. Besides, villages like Kirari and Nithari also house a large number of Jats and Haryanvis.

According to residents, the major problems that Kirari faces

are water scarcity, poor roads and overflowing sewers.

Rohtash has been living in Prem Nagar, where the roadshow was held, for 20 years and runs a small business. “AAP has won from here (in 2015 and 2020) but MLA Rituraj never visited the area and got any work done. During the monsoon, our businesses shut and children cannot go to school because of waterlogging... We gave AAP 10 years... now the government will change.”

Simran Kumari, another local, however, still has faith in AAP. “My vote will go to AAP... I studied in a government school and know how Kejriwal changed it... we need such leaders who care about the people.”

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

In Kalkaji, woman who climbed Mt Everest helps Cong candidate woo voters

SAKSHI CHAND
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

FOR THE past few days, a woman can regularly be seen shadowing Congress’s Alka Lamba as she goes around campaigning in Kalkaji for the February 5 polls. The 29-year-old, who can be seen interacting with local residents and helping Lamba in her campaign, is no ordinary party worker. She is Megha Parmar, the first woman from Madhya Pradesh to climb Mount Everest.

A member of Congress since 2022, Parmar is pursuing PhD in ‘Importance of Yoga in Adventure Sports’. A trained underwater diver, paraglider and an expert

mountain climber, she has not only scaled the Everest but also five peaks in different continents, including Mount Kilimanjaro.

Hailing from Bhojnagar village in Madhya Pradesh’s Sehore, Parmar’s father is a farmer and her mother a homemaker. She also has a younger brother.

Parmar says in her village, girls don’t play with others or go outside their homes to play once they attain puberty. Trapped at home, for Parmar, sports was a medium of expression, a place where she felt free and in control.

Fitness came naturally to her as she resided on the second floor and had to take the stairs multiple times to fill around 15 pots of water daily from a hand

pump. The round trips built her muscle strength.

In 2015, when she was studying in a government college, her teacher asked her to participate in a judo competition. “No woman was participating in my weight category,” she says. This led Parmar to take part in a few other such contests.

Next year, she joined the National Cadet Corps (NCC). “When you can’t afford private colleges or other perks in life, you start looking at what is free and accessible. You make the most of what is available. So, I joined the NCC... I also enrolled for a basic mountain climbing course.”

Later, she read about two men climbing Mount Everest in the



newspaper. She went on to discover that no woman from MP has till now achieved this feat and decided she would be the first.

In 2018, when the Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP government was in power in the state, she was granted sponsorship from the state and undertook the journey to scale Mount Everest. But as luck would have it, she fell short by 700 m.

“Though I could not complete the expedition, news spread that I had climbed Mount Everest. When I returned, I in-

Megha Parmar, the first woman from MP to climb Mount Everest. Express

formed everyone that it was an unsuccessful attempt. Following this, I received a lot of hate and trolling,” says Parmar.

“I never told anyone that I had completed the expedition. How the news spread and how I was portrayed after that really hit me hard,” she adds.

Soon after, Congress returned to power in the state. Determined to be the first woman from MP to climb Mount Everest, Parmar restarted her journey. In 2019, the Congress government sponsored her expedition and on May 22, she made it to the highest mountain peak in the world.

It wasn’t easy, Parmar says. “You see bodies, your friends leave your side... lack of food, oxygen...

and the will to be mentally strong, it takes a lot to reach there”.

She was, however, the happiest when she returned home. “My father was tossed like a football on shoulders by relatives and villagers, even strangers. The entire village was proud of me.”

“What really made the difference was when women started saying they would also want their daughters to climb the Everest,” she says, describing it as her biggest achievement.

Soon after, she made the face of ‘Beti Padhao, Beti Bachao campaign’ in Madhya Pradesh. In 2022, she joined the Congress.

For Parmar, the difference between BJP and Congress is that the latter gives “clear cut re-

sponses” when compared to the other. “Women leaders in politics always impressed me... I thought it could be a bigger platform to help people,” she adds.

On January 15, this year, hardly a month after her wedding, she came to Delhi and started helping Lamba in her campaign. She has been living on rent along with other party workers.

Her day usually begins around 10 am and ends at 5.30-6 pm. “Alka ma’am doesn’t let us step out post dark keeping in mind our safety. The day goes in meeting people and telling them about the party and the candidate. I love being part of door-to-door campaigns as we get more time to interact with people,” she adds.

JK LAKSHMI CEMENT

ADVERTORIAL

Bridging Progress and Sustainability with Green Building Solutions

JK Lakshmi Cement Limited has come to represent a strong underpinning of sustainability in development as it has spearheaded the practice of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles in the company's functions. With an inheritance of innovation and responsibility, the company has made tremendous efforts towards a greener India. The organisation, with its strategic intent and focus on sustainability, has launched pioneering products such as **JK Lakshmi Green+ Cement** to re-define its position in the industry.

By embedding sustainability across its value chain, JKLC aligns itself with global environmental goals, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). An important element of its sustainable environment is the desire to be completely carbon-neutral and have net-zero emissions by 2047. All these have a multi-pronged approach to renewable energy adaptation, improved efficiency in energy generation, and intelligent waste management mechanisms.



MR. ARUN SHUKLA
President & Director, JK Lakshmi Cement Ltd.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AS THE CORE PRINCIPLE OF JK LAKSHMI CEMENT

The organisation's foundation lies in being reliant on renewable sources of energy and thereby reducing its carbon footprint through various methods. In FY 2024-25, the company reached a **green energy usage rate of 47%**, with a vision to meet 100% of its electrical energy needs through renewables by 2040. With a production capacity of 16.5 million metric tons per annum, JK Lakshmi Cement is strategically expanding through both greenfield and brownfield projects to cross 30 million metric tons per annum by 2030.

The company reported 81% cement capacity utilisation and 102% clinker capacity utilisation for FY 2023-24. Innovations in its process, such as waste heat recovery systems (WHRS), further strengthened its capacities while cutting energy consumption by half. Waste heat recovery systems (WHRS) at its facilities have been used to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. The waste heat recovery capacity increased to 45.4 MW in FY 2023-24.

In addition, JK Lakshmi Cement has encouraged the usage of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) trucks in logistics operations which minimises its carbon footprint. The TSR currently stands at 7%. By utilising alternate fuels, the firm anticipates TSR achievement to be 20% by 2030.

WATER CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY-CENTRIC INITIATIVES

Believing that water is an important resource, JK Lakshmi Cement has established guidelines for improving water efficiency within the organisation. With a positive water level of 5.48X, the organisation has



by continuous usage of waste materials. Its mining strategy is safety- and conservation-centric, with the implementation of scientific methods such as SME (Site Mix Emulsion) blasting for reduced ground vibration and noise. The company also sprinkles water 24/7 in the mining areas to control dust.

JK LAKSHMI GREEN+ CEMENT

As part of its commitment to promoting sustainable construction practices, JK Lakshmi Cement has introduced JK Lakshmi Green+ Cement to the market. Innovative building solutions with minimal environmental damage represent the company's philosophy of deliv-

ering environmentally friendly building solutions without compromising on quality or durability. Green+ Cement gives structural stability, is corrosion resistant and continues to gain strength over a period of time being a PPC.

JK Lakshmi Green+ Cement has received the **GreenPro Certification** from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), which further enhances its environmental credentials. The certification assesses products based on a holistic framework that measures their "greenness," energy efficiency, waste management, and compliance with sustainability standards. The achievement of this certification places the company among industry leaders in promoting sustainable construction materials.

JK Lakshmi Green+ Cement is made from advanced technology with a minimal carbon footprint and optimal utilisation of resources. Formulation of the product uses fly ash and slag, which are industrial by-products that give greater strength and durability to the cement while consuming fewer virgin raw materials). By providing customers with a sustainable yet performing product, JK Lakshmi Cement is guiding them to make responsible choices that contribute to a low-carbon economy.

Commitment to Innovation and the Future

JK Lakshmi Cement's journey toward sustainability is marked by a culture of innovation. The company has embraced digital transformation to enhance operational efficiency, reduce waste, and improve stakeholder engagement. These efforts aim to meet the growing demand for green building solutions while maintaining a focus on sustainability.

Besides, it also cooperates with other global organisations and industry associations, including the Global Cement and Concrete Association (GCCA) and UN Global Compact (UNGC), to match its sustainability practices with international standards.

A VISION FOR A GREENER TOMORROW

The cement industry's reliance on energy-intensive processes and the volatility of raw material costs are areas that require continuous innovation and investment. However, the company's proactive measures, such as the adoption of alternative fuels and renewable energy, position it well to overcome these challenges and set new benchmarks for sustainability.

JK Lakshmi is concentrating its innovative product portfolio on Indian specialty products, such as JK Lakshmi Cement Green+ & Platinum Heavy Duty Cement, which are designed to overcome the challenges of Indian construction. These products have advanced technology to meet the criteria for strength, durability, and performance of the environment. By merging technological innovation, custodianship for the environment, and community involvement, JK Lakshmi Cement is building a better future where economics and sustainability both go hand in hand. What it does happens to be an example for other industries to tread on which is 'progress shall not have to come at the cost of the planet'.

The company's success in advancing its ESG goals is also a result of strategic partnerships with like-minded organisations. By joining hands with global leaders in sustainability, JK Lakshmi Cement is fostering a culture of shared responsibility and innovation. These collaborations are not limited to operational efficiencies but extend to advocacy for sustainable policies and practices within the industry. This multi-stakeholder approach amplifies the company's impact, creating a ripple effect across the cement sector and beyond.

LOOKING AHEAD

Where the country's infrastructure needs continue to grow, JK Lakshmi Cement is ready for such demands from a responsible perspective. Its focus on green innovations, like composite cement, along with upgraded energy-efficient practices, reflects its capacity to adapt to the movement of market dynamics while staying true to its sustainability commitments. The company would envision a future where every project it undertakes contributes to a sustainable legacy, ensuring that its growth aligns with the broader goals of environmental preservation and social upliftment.

JK Lakshmi Cement's approach to ESG is integrated. This is evident in its focus on building a sustainable future through climate change, community development, and product innovation initiatives that help contribute to the green transformation of India. JK Lakshmi Cement is leading the way with products like JK Lakshmi Green+ Cement as it continues to drive growth responsibly while advocating a better tomorrow for all.



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8 GOVT & POLITICS

BJP'S 2024 LS POLL EXPENDITURE REPORT

BJP spent ₹1,737 crore — three times Cong's spend on LS, 4 states

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE BJP spent ₹1,737.68 crore on contesting the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, almost three times the Congress' combined expenditure of ₹584.65 crore on parliamentary and four state polls last year. The BJP's expenditure shot up by 37% from its 2019 election expenditure of ₹1,264.33 crore, according to the party's expenditure report submitted to the Election Commission.

The report published by the EC on Thursday shows that the BJP spent ₹1,492.39 crore on "general party propaganda" and ₹245.29 crore on candidates during the Lok Sabha elections, in which it won 240 seats and formed the government with its NDA allies.

About 35% of the total expenditure of ₹611.50 crore was spent on advertisements on electronic and print media, social media, phone calls and text messages. Nearly 30% of the amount spent on advertising went to Google India (₹156.95 crore) and Facebook (₹24.63 crore), the report showed.

Of the expenditure borne by the BJP headquarters, ₹168.92 crore was spent on the travel of star campaigners, including BJP

president J P Nadda, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and other senior leaders. The party spent ₹55.75 crore on publicity materials, including hoardings, cut-outs, stickers, handbills, caps, flags and sarees. It spent ₹19.84 crore on organising public meetings. The party also declared expenditure of ₹19.58 crore on two surveys and ₹1.79 crore on "Namo Stalls".

The party's expenditure report, dated January 22, was filed well past the EC's 90-day deadline for Lok Sabha elections. In the cover letter along with the report, the party wrote: "We regret the delay in the submission of the information."

The Congress spent ₹584.65 crore on contesting the Lok Sabha election and Assembly polls in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim in 2024, as per its report published by the EC in October. The report, submitted in August 2024, showed that 70% of the party's spending was on advertisements.

The Election Commission announced the elections to the Lok Sabha and four Assemblies on March 16, 2024. The seven-phase elections concluded with the counting of votes on June 4, 2024.



REMEMBERING THE MAHATMA

President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and others pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary, at Rajghat in New Delhi on Thursday. *Renuka Puri*

EVE OF BUDGET SESSION

All-party meet: BJP allies join Opp in seeking wider talks on 'one election' Bill

LIZ MATHEW

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

FROM THE Maha Kumbh Mela stampede to the composition and functioning of parliamentary committees to the number of sittings of Parliament, Opposition MPs on Thursday raised various concerns during the all-party meeting ahead of the Budget Session of Parliament, beginning January 31.

Sources said two issues raised by the Opposition found support from NDA allies. While the JD(U)'s Sanjay Jha urged the government to hold "wider consultations" on the One Nation One Election Bill, echoing the demand of Opposition parties, a number of parties including the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and JD(U) — the NDA's largest constituents after the BJP — expressed their unhappiness over the seating arrangement in the Lower House after the 18th Lok Sabha was constituted. Many parties had not been allotted seats together, MPs pointed out.

A number of Opposition leaders expressed concerns over the launch of Chinese Artificial Intelligence (AI) app DeepSeek, and urged the government to hold



Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, JP Nadda, Kiren Rijju and other leaders during an all-party meeting on Thursday.

a debate in both Houses of Parliament on the issue.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Health Minister J P Nadda, Union ministers Kiren Rijju, Arjun Ram Meghwal and L Murugan represented the Treasury Benches at the meeting.

On the Kumbh stampede, Opposition leaders targeted the Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government, attributing the tragedy to "mismanagement" of the Mela and "introduction of VIP culture" in the conduct of religious events. Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Ram Gopal Yadav led the charge against the UP government of turning holy baths into

an event for VIPs, calling it the main reason for the stampede, RJD leader Manoj Jha said superstitious via new rituals and practices were being extended to religious events.

But what dominated discussions at the more than two-hour meeting was the Opposition leaders' criticism of "the lack of transparency and objectivity" in the composition and functioning of the Standing Committees. Gaurav Gogoi, Deputy Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha, accused the government of "bulldozing" through the Waqf (Amendment) Bill Joint Committee of Parliament.

Govt marching country into 'middle income trap', says Cong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

TWO DAYS before the tabling of the Union Budget, the Congress Thursday released a report on the "Real State of the Economy" saying the government "is marching India forward into the middle income trap, which will make us uncompetitive, underproductive, and unequal".

Congress leader P Chidambaram, a former Union finance minister, told reporters at a press conference: "The economy is in a slowdown and that can't be denied. And it may have fallen up to two per cent of the previous year's growth. The second important factor is that there are no jobs. Youth employment is perhaps close to 40 per cent. Among graduates, the unemployment rate is close to 30 per cent."

He said wages have stagnated for four or five years, "especially rural, agricultural and daily wages".

"In the meanwhile, inflation is raging. Look at food inflation, education inflation and healthcare inflation. All are in double digits," said Chidambaram.

Chidambaram said that there is "huge inequality" and no one is denying that the "upper crust of one per cent is extremely wealthy".

Cloud over MVA: Raut says many in BJP want to align with Sena (UBT)

VALLABH OZARKAR
MUMBAI, JANUARY 30

IN WHAT may widen cracks within the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut said Thursday that many in the BJP are in favour of the two outfits coming together. Adding that no official talks had taken place, he said that many in his party may also have similar sentiments.

Raut's statement followed a meeting between Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and BJP minister Chandrakant Patil at a wedding recently, where Patil said that such a union would be "a golden moment" for him.

Referring to this, Raut said: "Chandrakant Patil has been a supporter of the Shiv Sena-BJP alliance since the beginning... The alliance earlier had an older generation, including leaders like Chandrakant dada. Now, there are many newbies in the BJP. They do not understand the importance of this alliance of 25 years... But the feelings of Chandrakant Patil are the same as the feelings of many in that party. Because we worked well with them (the BJP) for 25 years." Raut added that the Sena (when it was united) also worked well with Narendra Modi, hinting that it were other senior BJP leaders who were responsible for the split.

Thanking Patil for "expressing his feelings", Raut also claimed that the Eknath Shinde Sena's alliance with the BJP would not last. "His faction will be broken like our Sena was broken."

Asked about a re-alliance with the BJP, several Sena (UBT) leaders such as Bhaskar Jadhav and Vinayak Raut, and others off the record, said they would go along with whatever decision was taken by Uddhav.

"Whatever our party chief decides will be acceptable to all of us," said Kailas Patil, the Sena (UBT) MLA from Dharavasi.

Ambadas Danve, the Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council, said it was true that "many in the BJP and Sena (UBT)



Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut

feel that the two parties should be together since it is a natural alliance", adding that any decision on it however would be taken by Uddhav.

The buzz about a change in equations between the Sena (UBT) and BJP first started following a meeting between BJP leader and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Uddhav during the Winter Session of the Maharashtra Assembly last month. Uddhav, who was accompanied by son Aaditya and other Sena (UBT) MLAs, had said he met Fadnavis to congratulate him on becoming the CM.

Aaditya has had other meetings with Fadnavis as well since the Assembly elections, in which the MVA was stunned by the BJP-led Mahayuti alliance.

Next up are the civic elections in Maharashtra, including for the prestigious Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). The undivided Sena enjoyed a monopoly in the BMC, and Uddhav cannot afford to concede any further ground to the Shinde Sena.

The meeting between BJP minister Chandrakant Patil and Uddhav took place at the wedding reception of BJP MLA Parag Alavani's daughter. Uddhav's PA and MLC Milind Narvekar asked Patil at the function when the two leaders would come together again. To that, Patil quipped, "I'm waiting for that golden moment."

Responding to that, Raut said Thursday: "We joined the MVA because of the adamant nature of some people in the BJP... If we look at the reasons over which the 25-year alliance broke, our stance was right. What we were demanding from the BJP was given to Eknath Shinde after our party split. Amit Shah rejected our demand (of a Sena CM), and decided to break the Shiv Sena."

Army pension: SC pulls up Centre for 'dragging' retired personnel to court, says frame policy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE SUPREME Court on Thursday pulled up the Centre for "dragging" retired armed forces personnel to court and asked it to frame a policy on the issue.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan said each and every member of the armed forces who was awarded relief of disability pension from the Armed Forces Tribunal need not be dragged to the top court and the Centre ought to exercise some discretion in filing appeals.

"There has to be some pragmatic view. An army personnel works for 15, 20 years and suppose there is some disability, and order of the Armed Forces Tribunal directs payment of dis-

ability pension. Why should these persons be dragged to the Supreme Court?" asked the bench.

It went on, "We are of the view that the Union government must evolve a policy. There has to be some scrutiny before a decision is taken to drag members of the armed forces to the Supreme Court." Observing "frivolous appeals" were being filed by the Centre, the apex court said the morale of the armed forces couldn't be let down by filing such pleas against the relief.

"You say whether you are willing to frame a policy. And if you say no then we will have to start imposing heavy costs whenever we find that the appeal appears to be frivolous," the bench cautioned the Centre's counsel.

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



PRIVACY FACTOR

AT THE all-party meeting convened by the government on Thursday, NCP(SP)'s Rajya Sabha MP Fauzia Khan raised an issue which was very different from the others. She said the structure of the new Parliament building was "not at all women-friendly and gender-sensitive". The MP pointed out that the toilets for men and women on the premises were designed in such a way that they faced each other, ignoring the privacy of women, said sources. Khan also wanted the government to make space for a crèche and breastfeeding rooms for young mothers in the new Parliament building, the sources said.

POLL VAULT

AT THE joint roadshow of AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal and Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav in Delhi on Thursday, the former targeted both the Congress and the BJP, claiming that the two parties were contesting the Assembly elections together and there was "ILU-ILU" (a Hindi film song suggesting romantic ties) between them. Akhilesh, however, did not remark on the Congress, targeting only the BJP and appealing in support of the AAP candidates. The Samajwadi Party, Congress and AAP are constituents of the INDIA bloc, but the latter two are contesting the Delhi elections separately. The SP, which has an alliance with the Congress in Uttar Pradesh, has announced its support only for the AAP in Delhi.

SPECIAL SEND-OFF

DIRECTOR GENERAL of Forest and Special Secretary, Environment Ministry, Jitendra Kumar will retire from service on Friday (January 31). Prior to the ministry's farewell, senior officials of the department and linked agencies, including National Tiger Conservation Authority, gathered at the Civil Services Officers' Institute on Wednesday to bid adieu to the officer. Additional Director General of Forest (Wildlife) Sushil Awasthi will succeed Kumar as the next DG, Forest.

Budget crucial for BJP, Opp sharpens knives

LIZ MATHEW

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

AS THE OPPOSITION gears up to question the Narendra Modi government over "economic slowdown" plus global challenges post-Donald Trump, in the Budget Session that begins Friday, within the BJP too there is a sense that it is the most critical Budget of the Prime Minister's three terms.

It's the first full Budget by the Modi government without a majority, having been reduced to 240 seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. And the government begins from a position of disadvantage following the Kumbh Mela stampede tragedy.

A BJP leader said: "The Budget presented in July last year was pre-

pared in a hurry... In 2014, expectations were low and in 2019, the hope of change still existed. This one comes against the backdrop of a volatile market, devaluation of the rupee and an international scenario with uncertainties."

The preceding Budget Session of Parliament had ended on a bitter note, with two BJP MPs claiming injuries caused in a scuffle outside Parliament. The Congress, which will reach out to other Opposition leaders for joint meetings, said there were several issues the party wanted to raise, while adding that the onus was as much on BJP MPs to maintain order.

Congress whip Manickam Tagore said: "Certainly, the stampede at Kumbh Mela will be raised as a failure of the BJP government (in Uttar Pradesh).

Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi will also take on the government over issues of favouritism towards Gautam Adani and the BJP's disregard for B R Ambedkar."

The latter two are issues that the Congress has been targeting the Modi government on consistently — though there is disagreement within Opposition ranks over Gandhi's focus on Adani.

The issues on which the Opposition is expected to find common cause include indications of an economic slowdown, as well as the widespread changes expected, from immigration to visas and tariffs, with Trump becoming the US President. The CPI(M) said it will raise the challenge post the breakthrough in artificial intelligence by a Chinese

firm, with its DeepSeek programme.

John Brittas, CPI(M) Rajya Sabha MP, said: "The epistemological break that has been achieved by China will put pressure on the Indian government to come up with similar measures in the technology sector and there will be clamour for investment in this sector."

Accusing the government of failing to prove "claims regarding remarkable achievements in the manufacturing sector", the CPI(M) leader said: "The nation awaits measures that can revive the economy, but our experience with this government has been grossly disappointing. The sliding rupee is the manifestation of this failure."

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Can't lie... Congress lost confidence of Dalits and OBCs after '90s, says Rahul

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE CONGRESS did not do enough for Dalits and backward classes in the last 10-15 years, senior party leader Rahul Gandhi said Thursday, adding he had no hesitation in admitting that the party has not been able to maintain the "confidence" deprived sections reposed in it under his grandmother and former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Addressing a conference of Dalit influencers and intellectuals Thursday, Gandhi said a new phase of "Dalit and backward emancipation is beginning to take shape".

"I can say the Congress did

not do what it should have done in the last 10-15 years. If I do not say this... Then I would be lying to you. And I do not like to lie. That is the reality. Had the Congress party maintained the confidence of the Dalits, backward and most backward... The RSS would have never come to power," the leader said.

"During Indira Gandhi's time, full confidence (of the Dalits and backward classes) was maintained. Dalits, tribals, minorities, most backwards knew that Indira Gandhi would fight and die for them. But since the 1990s, the confidence has been declining and I can see that," he said.

At this point, someone from the crowd shouted former Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's name

— insinuating that it was under him that the confidence had waned. To this, Gandhi replied: "I will not take names. But that is the reality and the Congress party will have to accept the reality."

In order to combat this, Gandhi said the Congress will "have to bring in an internal revolution in the Congress party".

Gandhi said the admission on the Congress's part could "damage" him but he was not afraid of backlash.

"I said the Congress did not protect your (Dalit and OBC) interests as it should have done... The media will say Rahul Gandhi is saying this (about losing OBC, Dalit support). It does not matter to me because this is the reality." This statement is in line with



Lok Sabha LoP and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi on Thursday. *ANI*

Gandhi's larger outreach to Dalits and OBCs. Struggling to win elections — the party has seen three consecutive Lok Sabha losses and is now confined to power in just three

states — Gandhi has been trying hard to build a Muslim-Dalit-backward support base for some time. His stance against the politics of hate and polarisation through his mohabbat ki dukan (a shop of love) pitch, the caste census call, and the demand for the removal of the 50% ceiling on reservations all tie into the effort.

Gandhi then claimed that there are no opportunities for Dalits and OBCs in the present structure, which he alleged has been captured by the BJP and the RSS.

He added that the deprived sections need "power" and not just "representation". "They need a share of power in institutions, educational institutions, corporate India and the judi-

ary. There is a big difference between share of power and representation," he said.

In campaign mode for the Delhi elections, Gandhi also painted Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal as anti-reservation and anti-Dalit. "When Kejriwal came (to power), I saw and observed him. He is as anti-reservation and anti-Dalit as Modi... The only difference is that he is more sophisticated than Modi. He will say whatever you want to hear."

The significance of reference to Indira Gandhi and the 90s

The BJP, especially Prime Minister Narendra Modi, often makes it a point that Indira Gandhi and subsequently Rajiv Gandhi did not implement the

report of the Mandal Commission set up by the Janata government in 1979.

It would take 11 more years and a non-Congress to implement the key recommendation of the report — 27% reservations to "socially and educationally backward classes" for jobs in central services and public undertaking. In 1990, Prime minister V P Singh heading the Janata Dal government implemented the reservation, changing the course of caste politics in the country.

The 27% reservation for OBCs led to a wave of assertion from the community and the emergence of leaders such as Mulayam Singh Yadav, Lalu Prasad and Nitish Kumar. They

went on to create their own OBC vote base.

This meant that the Congress's formidable OBC vote bank began shrinking, especially in the Hindi belt. Since then, the party has not been able to reach out to OBCs. Against this backdrop, a new and a formidable challenger emerged in the BJP, which has been making major inroads into OBC, Dalit and tribal votes since 2014.

The last person from the Gandhi family to occupy the post of Prime Minister was Rajiv Gandhi (1984-89). After that, the Congress had been in power for 15 years at the Centre with Rao at the helm from 1991 to 1996 and Manmohan Singh after from 2004 to 2014.

9 MAHA KUMBH STAMPEDE

THE DAY AFTER: JUDICIAL PANEL TAKES CHARGE

On ground, the review begins

Chief Secy, DGP reach Sangam to take stock of preparations for the February 3 Amrit Snan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JANUARY 30

THE THREE-MEMBER judicial commission, constituted to probe the stampede at Maha Kumbh on the occasion of Mauni Amavasya, on Thursday took charge of the investigation. At least 30 people were killed and 60 others were injured in the stampede that took place in the wee hours of Wednesday at the Sangam in Prayagraj.

“Since the investigation is a priority, we have taken charge within hours of the announcement (of the judicial panel). Although we have a month to complete the probe, we will make every effort to conclude it as quickly as possible,” Justice (retd) Harsh Kumar, who is leading the judicial panel, said.

Besides the retired judge of the Allahabad High Court, the other two members of the panel are retired IAS officer DK Singh and retired IPS officer VK Gupta.

Justice (retd) Kumar said the commission members would soon visit Prayagraj to assess the situation firsthand.

According to a government notification, the commission has been tasked with examining the causes and circumstances that led to the stampede and providing recommendations to prevent such incidents in future. The notification states that the investigation report has to be submitted within one month of the commission’s formation.

While announcing the judicial probe, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, in a statement, 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 the arrangements done and keeping vigilance at the local level such tragedy took place. The inquiry is being done to find out the reasons.”

Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh and Director General of Police Prashant Kumar on Thursday reached Prayagraj for a detailed probe into the stampede. On Wednesday, while announcing a judicial probe into the incident, the chief minister said that UP Police would conduct a separate inquiry into the incident.

Accompanied by senior district administrative officials, the chief secretary and the DGP inspected the site of the stampede in the Mela area. They later chaired a review meeting. “The accident cannot be undone, but our priority is to ensure that the Amrit Snan on Basant Panchami is executed with the best possible arrangements,” the chief secretary said after the review meeting.

In the ongoing Kumbh, Makar Sankranti was the first amrit snan (earlier called shahi snan) day, and Mauni Amavasya the second. The third is Basant Panchami on February 3. Shiv Ratri, which falls on February 26, the last day of the Kumbh Mela, is also significant.

Emphasizing the need to prevent excessive crowding at Sangam during the upcoming Amrit Snan, he directed that multi-level barricading should be implemented to regulate the flow of devotees and the diversion plan must be strictly enforced. He also informed officials that the chief minister has deployed additional senior officers to further enhance the arrangements.

In a bid to further strengthen the arrangements at the Maha Kumbh, the Uttar Pradesh government has deployed two former senior



(Clockwise from top) Devotees at the Sangam, a day after the stampede; elderly people travel on a cart to the Mela; the crowd at a railway station in Prayagraj on Thursday. Photos by Chitral Khambhati, Reuters, Vishal Srivastav

officers on Mela duty -- Ashish Goyal, who served as divisional commissioner of Prayagraj for the 2019 Kumbh; and Bhanu Goswami, former vice chairman of the Agra Development Authority.

Additionally, five special secretary-level officers are being assigned to oversee operations. All of them will remain in Prayagraj till February 12 to assist in streamlining the arrangements.

These officers will assist in planning and executing measures to ensure maximum convenience for pilgrims, making their bathing and movement experience seamless and memorable, the chief secretary said.

The review meeting was attended by UP Power Corporation Chairman Ashish Goyal, Principal Secretary (Urban Development) Amrit Abhijat, ADG Bhanu Bhaskar, Commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant, Police Commissioner Tarun Gaba, DIG Vaibhav Krishna, and SSP Rajesh Dwivedi.

The chief secretary and DGP also visited Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital to meet the injured devotees.



UP Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh and DGP Prashant Kumar at the Sangam on Thursday. Vishal Srivastav

possible to reach her,” he says.

Sheila Soni, another victim, had also come to the Kumbh with her family. Her daughter-in-law, Sunita, described the moment their pilgrimage turned into horror.

“We were seven family members together, and then suddenly, there was screaming. We lost her in the chaos,” she says.

For the families of the victims, the tragedy did not end when the stampede subsided. Bringing their loved one home became an ordeal.

Anil Sarathe, whose brother Umesh had died in the crush, says the cost of transporting the body from Prayagraj to Narmadapuram was Rs 40,000. “We received no assistance from the government,” he says. “We had to arrange everything ourselves.”

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav expressed condolences and announced compensation of Rs 2 lakh for each family. Yadav, who is in Japan, has been in touch with the local authorities and has directed Rewa authorities to ensure food and other facilities to devotees on the UP-MP border. “The news of untimely death of Hukum Bai Lodhiji of Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh and two other devotees of the state died in the unfortunate accident that took place on the banks of Sangam in Prayagraj Maha Kumbh yesterday is heart-rending,” Yadav said in a tweet on X.

Release list of victims, act against Kumbh commissioner for the panic: Opp to govt

MAULSHREE SETH
PRAYAGRAJ, JANUARY 30

THE OPPOSITION parties on Thursday demanded that the Uttar Pradesh government should release the list of the Maha Kumbh stampede victims along with their details and that action be taken against mela commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant alleging it was his announcement that led to panic among people sleeping on the ground.

Samajwadi Party president and former chief minister Akhilesh Yadav wrote on X, “People, who have lost their loved ones in Maha Kumbh, due to lack of information are getting worried that they might have lost their family members forever. A simple solution to remove this worry is that they Government

should release the list of those, who lost their lives in Maha Kumbh accident. If the dead are not identified, then their identification should be done through clothes, pictures etc.”

Allahabad MP Ujjwal Raman Singh claimed that he had warned in advance about a possible stampede-like situation in the Maha Kumbh area and accused the administration of diverting all its attention towards serving “VIPs”. The Congress MP, who met with the victims and their families at the Swaroop Rani Medical College in Prayagraj, also blamed “closing of pontoon bridges” and not responding in advance when people started resting at the ghats three days before the incident after walking long hours to reach the Triveni Sangam.

“I have seen four to five Kumbhs and based on my experience from the past, I had expressed my fears 10 days back. While my fears

were then labelled as cribbing by an Opposition leader, we also did not press as no one wants to predict an untoward incident,” Singh said. “First of all, the PWD manual in maintaining distance between pontoon bridges was not followed and then they were all closed three days before the major snan (on Mauni Amavasya). If the idea was that people from the other side should not cross then why were they built? The incident could have been avoided had the pontoon bridges been open,” he added.

Also, state Congress chief Ajay Rai said they will submit a memorandum to the Governor about the possibility of larger number of deaths than shared by the authorities. “The government is hiding the (actual number of) deaths as well as the victims’ details, which is a bigger injustice to them,” he said.

In MP, a daughter who couldn’t save her mother & a brother who struggled to get back sibling’s body

ANAND MOHAN J
BHOPAL, JANUARY 30

A DAUGHTER that saw her mother vanish under a sea of humans and a brother that had to dip into his savings to ensure his sibling’s body could reach the banks of the Narmada from the Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj. These were among the victims of Wednesday’s stampede at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj.

The crush, which occurred during ‘Amrit Snan’ on the occasion of Mauni Amavasya killed 30 people, including three from Madhya Pradesh: Hukum Lodhi and Sheila Soni from Chhatarpur and Umesh Sarathe from Narmadapuram.

Sarathe’s family members sunk into grief as they conducted Umesh’s funerary rites by the Narmada river bed. Relatives say Sarathe was caught on the stampede, which occurred around 1:30 a.m. on ‘Mauni Amavasya’ -- a day considered sacred by millions of pilgrims.

“We were all standing together, holding hands so that we wouldn’t get separated,” says Pappu Sarathe, who had travelled to the Maha Kumbh with his brother-in-law, Umesh. “Suddenly, people started running. Umesh fell, and we tried to form a circle around him, but the crowd was too much.”

Hukum Lodhi had travelled more than 400 km from Chhatarpur with 14 others, in-

For the families of the victims, the tragedy did not end when the stampede subsided. Bringing their loved one home became an ordeal.

cluding her 20-year-old daughter, Deepa. Led by village sarpanch Chatur Singh Lodhi, the group had come for the ritual dip. But as the stampede broke out, Hukum Bai fell near pillar number 155 at Sangam Ram Ghat.

“There was a sudden rush within the crowd. Before we could understand anything, people were pushing each other, and many fell down,” says Raghuveer, a survivor. “Hukum Bai was trampled by hundreds of people. I fell too, but somehow, I was saved. The stampede and chaos lasted for around 20 minutes. It was terrible.”

Deepa tried desperately to pull her mother up, but the surging crowd overwhelmed her. She saw her mother swallowed up by the crowd and killed, her relatives say.

She has yet to recover from the shock and is being treated for severe injuries to her chest, hands, and legs.

It took nearly two hours to retrieve Hukum Bai’s body, Sarpanch Chatur Singh says. “The crowd kept surging, making it im-

Families of 2 Bengal victims claim didn’t get death certificates, TMC minister says UP didn’t go by rules

TANUSREE BOSE
KOLKATA, JANUARY 30

FAMILIES OF the two women from West Bengal who died in the stampede at Maha Kumbh Mela early Wednesday have said that they have not received any death certificates and have instead been given a piece of paper mentioning that the body has been handed over to them.

Two elderly women from West Bengal — Basanti Poddar (60) of Golf Green in Kolkata, and Urmila Bhuniya of Salboni in Paschim Medinipur district — succumbed to injuries suffered during the stampede on the occasion of Mauni Amavasya.

Poddar’s son, Sourav, said that he and his family members were waiting to take a dip in the river when suddenly there was a huge rush of people. “...There was a push and we all fell down and then I don’t remember anything... Once I got up, I found my sister and aunt, but my mother was missing... She died at the ghat... We have been told that later a death certificate will be sent to us by post,” Sourav told *The Indian Express*.

Urmila Bhuniya’s brother Dulal also said that no death certificate was issued for his sister by the UP government. “I came to know about the incident when my nephew telephoned me. He told me that no death certi-



Family members of Basanti Poddar after her body reached Kolkata, Thursday.

cate was issued and the body was handed over to him along with a note,” Dulal was quoted by PTI, as saying.

Reacting to it, TMC minister Arup Biswas said: “They (the UP administration) should have handed over the death certificate. This is not the process.” Biswas, who is the MLA from Tollygunge where Poddars reside, said: “There was no plan for the safety and security of the devotees.” Local councillor Tapan Dasgupta said: “I will ensure that they get the compensation announced by the UP government.”

On Wednesday, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had announced an ex-gratia of Rs 25 lakh to the kin of each of the deceased.

Two militants killed during infiltration bid in Poonch

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JANUARY 30

TWO MILITANTS were killed in a gunfight with the Army along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch Thursday evening while trying to infiltrate from Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK).

Police sources said three militants tried to cross into India from Poonch's Khari Karmara. While two were killed in the gun battle, the third managed to escape into PoK, a source said.

The infiltration attempt comes at a time of increased security at the border following intelligence inputs about possible incursions. Sources say security forces have been conducting searches in Doda and Kathua in Jammu following reports of militants having come down to these areas from higher reaches.

This also comes after a marked decline in militant activity in Jammu's Poonch and Rajouri district throughout last year.

According to the sources, the searches are part of an anti-militancy strategy before the onset of summer. It also comes just over a week after the J&K DGP's visit to the strategically important location of Basantgarh.

Anxiety on campus after Trump says visas of pro-Palestinian protesters will be cancelled

VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

WHEN A 29-year-old Indian student on an F-1 visa, pursuing her Master's at Columbia University, read about US President Donald Trump's executive order targeting international students who had participated in pro-Palestinian protests, her first reaction was to scroll through her social media. The posts she had made months earlier, vocalising support for Palestine, were quickly erased.

"I went back to my social media and deleted a few posts," she said, requesting anonymity. "The executive order is against my very discipline, which encourages political engagement. I already feel like I'm being surveilled. This defeats the purpose of political thought that a university inspires."

On Wednesday, Trump signed an executive order to combat "antisemitism" and pledged to deport non-citizen college students and others who took part in pro-Palestinian protests.

A fact sheet on the US order promises "immediate action" by the Justice Department to prosecute "terroristic threats, arson, vandalism and violence against American Jews" and marshal all federal resources to combat what



New York Times/File

Pro-Palestine protesters at Columbia University on Oct 7, 2024

it called "the explosion of anti-semitism on our campuses and streets" since the October 7, 2023, attack on Israel by Palestinian Islamist group Hamas.

"To all the resident aliens who joined in the pro-jihadist protests, we put you on notice: come 2025, we will find you, and we will deport you," Trump said in the fact sheet. "I will also quickly cancel the student visas of all Hamas sympathisers on college campuses, which have been infested with radicalism like never before," he said, echoing a campaign promise.

Campus protests against the war in Gaza had rocked universities in the US, including

Columbia, last summer. The order has now stoked fears among many international students on F-1 visas. Indian students are among the largest cohorts in US universities, with their numbers estimated at about 300,000.

The 29-year-old student at Columbia University, originally from Delhi, moved to the US two years ago. A Delhi University alumna, she had been part of campus protests in India and later joined pro-Palestinian demonstrations in New York City last May.

But the new order has forced her into a cautious silence. Another 21-year-old Master's student, also on F-1 visa at Columbia, echoed her concerns.

Having moved from Jaipur last year, she was drawn to the protests. "I used to attend vigils and quietly chant in support. But now, even doing that feels risky. It would impact my future prospects," she said.

"How would they even identify the students? My parents have invested so much in my education that I will have to stay away from all that can cause trouble," she said.

For some, fear has long been a factor. Another student at Columbia from Mumbai recalled how she chose to return to India during the pro-Palestinian protests last year to avoid potential fallout. "Now, with this executive order, we won't even think of saying anything. We don't want to risk our visa status," she said.

Eric Lee, an immigration attorney with Diamante Law Group, laid out the sweeping implications of the order. "It says 60 days, but the reality is enforcement could be sooner. This violates the First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of speech," Lee said.

"On their face, the orders apply to all speech, including statements made by students in classroom discussions, during office hours with professors, at home with their friends, or in essays submitted in class. The order ap-

plies to students and faculty, including those on valid visas and those with green cards. The order attempts to transform universities into a wing of the Department of Homeland Security by pressing them to 'monitor' what students say or write in class and what staff teach, and 'report' them to authorities. All non-citizen students who have participated in protests are at risk of being surveilled and ordered removed," Lee said.

At Columbia, a campus known for its political activism, students are now grappling with a chilling new reality. Protests continue, but the fear of retribution has left many like the 29-year-old student questioning the price of their activism. "By silencing students, they're defeating the whole purpose of being in a university — an open space to learn and grow," she said.

For international students balancing financial dependence on loans or aid and the hope of securing a better future, the stakes are impossibly high. Many who were once vocal, now tread carefully, their voices subdued by the weight of political consequences.

The new order comes ahead of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's first visit to the US under the Trump 2.0 administration on February 4.

1.45L pending contempt cases, Law asks ministries to step up compliance with judicial orders

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

AT A time when there are 1.45 lakh contempt cases pending in the High Courts and Supreme Court, the Union Law and Justice Ministry has asked all ministries to improve the compliance of judicial orders in order to reduce the number of such cases pending against the government.

As per the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, civil contempt is defined as the wilful disobedience to any judgment, decree, direction, order, writ or other process of a court or wilful breach of an undertaking given to a court. The law defines criminal contempt as the publication of any matter that "scandalises or tends to scandalise, or lowers or tends to lower the authority of, any court; or prejudices, or interferes or tends to interfere with the due course of any judicial proceeding; or interferes or tends to interfere with, or obstructs or tends to obstruct the administration of justice in any other manner".

With the government being the biggest litigant, a large number of pending contempt petitions concern the ministries and departments of the Union and state governments. In order to reduce the pendency of such cases, the Law and Justice Ministry recently wrote to the secretaries of all ministries and departments, urging them to set up a compliance mechanism. The ministry wrote on January 3 that Rajya

RISING NUMBERS	
PENDING CONTEMPT CASES	
Supreme Court	942
High Courts	1,44,308
HIGH COURTS WITH MOST PENDING CONTEMPT CASES:	
Calcutta	25,262
Allahabad	23,562
Andhra Pradesh	16,002
Telangana	13,939
Orissa	11,218
Madhya Pradesh	11,153
Source: National Judicial Data Grid as of 7 pm, Jan 29, 2025	

Sabha MP Ashok Kumar Mittal had made a special mention of the "increasing contempt cases in the country as a matter of urgent public importance", while speaking in the House on December 4, 2024. He had suggested that the government should set up an effective compliance mechanism to improve compliance of court orders in a time-bound manner so justice is delivered to the litigant.

"In this regard, all the ministries/departments are requested to kindly look into this matter and also establish a compliance mechanism for effective

timely implementation of judicial orders which will thereby reduce the contempt cases in the country," the ministry wrote.

While the ministry concerned is bound to reply to the MP who has raised a 'Special Mention', it is not necessary that it will implement the suggestion given, a Parliament source said. In his Special Mention, Mittal had said that after fighting lengthy legal battles in courts, when litigants get orders in their favour, they have to visit government offices and then move contempt petitions to have them implemented. It was "injustice" with the litigant, he said. According to the National Judicial Data Grid, as on Wednesday, a total of 942 civil and criminal contempt cases were pending in the SC and 1.44 lakh in the various HCs. About 60% of the pending contempt cases were in six HCs (Calcutta, Allahabad, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Orissa and MP).

While reviewing the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, the Law Commission in its report in 2018 had said contempt of court was a matter concerning the administration of justice and dignity and authority of judicial tribunals.

"The law for contempt, with power of imposing punishment, ensures respect for the courts in the eyes of the public by guaranteeing sanction against conduct which might assail the honour of the courts. Indeed, the courts must be able to discharge their functions without fear or favour," the Law Commission report said.



Members of the Waqf committee, led by chairman Jagdambika Pal, submit the panel's report to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in Parliament on Thursday. PTI

NC MP says he will meet BJP allies in 'final appeal' on Waqf

NAVEED IQBAL
SRINAGAR, JANUARY 30

WITH THE Waqf (Amendment) Bill set to be taken up for consideration in the Budget Session that starts Friday, after the submission of a report by the Joint Committee of Parliament on it, National Conference (NC) MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi has said that in "a final appeal", he will meet MPs belonging to BJP allies JD(U) and TDP to raise concerns of the Muslim community.

"When the Session starts, I will meet members of different parties, including those of Mr Nitish Kumar's party (JD-U) as well as Mr Chandrababu Naidu's (TDP)... They have substantial Muslim



NC MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi

populations in their states and they should be honest to that population and their rights," Ruhullah told *The Indian Express*.

The Srinagar MP, who was not among those called for deposition by the Joint Committee of Parliament that deliberated the issue, said the Bill, which seeks to bring changes in the administration of Waqf property, poses a challenge to the Muslim community. "How does the right to practise our religion shape up for us

in the future?" Ruhullah said.

While Ruhullah is one of only three MPs from the Valley, he said that as representatives of the Muslim community, "we have to frame a response" to this. "Of course that response has to be democratic and genuine," he said. "But the fact is that democratic means have been designed in a way by this regime that it doesn't listen to the minority community... So we need to find ways to respond to this challenge."

On the key issues of concern in the Waqf Bill, Ruhullah questioned powers given to officials, as well as the clause providing for inclusion of non-Muslim members in the Waqf board.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

SC eases terms for appointing retired judges to clear HC backlog

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

TO CLEAR the backlog of pending criminal cases, the Supreme Court on Thursday relaxed its earlier condition on appointment of retired judges, allowing High Courts to appoint ad hoc judges even if their vacancies were less than 20 per cent of the sanctioned strength.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Justices B R Gai and Surya Kant said the ad hoc judges would sit on a Bench presided over by a sitting HC judge and decide "pending criminal appeals". It restricted such appointments to "between two to five in number but not exceeding 10 per cent of the sanctioned strength".

In April 2021, the Supreme Court had allowed the appointment of ad hoc judges under Article 224 of the Constitution "to deal with the unprecedented situation arising from the backlog of cases pending in the High Courts".

It had, however, specified that High Courts could take recourse to Article 224A only if their vacancies exceeded 20 per cent. "For the time being, dependent on the strength of the High Court and the problem faced by the Court, the number of ad hoc judges should be in the range of two to five in a High Court," it had said.

Article 224A, which deals with the appointment of retired judges for HC sittings, states: "The Chief Justice of a High Court for any State, may, with the previous consent of the President, request any person who has held

the office of a Judge of that Court or of any other High Court to sit and act as a judge of the High Court for that State, and every such person so requested shall, while so sitting and acting, be entitled to such allowances as the President may by order determine and have all the jurisdiction, powers and privileges of, but shall not otherwise be deemed to be, a judge of that High Court".

Noting that the backlog in High Courts had increased significantly, the SC revisited its earlier order on Thursday. It said its earlier directions, specifying that ad hoc judges can be appointed only if the vacancies exceeded 20 per cent, should be kept in abeyance. "Each High Court may appoint ad hoc judges by taking recourse to Article 224A for appointment of ad hoc judges, between two to five in number but not exceeding 10 per cent of the sanctioned strength," the SC said.

According to the National Judicial Data Grid, there are more than 62.2 lakh cases pending before various High Courts. Of these, about 44 lakh are civil cases and the remaining 18 lakh are criminal cases.

The April 2021 judgment allowed High Courts to constitute Division Benches comprising only ad hoc judges "because these are old cases which need to be taken up by them". On Thursday, however, the SC said that "the ad hoc judges will sit in a bench presided over by a sitting judge of the High Court and decide pending criminal appeals."

The bench also made it clear that the Memorandum of Procedure, for appointment under Article 224A, would be applied.

2008 MALEGAON BLAST CASE

Bailable warrant against Pragya Thakur cancelled after court appearance

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JANUARY 30

A BAILABLE warrant issued against former BJP MP and Malegaon blast accused Pragya Singh Thakur was cancelled Thursday by a special court after she appeared before it.

"Accused number 1 is present before the court. The application depicts that she was admitted in the hospital and could not remain present before the court. Considering the reason, the bailable warrant stands cancelled," said special judge A K Lahoti.

On November 13, 2024, the court had issued a bailable warrant against Thakur for non-appearance. Her lawyers had submitted that she was undergoing



Former BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur

treatment at a hospital in Bhopal. The court had said her presence was necessary as the final hearing is ongoing in the 2008 blast case. In December, the warrant was put on hold after NIA officers who went to serve the warrant informed the court that she was admitted to a hospital.

The trial in the case against seven persons including Thakur is underway with the court currently hearing final arguments on behalf of the accused. Six persons had died in the blast.

A year later, saga of Jayalalithaa assets continues

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, JANUARY 30

THE CASE of Jayalalithaa's jewels is a Tamil Nadu story worth its weight — and wait — in gold. And now it is enjoying a fresh airing after a special court in Bengaluru yet again on Wednesday ordered the transfer of assets owned by the late AIADMK supremo and former chief minister of the state to the Tamil Nadu government.

Judge HA Mohan, who was hearing the case, has directed authorities to hand over the assets by February 14 or 15.

The special court's ruling came after the Karnataka High Court on January 13 dismissed a plea filed by the late former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's nephew and niece, J Deepak and Deepa, seeking a stay on the special CBI court's order.

It all started in 1997, a year after Jayalalithaa had ceded power following her first term as Tamil Nadu CM. Her rivalry with the late M Karunanidhi — which would last their lifetimes — was



The former residence of Jayalalithaa in Poes Garden, Chennai

at its peak, and under the DMK chief as CM, the regime registered a disproportionate assets case against Jayalalithaa.

The Income Tax raids that followed at Jayalalithaa's Veda Nilayam bungalow in Poes Garden led to seizures which captured the public imagination — fuelled as much by DMK leaders as the extent of the assets found.

Her long stint as a successful actor as one possible explanation was swept aside in the frenzy of reports talking of "10,500 saris, 750 pairs of slippers" and, especially,

"500 wine glasses", apart from 21.28 kg of gold jewellery worth ₹3.5 crore, 1,250 kg of silver articles worth ₹3.12 crore, diamonds worth ₹2 crore (all as per 2015 prices), and a silver sword.

The AIADMK chief reacted to this with a resolve to not wear any ornaments, and largely stuck to this for the rest of her life.

These assets were moved to the Bangalore City Civil Court and kept in the treasury when her case was shifted there in 2000, on Jayalalithaa's apprehensions that she may not get a

fair, impartial trial in Tamil Nadu.

In February 2000, when the seized items were brought to Chennai's Special Court-1 for inventory and marking as prosecution exhibits, a fresh spree of reports followed. The pieces displayed included a diamond-studded gold belt worn by Sudhakaran, the adopted son whom Jayalalithaa later disowned; a waist belt worn by her close aide V K Sasikala featuring "2,389 diamonds, 18 emeralds, and 9 rubies"; and Jayalalithaa's luxury bus with modern amenities unheard of at the time.

The seizures added fire to the allegations that Sasikala and family (including Sudhakaran) wielded undue influence on Jayalalithaa, and gained handsomely in the process. Many needed no proof of this given Sudhakaran's lavish marriage — dubbed as "mother of all weddings" — held in 1995 when Jayalalithaa was CM, and marked by ostentation, protests and petitions to court.

But the case dragged on, and finally it was in February 2017, two months after her death in

December 2016, that Jayalalithaa was convicted in the disproportionate assets case along with Sasikala, Sasikala's sister-in-law Ilavarasi and Sudhakaran. They were fined ₹130 crore and awarded a four-year jail term.

While Sasikala, Ilavarasi and Sudhakaran, spent their jail terms before being discharged in 2022, the seized assets continued to languish in the treasury of the Bengaluru court — till now.

On the order for these to be returned to the TN government, Advocate Asokan, who was part of Jayalalithaa's legal team between 2009 till her death in 2016, had said this is far from a done deal. According to him, the decision of the Bengaluru court diverges from earlier Supreme Court directives. "I am yet to see the order copy, but the SC had explicitly stated that the jewels be auctioned if bank deposits were inadequate to cover the ₹130 crore fine... Sasikala and Ilavarasi paid ₹10 crore each, expecting the auction to cover the rest of the fine. This decision undermines the SC's order and the legal process," Asokan had said.

An 'ex-Muslim' woman fights for a secular law on property

NIKHILA HENRY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

HOLDING A copy of the Constitution, Safiya P M says: "I support a secular Uniform Civil Code (UCC)". A 51-year-old resident of Kerala's Alappuzha district, Safiya is an activist who identifies as an "ex-Muslim". She is also the general secretary of the Ex-Muslims of Kerala. Registered in 2020, the organisation was founded by 10 people.

Safiya, however, was thrust into the limelight because she is at the heart of a legal battle for property rights of Muslim women who are now non-believers. Based on her writ petition, which says that she, a non-believer, would like to be governed by the Indian Succession Act, 1925, and not the Muslim Personal Law or Sharia, the Supreme Court had on January 28 asked the Centre to file a reply.

Her petition reads, "The practices under Sharia law (Muslim



Safiya is an activist from Kerala's Alappuzha district

Personal Law) are discriminatory towards Muslim women and violate the fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution. The reason why the petitioner is not following the tenets of Islam is discriminatory practices of Sharia law. It will be a failure of justice if the petitioner is to be governed by Sharia law, even if she officially leaves the religion". Moreover, Sharia dictates that if a person renounces Islam, they are to be excommunicated

and are not entitled to any share in the family estate.

Safiya says her journey to the Supreme Court has been arduous. "My fight is not just for myself, but for Muslim women who cannot leave all of their property to their daughters. The Muslim Personal Law does not allow me to leave all my property to my daughter. Only 50% of the property can be left to a girl child (under Sharia), while the rest is divided among male relatives," she tells *The Indian Express*.

A divorcee since 2004, she says she raised her daughter, who is now 25 years old, single-handedly. Safiya says she was unaware of the pitfalls of the personal law till she faced discrimination under it. "If a secular UCC can help solve the issue, I am all for it," Safiya says.

Several Muslim organisations, including the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, have called the UCC "discriminatory".

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

CUSTODY BATTLE FOR SON

SC orders arrest of father who left for US without his passport

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

CUSTODY BATTLE between a legally separated couple over their 10-year-old son with special needs had the Supreme Court fuming on Wednesday and issuing a non-bailable warrant against the father for flying to New York, apparently to be with the child, even though his passport is deposited with the top court.

A bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and P K Mishra asked Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj to apprise it as to how he “was permitted to leave this country without a passport and leave of this Court”.

Senior Advocate Vikas Singh appearing for the father Manish Chhokar tried to reason with the bench that with the mother also in India, there was a legitimate fear of the Child Protective Services (CPS) taking the boy and placing him in foster care considering it a case of abandonment of the child, but to no avail.

Singh said that the father, a Green Card holder, “had done everything possible to transfer the custody of the child, and it was only because of” the former wife’s “non-cooperation/ non-appearance in the Michigan Court that

the transfer had not taken place”.

The counsel said that the child’s health had started showing signs of deterioration recently and this worried his second wife who was taking care of him. Worried by the child’s condition, she independently contacted the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and applied for an emergency Travel Document for him. The Travel Document was issued in favour of Manish Chhokar by USCIS on November 26, 2024.

The couple were married in February 2006 and later moved to the US. However, the couple had a marital discord and the husband obtained a divorce decree on September 9, 2017, from the Circuit Court for the County of Oakland Family Division, Michigan, USA.

The lady had also initiated multiple proceedings against Chhokar in India, but much later a settlement was reached between the parties before the SC on October 21, 2019. One of the grounds for settlement was that he shall give the custody of the child to the mother.

When this did not happen, she initiated contempt of court proceedings against Chhokar. The SC framed charges against him on September 9, 2024.

In his order Wednesday, the SC said Chhokar appeared before it virtually on December 13, 2022. It said that by order dated January 17, 2024, he was asked to remain present in the Court in all proceedings.

The bench added that previous orders of the court on the matter “would indicate there were several attempts to resolve the matter, as it was a matter of child custody where this Court went out of its way in granting indulgence to the respondent (father) in hope that he would handover the child to his mother and honour the terms of his settlement, which were a part of the order of this Court. All the same, all efforts of this Court went in vain.”

“On the last hearing of this matter i.e. 22.01.2025, the alleged contemnor/respondent was not present in the Court which was in violation of the order of this Court, when a statement was made by Mr Vikas Singh, learned senior counsel representing him that he shall be present on the next date of listing... Today, we have been informed by none other but the learned senior counsel Mr Vikas Singh... that the alleged contemnor/respondent had left for USA,” the court pointed out.

BJP springs surprise, grabs Chandigarh mayor’s seat

HINAROHTAKI
CHANDIGARH, JANUARY 30

IN A jolt to the AAP, the BJP’s Harpreet Babla Thursday won the high-stakes Chandigarh mayoral polls against AAP candidate Prem Lata despite the latter having a majority in the House. While Babla got 19 votes, Lata secured 17.

As many as 36 votes, including that of Member of Parliament Manish Tewari, were polled during the elections which were

recorded on camera. Tewari is an ex-officio member of the House. The AAP and Congress, which are in alliance, had 20 votes in the General House while the BJP had 16 votes.

The voting through secret ballot began at 11.19 am under the supervision of Justice Jaishree Thakur, retired judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, who was appointed by the Supreme Court to oversee the elections. It ended at 12.19 pm.

The elections for the posts of mayor, senior deputy mayor and

deputy mayor were held in the Assembly Hall of the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation.

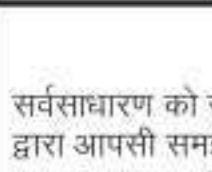
As many as three instances of cross-voting from the alliance

were recorded in favour of the BJP that led to Harpreet’s win.

Just two days ahead of the polls, Congress councillor Gurbax Rawat left her party of

over two decades and joined the BJP, taking its tally to 16.

The BJP claimed several councillors were “not happy” with Lata’s candidature.



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सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि निम्नलिखित भूमि नौएडा प्राधिकरण द्वारा आपसी समझौते के आधार पर क्रय किया जाना प्रस्तावित है:-

क्र. सं.	ग्राम का नाम	खाता सं.	खसरा सं.	क्षेत्रफल (हे.मै.)	नाम कास्तकार व पता	क्रय करने का उद्देश्य
1.		120	574	0.2566	श्री चित्ताराम शर्मा पुत्र हरीराम नि.ग्राम	औद्योगिक सेक्टर-162 व 164 के सुनियोजित विकास हेतु।
2.		225	588	0.0836	श्री दीपक कुमार सिन्हा पुत्र दिशो कुमार नि.ग्राम गुलावली	सड़क व सेक्टर-164 व 162 के सुनियोजित विकास हेतु।
3.	गुलावली जलपद-गौतमबुद्ध नगर	225	588	0.4189	श्री बिन्नी पुत्र बिल्कू नि.ग्राम गुलावली	सड़क व सेक्टर-164 व 162 के सुनियोजित विकास हेतु।
4.		225	588	0.0836	श्री अश्विनी कुमार यशोवर्धन प्रसाद नि.ग्राम रामकृष्ण कालोनी नाथ ऑफ बाजोर समिति, पटना बिहार	सड़क व सेक्टर-164 व 162 के सुनियोजित विकास हेतु।
5.	वाजिदपुर जलपद गौतम बुद्ध नगर	125	9M	0.1165	श्रीमती सुष्मा देवी पत्नी स्व. महीपाल सिंह व अनुज कुमार पुत्र स्व. महीपाल सिंह निवासी गम 98 नजीमपुरा मूड परगना बरन तहसील व जिला बुलन्शहर	सेक्टर-136 के विकास हेतु।
6.	मोहियापुर जलपद-गौतमबुद्ध नगर	84 83	10 12	0.2249	श्रीमती सन्तो पत्नी राजराज निवासी ग्राम मोहियापुर जलपद गौतमबुद्धनगर।	औद्योगिक सेक्टर-165 के अन्तर्गत नौएडा के सुनियोजित विकास हेतु।

उपरोक्त भूमि को क्रय किये जाने में यदि किसी जन साधारण को प्रश्नगत भूमि के सम्बन्ध में कोई दावा/आपत्ति देनी हो, तो सार्वजनिक प्रकाशन के 15 दिन के अन्दर नौएडा विकास प्राधिकरण के मूलेख विभाग के कार्यालय में प्रस्तुत कर सकता है।

महत्वपूर्ण सूचना-
नवीन ओखला औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण के अधिसूचित क्षेत्र में शासन से स्वीकृत मास्टर प्लान एवं उत्तर प्रदेश औद्योगिक क्षेत्र विकास अधिनियम, 1976 के विपरीत प्लॉटिंग या किसी भी प्रकार का अन्य निर्माण पूरी तरह अवैध है। जनसामान्य को आगाह किया जाता है कि इस प्रकार की अवैध कॉलोनियों एवं अवैध निर्मित भवनों में भूखण्डों/अपार्टमेंट/दुकान/गोडाऊन/कार्महाउस की खरीद-फरोख्त से पूर्णतः सचेत रहें तथा कॉलोनीआईज के लुभावने एवं भ्रामक विज्ञापनों से बचे। साथ ही नौएडा अधिसूचित क्षेत्र के हिटडन एवं यमुना नदियों के डूब क्षेत्र (Flood Plain Zone) में अनाधिकृत / अवैध प्लॉट एवं फार्म हाऊसों के कारोबार में सलियत भूमिफायो के चंगुल में न फसे।

विशेष कार्याधिकारी (ए०के०) नौएडा

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Manipur looks to roll back 2016 move to create 7 new districts

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, JANUARY 30

MANIPUR’S N Biren Singh government will present a proposal on the United Naga Council’s demand to roll back the state’s 2016 decision to create seven new districts, it has said in a joint statement with the council and the central government. The decision comes amid growing demands from the council to rollback the decision, taken by the state’s previous Congress government.

A joint statement issued after a tripartite meeting Thursday between the Manipur government, the UNC and the Union government at Manipur’s Senapati town says that the state’s Biren Singh government will present the proposal at the next meeting in April.

The discussions were on the creation of seven new districts in 2016 by the Manipur government then led by the Congress’s Okram Ibobi Singh and “UNC’s demand for the roll back of creation of the new districts”, the statement issued Thursday said.

“After threadbare discussions, it was mutually agreed that a proposal will be presented by the representatives of the State government in the next Tripartite meeting, which will be held in the month of April, 2025,” the statement said.

The Ibobi Singh government, through a notification in December 2016, created new districts by bifurcating seven of the nine districts of the state months ahead of the 2017 Assembly elections.



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DEMAND NOTICE (under Rule 3 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)
Substituted Service Of Notice U/S 13 (2) Of Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the borrowers as mentioned below that since they have defaulted in repayment of the Credit facility availed by them from **Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited (ABHFL)**, their loan accounts have been classified as **Non-Performing Assets** in the books of the Company as per RBI guidelines thereto. Thereafter, ABHFL has issued demand notices under section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) on the last known addresses of the said borrowers thereby calling upon and demanding from them to repay the entire **outstanding amount** together with further interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. as stated in the said demand notices. However, the demand notice is also being served by way of publication, as per Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (SARFAESI Rules):

Sl. No.	Name and Address Borrower/ Co-Borrower and Guarantor / Co-Guarantor & Loan A/C No.	NPA Date	Date of Demand Notice	Amount due as per Demand Notice as on Date
1.	1. VINITA SHARMA (In The Capacity Of Available Legal Heir Of Late Taran Taran Sharma) Flat No. S-95, Second Floor, Tower-E, Block-B, Singhal Dream City, Ladamada, Jaipur Road, Near 100 M Ring Road, Patholi Nahar, Agra, Uttar Pradesh-282001. 2. VINITA SHARMA Flat No. S-95, Second Floor, Tower-E, Block-B, Singhal Dream City, Ladamada, Jaipur Road, Near 100 M Ring Road, Patholi Nahar, Agra, Uttar Pradesh-282001. 3. VINITA SHARMA (In The Capacity Of Available Legal Heir Of Late Taran Taran Sharma) House No. 34/57/5b, Shiv Nagar, Balkeshwar, Agra, Uttar Pradesh-282005. 4. VINITA SHARMA House No. 34/57-5b, Shiv Nagar, Balkeshwar, Dayal Bagh, Kiraoli, New Agra, Agra, Uttar Pradesh-282005. Loan account no. LNAGR0HL-02180002896 & LNAGR0HL-02180002898	08-10-2024	27.01.2025 Old notice dated 21.10.2024 withdrawn. This publication to be treated as Effective notice.	Rs. 8,08,692.35/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Eight Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Two and Thirty Five Paise Only) by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 27.01.2025

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/PROPERTIES MORTGAGED: All That Piece And Parcel Of Residential Apartment No S-95, Size 707 Sq. Ft., Or Carpet Area Of 44.91 Sq. Mtr., On Second Floor, In Tower E, Block-B, In The Project “Singhal Dream City”, Situated At Ladamada, Jaipur Road, Near 100 M Ring Road, Patholi Nahar, Agra, Uttar Pradesh-282001, And **Bounded As: East:** Others Property **West:** Other’s Property **North:** Other’s Property **South:** 24.0 Mt. Wide Zonal Road (Proposed) & Other’s Property.

We hereby call upon the borrower stated herein to pay us within 60 days from the date of this notice, the outstanding amount (s) together with further interest thereon plus cost, charges, expenses, etc. thereto failing which we shall be at liberty to enforce the security interest including but not limited to taking possession of and selling the secured asset entirely at your risk as to the cost and consequences. Please note that as per section 13(1) of the SARFAESI Act, all of you are prohibited from transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise, the aforesaid secured assets without prior written consent of the Company. Any contravention of the said section by you shall invoke the penal provisions as laid down under section 29 of the SARFAESI Act and / or any other legal provision in this regard. Please note that as per sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, if the dues of ABHFL together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by ABHFL are tendered to ABHFL at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured asset shall not be sold or transferred by ABHFL, and no further step shall be taken by ABHFL or transfer or sale of that secured asset.

Date: 31.01.2025
Place: Agra

Sd/- Authorised Officer
(Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited)

OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN
THE SPECIAL COURT (TORTS) ACT 1992

Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Room No 15, 4th Floor, Jeevan Deep Building, Sansad Marg, New Delhi- 110 001

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by the Custodian, appointed under Section 3(1) of the Special Court TORTS (Trial of Offences Regarding Transaction in Securities) Act, 1992, pursuant to the orders of the Hon’ble Special Court (TORTS) Act, 1992, Mumbai dated 14th June, 2024 in Miscellaneous Application No. 39 of 2018 and Miscellaneous Application No. 54 of 2018 (**The Custodian Versus Apollo Tyres Ltd. & others**), that any person who claims to be the bonafide owner and/or claims to have purchased any of the tainted shares of Apollo Tyres Ltd., the details of which are available on our website <https://financialservices.gov.in/beta/en/page/office-custodian> and <https://specialcourt-torts.gov.in>, may apply to “The Special Court (TORTS) Act, 1992, Room No. 25, 3rd floor, High Court, Annex Building, Mumbai - 400 032”, for certification of shares, **within a period of ten weeks from the date of publication** of the notice. The documents required to be filed along with the application for certification of shares are given **below and are also available** on our websites. The QR code provided in this notice can be scanned to view the details of the tainted shares.

It may be clarified here that mere submission of application for certification does not entitle the applicant to claim ownership of the tainted shares. The certification of shares for lifting the attachment on the tainted shares shall be subject to the orders of the Hon’ble Special Court.

The Public notice, details of the shares, certification procedure and orders of the Hon’ble Special Court (TORTS) Act 1992 Mumbai dated 14th June, 2024 in Miscellaneous Application No. 39 of 2018 and Miscellaneous Application No. 54 of 2018 are available on our website <https://financialservices.gov.in/beta/en/page/office-custodian> and <https://specialcourt-torts.gov.in>

Procedure for certification of tainted shares

The Hon’ble Special Court by order dated 27th July, 1992 and 31st July, 1992 in Miscellaneous Petition No. 1, 2, and 3 of 1992, established a procedure for verification and certification of tainted shares by Bombay Stock Exchange. The procedure was later modified vide Hon’ble Special Court’s Order dated 5th April, 1995 in Miscellaneous Application No. 133 of 1995, whereby the applicants are required to file an application for certification with the Hon’ble Special Court along with the following documents:-

Documents required in Original		
1.	Share Certificate/Share Transfer form	
2.	Contract Note	
3.	Bill/Receipt of Broker	
4.	Proof of payment	
5.	Proof of delivery in Stock Exchange	
6.	Proof of price not being lower than the lowest ruling price on date of purchase in the relevant stock exchange	

Sd/- Custodian



REGIONAL OFFICE:
Bank of Baroda, First Floor, Diamond Complex, Dilli More, Darbhanga-846004 Cont. No. 8969513429 Website: 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
Branch: Kashipur Samastipur Branch M/s Anand Trading Prop. Mr. Shivshant Singh and Mr. Nagendra Prasad Singh (Guarantor) Date of Demand Notice: 01.10.2024 Date of Possession: 28.01.2025 Amt: ₹9,71,112.58/- (Rupees Nine lacs seventy one thousand one hundred twelve and fifty eight paise only) plus unapplied interest and interest reversal (if any) and at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment.	EMTD of land & building situated at Khata No.51(O), Khesra No.670(O), 671(O), 1438(N), Area 20 Decimal under exchange Deed No.7649 dated 13.06.2011 situated at Mauza-Chakaledad No.297, Anchal Sarairanjan, Distt. Samastipur, in the name of Sri Nagendra Prasad Singh (Guarantor). Boundary:-N-Maheshwar Singh, S-Road, E-Praduman Singh, W-Sit Kumar Singh.
Branch: Kashipur Samastipur Branch M/s Archana Kitab Ghar, Prop. Mrs. Archana Kumari and Mr. Lalit Narayan Roy (Guarantor) Date of Demand Notice: 01.10.2024 Date of Possession: 28.01.2025 Amt: ₹30,44,296.37/- (Rupees Thirty lacs forty four thousand two hundred ninety six and thirty seven paise only) plus unapplied interest from 01.08.2024 plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment.	1. EMTD of land & building situated at Khata No.01(O), Revenue survey No.5188 MI (O), Area 1 Katha 10 Dhur, under Sale Deed No.5182 dt. 04.05.2016 situated at Mauza-Sarangpur 279, Anchal Morwa, Distt. Samastipur, in the name of Mr. Lalit Narayan Roy (Guarantor). Boundary:-N-Manoj Rai, S-Bhagya Narayan Rai, E-Rajendra Rai, W-Road Pakki. 2. EMTD of land situated at Khata No.01(O), Khesra No.5188(O), Area-3 Dec. (15 Dhur), under Sale Deed No.10959 dtd. 05.08.2019, situated at Mauza-Sarangpur 279, Anchal Morwa, Distt. Samastipur, in the name Mrs. Archana Kumari. Boundary: N-Mukhiya Devi, S-Jai Narayan Rai, E-Mohan Rai, W-Road.

Date : 28.01.2025
Place : Samastipur

Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda



REGIONAL OFFICE: Bank of Baroda, First Floor, Diamond Complex, Dilli More, Darbhanga-846004. Contact No. 8969513429, Website: www.bankofbaroda.com

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
“APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 8 (2) & 8(6)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (2) & 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), Mortgagor(s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on “**As is where is**”, “**As is what is**”, and “**Whatever there is**” basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower(s)/Mortgagor (s)/Guarantor(s)/Secured Asset(s)/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below-

Sr/ Lot No.	Name & address of Borrowers/ Guarantor/ Mortgagors	Give short description of the immovable property with known encumbrances, if any	Total Dues (as per Demand Notice)	Date of E-auction & Time of E-auction/Start Time to End Time	Reserve Price	Status of Possession (Constructive / Physical)	Property Inspection date & Time.
					EMD Bid Increase Amount.		
1.	Mr. Dharmendra Kumar, C/o Sai Automobile Nahar Chowk, Veer Kunwar Singh Path, Near HP Gas Agency, Sitamarhi. Guarantor: Puja Kumari, W/o-Late Dharmendra Kumar, C/o Sai Automobile Nahar Chowk, Veer Kunwar Singh Path, Near HP Gas Agency, Sitamarhi, Bihar 843302 Base Branch: Sitamarhi Branch (EVB)	Land & building bearing Survey No.427, Khata No.48, Thana No.323, Mauza-Talkapur, Nahar Chowk, Anchal-Dumra, Dist.- Sitamarhi, Bihar, Area-1.916 Decimal. Boundaries of property: North- Kameshwar Jha, South-Chand Babu, East-Nahar Road, West-Hal Khariadar.	Rs. 22,36,152/- (Rupees Twenty two lakh thirty six thousand one hundred fifty two only) Plus unapplied interest and charges expense till date of payment and other charges	06.03.2025 Between 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM	₹27,49,500/- ₹2,74,950/- ₹20,000/-	Constructive	From 01.03.2025 to 05.03.2025 & 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM
2.	Mrs. Renu Devi, W/o-Kameshwar Prasad, R/o-Ward No.22, Mela Road, Nayatola, Mela Road, Bhabdeopur, Sitamarhi, Bihar 843302 Guarantor: Mr. Kameshwar Prasad S/o Ram Vilas Mahto, R/o-Ward No.22, Mela Road, Nayatola, Mela Road, Bhabdeopur, Sitamarhi, Bihar 843302. Base Branch: Sitamarhi Branch (EVB)	Land & building bearing Khesara No.1754(Old) at Survey No.447(New), Ward No.12(Old) & 22(New), Thana No.258 and Sale Deed No.9611 Dated 30.09.1989, Plot Area-10 Dhur (680 Sq.ft.), Mauza-Bhawdepur, Anchal-Dumra, Sub-registrar + PS + Dist-Sitamarhi. Boundaries: North-Chandrabhushan Prasad, South-Road, East-Nageshwar Das, West-Ajji Dhoib.	Rs. 15,00,273.59/- (Rupees Fifteen lakh two hundred seventy three and fifty nine paise only) Plus unapplied interest and charges expense till date of payment and other charges	06.03.2025 Between 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM	₹24,74,100/- ₹2,47,410/- ₹20,000/-	Constructive	From 01.03.2025 to 05.03.2025 & 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/ visit to the website link <https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm> and online auction portal <https://baanknet.com>. Also, prospective bidders may contact the Authorised Officer on Mobile: 8294635932

Date : 27.01.2025
Place : Sitamarhi

Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda, Regional Office Darbhanga

Collapse of glacial debris caused Sikkim flood, no evidence of cloudburst: Study

NIKHIL GHANEKAR
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE COLLAPSE of a 14.7-million cubic metre mass of rock, ice and sediment into the South Lhonak glacial lake was the trigger behind the devastating 2023 Sikkim flood that destroyed a hydropower dam on the Teesta, reveal the findings of a year-long study published in the prestigious *Science* journal on Friday.

Crucially, the study found no evidence of a “triggering cloudburst event” in the vicinity of the lake. The Sikkim government had told the National Green Tribunal last year that a cloudburst had possibly preceded the glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF).

The flood had killed 55 people and destroyed the 1200-MW Teesta III hydel project, besides damaging more dams.

The study says the South Lhonak lake remains “highly susceptible” to future GLOFs — a warning that comes just weeks after an Environment Ministry panel cleared a proposal to build a new 118.64-metre high concrete gravity dam in the place of the original 60-metre tall Teesta-III dam. This ministry approval came without a fresh public hearing and even as the design aspects of the dam are yet to be approved.

The investigation into the causes, dynamics and consequences of the GLOF was carried out by a team of 34 experts from nine countries and was led by Ashim Sattar, assistant professor, School of Earth, Ocean and

Climate Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar.

According to the study, the collapse of the frozen glacial debris, called a moraine, created a 20-metre tsunami-like wave that breached the lake’s natural dam. It released 50 million cubic metres of water — equal to 20,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools — that took just about two hours to reach the hydropower dam, 67 km downstream.

Though the exact cause of its collapse is inconclusive, the moraine — formed by glaciers over several years — was found to be unstable for years preceding the event. It showed a maximum displacement of 15 metres per year between 2016 and 2023, the study revealed.

The area around the glacial lake was also found to be unstable, owing to thawing of permafrost, or frozen ground, likely due to climate change.

The flood’s severity was also worsened by climate warming effects and heavy rainfall, which saturated the soil and increased its vulnerability to landslides, thus amplifying downstream impacts such as erosion, sediment transport and flood intensity, said a note issued by the authors of the study.

“The GLOF peak discharge vastly exceeds meteorological flood magnitudes, suggesting that it is a rare event in the historical context of this region, equivalent to a return period exceeding 200 years,” said the note by the authors. **FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com**

SEVERAL JOURNALISTS SUMMONED FOR QUESTIONING

Chennai sexual assault: After FIR leak, journalists’ phones seized

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, JANUARY 30

A SPECIAL Investigation Team (SIT) probing the leak of personal details of a sexual assault survivor in a high-profile case through a First Information Report (FIR), due to a technical glitch at the government’s end, seized mobile phones from at least four journalists and summoned several others for questioning.

The all-women SIT, constituted by the Madras HC, is probing two cases related to the alleged sexual assault of a student at Anna University in December, as well as the unauthorised disclosure of the FIR, which exposed the survivor’s identity.

Among those summoned, journalists were instructed to appear before the SIT at the Department of Prisons building in Egmore, where their mobile

phones and electronic devices were confiscated. The reporters were questioned under Sections 179 and 94 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, which allow authorities to summon individuals with knowledge of a case.

One of the journalists, requesting anonymity, said investigators handed them questionnaires seeking personal details, including property ownership and marital status.

“After the inquiry, they told me my phone had been seized. I could recover it from the court after filing a petition,” the journalist said. When a journalist pointed out that he would have taken legal measures if there were plans to confiscate the phone, he was told that only the phone had been confiscated and that he wasn’t made an accused in the case.

“Officers were largely civil in their tone, but they had decided

to confiscate phones even as they couldn’t explain how it would help their case. Journalists downloaded the FIR from the official site as part of their job...,” said a journalist.

The Chennai Press Club condemned the move and called it “a blatant act of intimidation and an attack on journalistic freedom.” “This freezes the contacts and networks journalists have built over the years in the course of their profession,” the statement said.

The case arose from a glitch on the website on which FIRs are uploaded. When an FIR is uploaded to the site, it has a system that blocks the viewing of those that are under sensitive sections and subsections like BNSS 64, 67, 68, 70, and 79, as per the list provided by the State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB). In the case of the Anna University sexual assault, the automatic process of blocking the survivor’s details, due to

the sensitive nature of the FIR, did not function.

After the state police were blamed for releasing the FIR without masking the victim’s details, the Chennai City Police Commissioner, A. Arun, described the reasons for the technical glitch at a press conference. The 14 people summoned by police, most of them journalists, were those who had downloaded the FIR directly.

The Madras HC, late on Wednesday, refused to intervene in the matter. A division bench of Justices S M Subramaniam and M Jothiraman said the case was already under review by the SC and advised petitioners to seek relief there. Justice Subramaniam defended the SIT’s approach, stating that journalists should approach the police and explain what happened. “If you had not done anything illegal, go and explain it to them,” he said.

4 killed, several wounded after roof collapse in MP factory

Bhopal: At least four workers were killed after a section of the roof collapsed on them at the JK Cement plant in Madhya Pradesh’s Panna Thursday morning, police said.

The incident occurred around 12 noon at the seventh floor of the factory near Amanganj town. According to the police, workers were laying the roof slab when the scaffolding gave way suddenly, burying several workers underneath.

DIG Lalit Shakyawar said the three of the victims -- Ansar Alam (34), Masood (36), Musfir (36) -- were from Bihar while one, Rohit Khare (32), was from Simariya in Panna district.

Their bodies were sent for postmortem. Additionally, 15 more workers were wounded in the accident.

Shakyawar said the plant management had announced a compensation of Rs 18 lakh to the families of each of the deceased and Rs 1 lakh to the wounded.

Canadian Mission: Interference panel not mandated to probe Nijjar killing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

A DAY after the Canadian report by the Foreign Interference Commission said that there is no definitive foreign link in the disinformation campaign that came after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alleged India hand in pro-Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar killing, the Canadian High Commission in New Delhi said on Thursday that the commission was “not mandated to investigate the murder of Nijjar” and “it is up to the courts to decide accountability”.

A Canadian High Commission spokesperson told The Indian Express on Thursday, “PIFI (Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference) was not mandated to investigate the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar. The statement in question simply reflects that, ultimately, it is up to the courts to decide accountability with respect to this complex matter, which remains under investigation.”

The report, which runs into seven volumes, was commissioned to look into foreign interference into the Canadian elections and democratic processes, including intra-party elections.

The Ministry of External Affairs Tuesday rejected the probe report by Foreign Interference Commission, identifying India as the “second most active country” (after China) engaging in electoral foreign interference in Canada, and said that in fact, it was Canada which has been consistently interfering in India’s internal affairs.

On the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar on 18 June 2023, the report says that the initial assessment of Canada’s security and intelligence agencies was that this was a gang or criminal activity, and the Prime Minister Trudeau was informed of this. “Over the course of the summer, however, intelligence revealed India’s involvement... The Prime Minister was promptly briefed on the updated assessment”.

“The government wanted India to acknowledge its involvement in the killing but also needed

a pragmatic approach to resolve the issue. The Prime Minister testified that the immediate approach was to engage with India and communicate the need for the two countries to work together while ensuring... accountability. Canada also reached out to its allies to ensure a collective and coherent response,” it adds.

On how Canada discussed the issue with India, it says, “A number of meetings took place between the National Security and Intelligence Advisor to the Prime Minister, the CSIS Director, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and their Indian counterparts in August and September 2023. India did not acknowledge that it was involved in Nijjar’s killing.”

On 18 September 2023, the *Globe and Mail* published an article saying that Canadian officials had information about potential Indian involvement in Nijjar’s killing. Following this, Trudeau told the House of Commons that security agencies had been actively pursuing credible allegations of a potential link between agents of the Government of India and Nijjar’s death, it adds.

“On 14 October 2024, the RCMP publicly released findings about agents of the Government of India being involved in serious criminal activity in Canada. Simultaneously, GAC (Global Affairs Canada) announced that Canada had expelled six Indian diplomats and consular officials in relation to a targeted campaign against Canadian citizens by agents linked to India. These individuals were identified as persons of interest in the killing of Nijjar.”

Ties between India and Canada have been severely hit after then Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in September 2023 stated in Parliament that there were “credible allegations” Indian government agents were involved in the killing of pro-Khalistan separatist figure Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June 2023. India rejected the allegations calling them “absurd” and “politically motivated”. It has led to serious downgrading of the relations, as diplomats, including High Commissioners, have been expelled by both countries.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Divl. Rty. Manager, N.W.Rty. Bikaner for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works up to **15:00 hours on 21.02.2025** as below:-
1) E-Tender Notice No.: 189. Name of Work with its Location: Suratgarh - Anupgarh - TRR (P) of 60kg-R260 for 43.251 Tkm under jurisdiction of ADEN/Suratgarh. **Approx. cost of work:** ₹ 6,78,83,897.23 **Earnest Money:** ₹ 4,89,400/-
2) E-Tender Notice No.: 191. Name of Work with its Location: Soft upgradation of Kalanwalli railway station under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme under ADEN/Sirsa. **Approx. cost of work:** ₹ 8,30,64,056.16 **Earnest Money:** ₹ 5,65,300/-
Note: Other terms & conditions will be shown on the N.W.Rty. website www.ireps.gov.in
135-AR/25
Follow us on: NW/Railways

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER
Tender Notice No. : e-Tender/2025/03, dated 29.01.2025. e-Tenders are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), S.E. Railway, Kharagpur-721301 for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works **before 15.00 hrs.** on the date mentioned against items and will be opened at 15.30 hrs. : **Sl. No. & Tender No.:** Description of work; **Tender Value:** **Earnest Money:** (1) **E-KGP-HQ-03-2025;** Construction of Godown & Offices for centralized telecom store at Kharagpur under the jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer/Settlement/Kharagpur; ₹ 1,91,58,231.06; ₹ 2,45,800/- (2) **E-KGP-EAST-06-2025;** Execution of work of Construction of a New 60 bedded Running Room at Shalimar Station under the jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer/East/Kharagpur; (2nd call); ₹ 3,31,24,165.26; ₹ 3,15,600/- (3) **E-KGP-South-06-2025;** Construction of side pathway in steel girder bridges in Bridge No. 4 (1 x 30.5m), 6 (1 x 45.7m), 20BAC (1 x 45.7m), 75 (1 x 30.5m) in Howrah-Santargachi-Amta section, in Bridge No. 168UP (1 x 12.2m + 3 x 30.5m), 48SL (2 x 30.5m), 105SL (3 x 30.5m) of Kharagpur-Rupsa-Rajalukh section, Bridge No. 30SL (1 x 30.5m), 35SL (1 x 30.5m), 85SL (1 x 45.7m), 110SL (1 x 30.5m), 129SL (2 x 12.2m PSC + 1 x 30.5m), 135SL (1 x 45.7m), 160SL (1 x 45.7m) of Tamluk-Digha section and ROR-5 (1 x 30.5), ROR-2 (1 x 45.7m) & 133A ROR (1 x 14.7m) in Kharagpur-Nimpura-Tatanagar section under AXEN/BRL/Kharagpur; ₹ 4,21,03,076.01; ₹ 3,60,500/- (4) **E-KGP-EAST-07-2025;** Execution of work of Santargachi: Augmentation of length of 02 nos. of lines (line no. 4 & 5) along with extension of Pit & provision of necessary infrastructure required for examination of full length LHB rakes at reception yard of Santargachi Coaching Yard under the jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer/East. (2nd call); ₹ 15,50,36,790.65; ₹ 9,25,200/- **Tender Document Cost :** 0.00 for each. **Date of opening :** 11.02.2025 for sl. no. 1, 17.02.2025 for sl. no. 2, 18.02.2025 for sl. no. 3 and 20.02.2025 for sl. no. 4. **Completion period of the work :** 12 Months for sl. no. 1, 09 Months for sl. no. 2 and 18 Months for sl. no. 3 & 4. **Bidding start Date :** From 17.01.2025 and up to 15.00 hrs. on 11.02.2025 for sl. no. 1, From 03.02.2025 and up to 15.00 hrs. on 17.02.2025 for sl. no. 2, From 04.02.2025 and up to 15.00 hrs. on 18.02.2025 for sl. no. 3 and From 06.02.2025 and up to 15.00 hrs. on 20.02.2025 for sl. no. 4. Interested tenderers may visit website www.ireps.gov.in for full details/descriptions/specifications of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these works will be accepted. **N.B.:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit “www.ireps.gov.in” to participate in all tenders. (PR-1081)

ENS & PTI
PATNA, JANUARY 30

CONGRESS MP Manoj Kumar was grievously injured on Thursday after a group of people allegedly thrashed him in Bihar’s Kaimur, police said. The MP suffered injuries on his head and was hospitalised, said the police.

Kumar, the MP from SC-reserved seat of Sasaram, had gone

to Nathupur village to sort out differences between a local school management and some residents, said the police. The private school is run by the MP’s brother, Mrityunjay Bharati.

Bharati alleged that one of his school bus drivers was beaten up by some villagers during a victory procession taken out after the result of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Societies

elections was announced. Kaimur SP Harimohan Shukla said, “Though villagers were first pacified by the MP, they came back with sticks and spears and attacked the MP and his supporters.” Kumar’s brother was also roughed up by the villagers, said the SP.

“Kumar suffered injuries on his head. Senior police officers immediately went to the spot

and brought the situation under control. The MP was taken to the nearest hospital from where he was referred to a bigger hospital for better treatment,” he said.

Complaints were lodged by both sides about the incident. Condemning the incident, state Congress chief Akhilesh Prasad Singh said strict action must be taken against those involved in the attack on Kumar.

MP ex-Dy CM’s son gets life for murder of brother, family

JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU
RAIPUR, JANUARY 30

A SESSIONS court in Chhattisgarh’s Korba district Wednesday handed a life term to the son of a former deputy chief minister of undivided Madhya Pradesh for the murder of his younger brother and his family.

Harbhajan Kanwar (52), the son of former deputy CM Pyarelal Kanwar, and four others brutally murdered Harish Kanwar (40), his wife Sumitra Kanwar (35) and their four-year-old daughter

Yashika over a property dispute. The four other persons, too, were handed life terms on Wednesday. They are Harbhajan’s wife Dhankunwar (39), his brothers-in-law Parmeshwar Kanwar (31) and Surendra Singh Kanwar (26), and Parmeshwar’s friend Ramprasad Mannewar (31).

A tribal community leader from Congress, Pyarelal Kanwar was the deputy CM of the then undivided Madhya Pradesh during Digvijay Singh’s government from 1993 to 1998. He died in 2011. Harish was also in politics.

The murders took place at around 4.15 am on April 21, 2021. The accused persons allegedly killed the family of three with butcher knives — in front of Harbhajan and Harish’s mother Janki Bai.

“The attack was so brutal that the faces of Harish and his daughter were difficult to identify. Harish did fight back using a sharp weapon and injured Parmeshwar on his face,” said a police official.

“The accused were unidentified. We started by sifting through footage of CCTV cam-

eras in the vicinity which showed us the route on which the accused had fled. The first clue came when we learnt that Parmeshwar had supposedly met with an accident on the same route. He was questioned and it became clear he was lying. We asked him about the murder and he told us he is related to Harbhajan. He kept denying but as we gathered more evidence, he admitted to the crime,” said inspector Lakhna Lal Patel, who investigated the case.

Police also found a text message sent from one of the phones

used by Harbhajan’s family members to Parmeshwar stating they had left the house and left the door open. The message requested Parmeshwar to spare the life of the four-year-old girl.

While recording the statements of the family members, police learnt that Harbhajan and Harish often fought over property disputes. The family had sold a piece of land to the government but Harish had kept the compensation money as well his mother’s pension which led to the animosity, alleged a family member and a witness.

5-DAY JAIPUR LITERATURE FESTIVAL KICKS OFF

Nobel Laureate bats for bridging gap between sciences, humanities

HAMZA KHAN
JAIPUR, JANUARY 30

NOBEL LAUREATE Venki Ramakrishnan on Thursday said that humanity’s future depends on its ability to bridge the divide between sciences and humanities, as it may help create a “broadly literate” population which is less susceptible to being manipulated by “demagogues and disinformation”.

Delivering the keynote address at the inaugural session of the Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF) on ‘Bridging the Divide between the Arts and Sciences’, Ramakrishnan said, “The gap between the two cultures isn’t just academic. The mutual ignorance and suspicion are responsible for the rise of populist movements fuelled by the spread of misinformation and even disinformation, prejudice and conspiracy theories. Major issues confront us, such as the environment, food security, preparation for future pandemics, and increasingly sophisticated weaponry, all of which could have serious consequences for the world.”

“Technologies like AI and genetic engineering have tremendous promise, but also carry tremendous risks. All of these require more than just technical expertise. They demand empathy and understanding of human history, culture and values. Without that broader context, the so-



Nobel Laureate Venki Ramakrishnan delivers the keynote address at the inaugural session of JLF, Thursday. Rohit Jain Paras

lutions we propose risk being shallow, shortsighted or even harmful. Scientists alone cannot make decisions that affect us all. We cannot leave technocrats, in the words of one famous technocrat -- to move fast and break things. Rather, we need the humanities, literature, philosophy and history to provide us with the framework to grapple with the moral, ethical and social implications of the scientific advances we are making. It is only together that we can decide on a way forward,” he said.

He cited C P Snow’s essay *The Two Cultures* (1959) and said that Snow’s advocacy of interdisciplinary education and dialogue is still relevant. “He advocated for a world where scientists were well versed in history and literature and the general public understood the basics of science. We believe that intellectu-

als who could bridge these two worlds, would be equipped to face the complexities of modern life,” the Nobel Laureate said.

“We live in a world that often wants simple and quick solutions to complicated problems. The reality, however, is that most of the challenges we face today are highly complex with technical, social and political aspects. In an era where specialists are often the norm, we need to bring together people from diverse fields of knowledge who can understand each other and work together creatively to solve complex problems that take into account all of the various angles. Literature and other parts of humanity, like history, have a great part in helping to break down these barriers. Scientists and science writers on their part can help communicate complex ideas to the general public while also being sensitive to their social consequences. And perhaps those in the humanities can become more aware of how science works, of the uncertainties in science and what it is doing, and incorporate that into their stories and histories,” he said.

The five-day event is set to feature over 600 luminaries, including Nobel laureates, Booker Prize, Pulitzer and Sahitya Akademi prize winners, policymakers, and acclaimed writers in multiple sessions, as per the organisers.



JAMMU AND KASHMIR POLICE
DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU
0191-2561578 (O), 0191-254780 (F),email-sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in

LOOK OUT NOTICE

SP City North, Jammu vide communication No. CRB/2025/1948-49/SPCN dated 25.01.2025 intimated that one un-identified male dead body found near Lion Gym, Roop Nagar, Janipur, Jammu. To ascertain the actual cause of death, Inquest Proceedings U/S 194 BNSS vide DDR No. 03 dated 23.01.2025 initiated at P/S Janipur and enquiry thereof started. During Probe, E/O shifted dead body to mortuary room of GMCH, Jammu for identification.

For the identification of unidentified Male dead body below description roll is required to be published on daily newspapers for identification / Public in general, having any clue related to the unidentified dead body, kindly communicate the same on the below mentioned contact/Telephone numbers.

Description Roll:-

Age : 50/55 years
Height : 5' (Aprox.)
Complexion: Whitish
Build : Medium

Contacts/Telephone Numbers:-

1. DPO, Jammu : 0191-2547807, 0191-2561578
2. SSP Jammu Mail I.D : sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in
3. PCR Jammu : 0191-2542000
4. SP City North : 0191-2547038
5. SDPO City West : 0191-2580251
6. Landline of P/S Janipur : 0191-2597344

For Sr. Superintendent of Police Jammu



ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office- Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval,
Gujarat-362266 Branch Office- Unit No. 710 A / 7TH Floor /
Corporate Park | B-109 | Sanjay Place | Agra -282002.

APPENDIX IV
[See Rule 8 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]
Possession Notice (for Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of **Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 had issued a demand notice dated 18-11-2024 calling upon the borrowers **VJAY KUMAR GOYAL, SANTOSH GOYAL & M/S VANSH MOBILE** mentioned in the notice being of Rs. 16,18,881.34/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Eighteen Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty One and Thirty Four Paise Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and to the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act. read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this **27th day of January of the year, 2025.**

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited for an amount of **Rs. 16,18,881.34/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Eighteen Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty One and Thirty Four Paise Only)** and interest thereon. Borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section 8 of Section 13 of the Act., in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All That Piece And Parcel Of Residential Flat No. 22-G, Ground Floor, Admeasuring 563.82 Sq Fts., On Plot No-22, Kharsa No. 1, 2, 4, 5 & 6, Anupam Vatika, Mouza- Maghtai, Agra, Uttar Pradesh-282001, And **Bounded As: East: 7.50 Mts. Wide Rasta West: Other Land North: Flat No. 21-G South: Flat No. 23-G.**

Date: 27.01.2025 Authorised Officer
Place: Agra Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited



Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli
No.-MCF/RBL/Re-engagement/Non-Gaz/Retired/Rly.Staff Date: 20.01.2025

INDICATIVE NOTICE

Application are invited for the re-engagement of retired Railway Staff on contractual basis against the total vacant posts 52 (Fifty Two) in Mech./Elect./Store/Civil Department of the Modern Coach Factory, Lalgaon, Raebareli. The last date for submission of application is 17.02.2025. Interested retired Railway Staff candidates should ensure that their applications are sent to the Senior Personnel Officer/NG, MCF/RBL before 17.02.2025.

Note: The detailed terms & conditions of the notice for re-engagement of retired Railway Staff may please visit MCF website www.mcf.indianrailways.gov.in (Nearal Srivastava) Sr. Personnel Officer/NG For GM(P)

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MILITARY ENGINEER SERVICES
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Engineer-in-Chief's Branch
Integrated HQ of MoD (Army)
Kashmir House, Rajaji Marg, New Delhi-110011

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF TECHNO-LEGAL CONSULTANT IN MES

MES invites applications for empanelment of Techno-Legal Consultants to defend matters related to various construction disputes located all around the country on behalf of Union of India through their zonal offices. In this regard detailed advertisement alongwith application form is now uploaded and accessible for download on website MES.gov.in. All interested applicants are requested to visit the website and download the requisite details to apply for the same.



Varthana Finance Private Limited
(Formerly known as Thirumeni Finance Private Ltd.)
Registered Office at : No. 58C-11, Varasiddhi, Outer Ring Road, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043. Website: www.varthana.com, Email: care@varthana.com, Phone: 080-68455777, Branch Office: 1162 & 1163, Tower 1 and 2, Sector 49, Sohna Road, Gurugram 122015.

POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule 8(1)] (For Immovable property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **M/s. Varthana Finance Private Ltd. (Formerly Known as M/s. Thirumeni Finance Private Ltd.) Gurugram**, Under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 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 dated: **15-11-2024**, calling upon the Applicants / Co-Aplicants / Mortgagees, In Loan Account No's. **S19GUR-GUR-011256, U22GUR-GUR-021732 and U23GUR023206, 1. M/s S.S High School**, Represented by its Authorized Signatory, Village Kahari, Maccharoli District, Jhajjar, Haryana - 124103. 2. **M/s. Henny Education & Welfare Society**, Represented by its Authorized Signatory, Village Kahari, Maccharoli District, Jhajjar, Haryana - 124103. 3. **Mr. Hari Kishana, S/o Bhagwan Singh**, Village Khari, Taluka Patoda, (Dhanisaniyan), Khari Taluka, Patoda, Jhajjar, Haryana - 124108. 4. **Mrs. Sumita, W/o, Hari Kishana**, Taluka Dhanisaniyan, Khari Taluka, Patoda, Jhajjar, Haryana - 124108. To repay the mentioned amount in the said notice being a sum of **Rs.36,75,149/- (Rupees Thirty Six Lakh Seventy Five Thousand One Hundred Forty Nine Only)** as on 14-11-2024, to repay agreed contractual rate of interest together with incidental expenses, cost and other charges etc, as details mentioned in the Demand Notice, till the date of payment, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

However the Applicants/ Co-Aplicants/ Mortgagees herein above having failed to repay the full amount with interest/other charges, notice is hereby given to the Applicants/ Co-Aplicants/Mortgagees in particular and to the public in general that the undersigned being Authorized Officer of the M/s. Varthana Finance Private Ltd. Gurugram Branch has taken **POSSESSION** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this day of **27-01-2025.**

The Applicants/ Co-Aplicants/ Mortgagees in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the **M/s. Varthana Finance Private Ltd. Gurugram**, for an amount of **Rs.36,89,378/- (Rupees Thirty Six Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Eight Only)** as on 27-01-2025, together with agreed contractual rate of interest, as mentioned herein above until the date of payment together with incidental expenses, cost and other charges. The Applicants/Co-Aplicants/Mortgagees attention is invited to provisions of Section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured Assets.

Description of the Immoveable Property : All that piece and parcel of the Land area measuring 10 Kanal 7 Maral, pertaining to the jamabandi for the year 2013-2014 bearing Khewat No. 467/(428, Khatori No. 495 Kharsa Nos.27/9/22(-1-16), 27/10/2 (3-11), 27/11 (9-9),30/11(16-0), 30/12 (7-12), 30/13 (8-0), 30/14/1 (-1-2) & 30/18/1 (3-17) situated in the area of village Khadi, Tehsil & Dist.Jhajjar (Haryana) Boundaries: East By: Agri Land, West By: Rasta, North By: Agri Land, South By: Agri Land.

Date: 31-01-2025, Place: Khadi Village Sd/- Authorised Officer, Varthana Finance Private Limited

OFFICE OF THE DY. COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
Traffic (Headquarters), Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, Todapur, New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that the following unclaimed Motor Vehicles of different makes/models have been seized u/s 207 M.V Act and 66 D.P Act.. By staff of Traffic Inspector/Sadar Bazar Circle, Traffic Inspector/Paharganj Circle & Traffic Inspector/Model Town Circle Traffic Circle. If anyone has any claim on these vehicles, he or she may approach the concerned circle within 10 days with all relevant documents, providing the ownership, to get the same released in his/her favor by adopting proper legal procedure. Failing which further proceedings for disposal of unclaimed vehicles would be done as per the procedure of law:-

DCP/Traffic-Range : DCP/ Traffic-Central Range		
Name of Traffic Circle : Traffic Inspector/Sadar Bazar Circle		
Sl. No.	Vehicle Registration No./Challan No./Drivers Name	Vehicle Type
1.	DL 1LA 9402	D/VAN
2.	HR 10C 8713	2/W
3.	HR 38C 4878	D/VAN
4.	DNK3322	2/W
5.	DDE 1156	2/W
6.	DL 6SD 2711	2/W
7.	DL 6SL 7015	2/W
8.	DL 6SF 4798	2/W
9.	DL 6SL 0542	2/W
10.	DL 4SBB1391	2/W
11.	DL 7SAJ 5413	2/W
12.	DL 4SW 0704	2/W
13.	DL 4SE 8652	2/W
14.	DL 6SV 5539	2/W
15.	DL 4SV3350	2/W
16.	DL 7SQ 1089	2/W
17.	DL 1SG 7422	2/W
18.	DL 8SM 2781	2/W
19.	DL 7SE 6812	2/W
20.	HR 38C 1778	D/VAN
21.	DL 1L 7231	D/VAN
22.	DL 8SB 2933	2/W
23.	MH 01W 6844	2/W
24.	DL 3SD 9871	2/W
25.	DL 8SL 1175	2/W
26.	UP 32 1445	2/W
27.	DL 9SK 1492	2/W
28.	DL 8SF 5517	2/W
29.	UP 16B 2312	2/W
30.	DL 8SK 8902	2/W
31.	DL 8SAG 6160	2/W
32.	DL 1SD 8126	2/W
33.	DL 5SJ 8087	2/W
34.	DL 1RC 3366	TSR
35.	DL 1LA 6413	D/VAN
36.	DL 1LJ 0901	D/VAN
37.	UP 16H 9518	LGV
38.	DL 4SJ 8745	2/W
39.	DL 1RC 4682	TSR
40.	DL 1C 7824	D/VAN
41.	DL 4SAL 0132	2/W
42.	DL 7SV 0511	2/W
43.	HR 13 5261	2/W
44.	DL 1RD 1058	TSR
45.	DL 1RK 2227	TSR
46.	DL 4SAW 7061	2/W
47.	DL 1M 1276	MGV
48.	DL 1SH 7910	2/W
49.	DL 6SS 5129	2/W
50.	DL 4SAA 0289	2/W
51.	DL 6SB 4459	2/W
52.	DL 3SF 9013	2/W
53.	DL 1LJ 1854	D/VAN
54.	DL 4SAB 0631	2/W
55.	DL 1LJ 4925	D/VAN
56.	DL 1LD 4466	D.VAN
57.	DL 8SAE 9136	2/W
58.	DL 8SAU 1706	2/W
59.	DL 4SX 5949	2/W
60.	DL 7SY 5453	2/W
61.	DL 8SK 4939	2/W
62.	DL 1RF 6181	TSR
63.	DL 8SK 5962	2/W
64.	DL 1K 4540	S.VAN
65.	DL 3SAX 7440	2/W
66.	DL 9SR 7227	2/W
67.	DL 1SL 6804	2/W
68.	DL 6SY 5748	2/W

Sl. No.	Vehicle Registration No./Challan No./Drivers Name	Vehicle Type
69.	DL 1LF 4538	D.VAN
70.	DL 1LE 2111	D.VAN
71.	DL 1LC 0637	D.VAN
72.	DL 1LC 0849	D.VAN
73.	DL 1CD 2641	MINI BUS
74.	DL 8SE 3463	2/W
75.	DDO 4421	2/W
76.	DL 1CB 9817	TSR
77.	DDI 6617	2/W
78.	DL 8SJ 2757	2/W
79.	DL 4SG 1440	2/W
80.	HR 29K 2954	2/W
81.	DAF 2926	2/W
82.	DL 1SJ 2703	2/W
83.	DL 6SD 4397	2/W
84.	DL 1SF 0602	2/W
85.	DL 4SAA 5554	2/W
86.	DL 1SL 9092	2/W
87.	DL 6SA 9496	2/W
88.	DL 6SP 2046	2/W
89.	DL 6SA 0771	2/W
90.	DAI 5680	2/W
91.	DL 6SK 5148	2/W
92.	DL 4SAF 1494	2/W
93.	DL 8SC 6345	2/W
94.	DL 6SE 2666	2/W
95.	UP 85K 6028	2/W
96.	DL 6SL 4993	2/W
97.	DL 1SL 8635	2/W
98.	DL 3SR 1519	2/W
99.	DL 4SD 2103	2/W
100.	DL 8SB 7414	2/W
101.	DL 5SK 8342	2/W
102.	DL 6SF 1754	2/W
103.	DL 4SY 1777	2/W
104.	DL 4S 6952	2/W
105.	DL 4SAF 1815	2/W
106.	DL 4SAB 8150	2/W
107.	DL 6SL 0384	2/W
108.	DL 8CK 1290	CAR
109.	DL 3SAP 5254	2/W
110.	DL 6ST 2998	2/W
111.	DL 4SX 2517	2/W
112.	DL 4SAA 6071	2/W
113.	DL 1SK 2649	2/W
114.	DL 1LF 0350	D.VAN
115.	DL 2SC 4658	2/W
116.	DL 8SH 4621	2/W
117.	DL 6SH 0232	2/W
118.	DBS 9490	2/W
119.	DL 8SD 4624	2/W
120.	DL 8SS 6043	2/W
121.	DL 7SN 2401	2/W
122.	DL 7SC 2801	2/W
123.	DL 6SC 1643	2/W
124.	DL 4SS 2584	2/W
125.	DL 8SQ 9555	2/W
126.	DL 1SJ 1006	2/W
127.	DL 4SAG 8242	2/W
128.	DL 8SK(sx) 3293	2/W
129.	UP 14AD 8399	2/W
130.	DL 6SW 1688	2/W
131.	DL 3SU 5762	2/W
132.	DL 8SF 5617	2/W
133.	DL 4SAA 1366	2/W
134.	DL 1LJ 1543	D.VAN
135.	DL 7SY 4940	2/W
136.	DL 1SC 8765	2/W
137.	DL 8SQ 8209	2/W
138.	DL 1LK 9986	LGV

Sl. No.	Vehicle Registration No./Challan No./Drivers Name	Vehicle Type
139.	DL 7SV 8214	2/W
140.	DL 8SJ 4843	2/W
141.	DL 4SX 6503	2/W
142.	DL 7SAP 1650	2/W
143.	DL 9SD 1821	2/W
144.	DL 4SAG 1575	2/W
145.	DL 7SAA 0973	2/W
146.	DL 1LH 7306	D.VAN
147.	DL 5SV 0325	2/W
148.	DL 1SL 1762	2/W
149.	DL 1LJ 0288	D.VAN
150.	DL 3SR 3640	2/W
151.	DL 6SL 4374	2/W
152.	DL 6SX 2451	2/W
153.	DL 4SAF 2352	2/W
154.	DL 6ST 3910	2/W
155.	DL 8SAD 4472	2/W
156.	DL 4SND 6323	2/W
157.	DL 6SR 3308	2/W
158.	DL 4SAJ 7056	2/W
159.	DL 8SAF 0861	2/W
160.	DL 1SQ 0155	2/W
161.	DL 4SAM 6125	2/W
162.	DL 6SW 2721	2/W
163.	DL 4SAD 9452	2/W
164.	DL 7SAJ 6559	2/W
165.	DL 7SAU 7838	2/W
166.	DL 6SAD 3185	2/W
167.	DL 8SZ 9527	2/W
168.	DL 8SAD 9507	2/W
169.	DL 5SL 8508	2/W
170.	DL 4SBE 5479	2/W
171.	DL 6SQ9713	2/W
172.	DL 6ST 5748	2/W
173.	DL 3SAP 0011	2/W
174.	DL 6CG 6549	CAR
175.	DL 8SP 4711	T/W
176.	DL 4SA 1682	T/W
177.	DL 8SAL 3791	2/W
178.	DL 4SBH 0843	2/W
179.	DL 6SAB 7605	2/W
180.	DL 3SA 5854	2/W
181.	DL 9SX 6390	2/W
182.	DL 1LH 1911	D.VAN
183.	DL 4SNC3060	2/W
184.	DL 6SH 7923	2/W
185.	DL 7 ST 2171	2/W
186.	DL 5SP 5837	2/W
187.	DL 13 S 3436	2/W
188.	DL 8SP 1681	2/W
189.	DL 8SL 7733	2/W
190.	DL 7SAB 1877	2/W
191.	DL 4SAN 2918	2/W
192.	DL 8SAR1441	2/W
193.	DL 8SB4975	2/W
194.	DL 3SV5343	2/W
195.	DL 4SBF1237	2/W
196.	DL 5SE2827	2/W
197.	DL 6SM0962	2/W
198.	DL 6SV9469	2/W
199.	DL 8SQ9015	2/W
200.	DL 7SBE4135	2/W
201.	DL 4SAL0636	2/W
202.	DL 3SAZ4770	2/W
203.	DL 7SW7230	2/W
204.	DL 5SV2161	2/W
205.	DL 4SAM5435	2/W
206.	DL 6SF3724	2/W
207.	DL 8SAJ0940	2/W
208.	DL 4SAA6859	2/W
209.	DL 7SAD4958	2/W
210.	DL 3SR6248	2/W
211.	DL 9SX9896	2/W
212.	DL 4SBE0153	2/W
213.	DL 9SN5354	2/W
214.	DL 2S2103	2/W
215.	DL 6SAE1544	2/W
216.	HR 19B9155	2/W
217.	DL 1SS0423	2/W
218.	DL 8SAD4125	2/W

Sl. No.	Vehicle Registration No./Challan No./Drivers Name	Vehicle Type
219.	DL6ST0628	2W
220.	DL8SX2488	2/W
221.	DL8SN0705	2/W
222.	DL8SAG5267	2/W
223.	DL7SBA3165	2/W
224.	DL7SL6354	2/W
225.	DL8SAJ4922	2/W
226.	DL4SAX2275	2/W
227.	DL3SAZ6709	2/W
228.	DL3SAJ9664	2/W
229.	DL6SY9378	2W
Name of Traffic Circle :- Traffic Inspector/Paharganj Circle		
230.	DL8SA9261	T/W
231.	DL6SK5976	T/W
232.	DL2CL8667	CAR
233.	DL8CNB1209	CAR
234.	DL9CX1543	CAR
235.	DL4CR0905	CAR
236.	DL6SAC9843	T/W
237.	DL4CAM7727	CAR
238.	DL8SP5429	T/W
239.	HR51G3387	T/W
240.	HR26AD1996	T/W
241.	DL3CAJ5033	CAR
242.	DL9CB1424	CAR
243.	DL1YB0234	TAXI
244.	DL1T2141	TAXI
245.	HR55L3526	TSR
246.	DL7SAG3835	T/W
247.	DL6CE7335	CAR
248.	DL4CP1347	CAR
249.	DL3SAE5091	T/W
250.	DL3SBM4669	T/W
251.	DL11SU1173	T/W
252.	DL4SQ1520	T/W
253.	DL6SAH2501	T/W
254.	DL6SAM7867	T/W
255.	DL6SY9006	T/W
256.	DL8SBP9077	T/W
257.	HR26CB7018	T/W
258.	DL9SBB1016	T/W
259.	DL6SAJ0679	T/W
260.	DL6SAS7532	T/W
261.	UP16K3254	T/W
262.	DL5SAA7621	T/W
263.	DL3SBZ1534	T/W
264.	DL6SM5645	T/W
265.	DL6SAF0792	T/W
266.	HR55T8846	TSR
267.	HR35D7191	T/W
268.	DL3SBX3449	T/W
269.	DL6SAD5775	T
270.	DL9SAE6952	T
271.	DL13SD3332	T
272.	DL6SAS3187	T
273.	DL8SAX0604	T/W
274.	DL11SH3696	T/W
275.	DL10SB3568	T/W
DCP/Traffic-Range :- DCP/ Traffic- Northern Range		
Name of Traffic Circle :- Traffic Inspector/Model Town Circle		
276.	DL8SU 6519	S/C
277.	DL9SF 5971	S/C
278.	DL6SF 3752	S/C
279.	DL2SH 8105	S/C
280.	HR29F 8952	S/C
281.	DL4SD8252	S/C
282.	DL4SS 3472	S/C
283.	DL8SN 0508	S/C
284.	HR29 8115	M/C
285.	DL4SY 1564	S/C
286.	DL5SE 4428	S/C
287.	DL8SB 9307	S/C
288.	DL8SH 9938	S/C
289.	DL1SF 3018	S/C
290.	DL8SK 0768	S/C
291.	DLISJ 4421	S/C
292.	DL8S 7641	S/C
293.	DL3SN 5122	S/C
294.	DL8SA 9089	S/C



The IndianEXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

TRAGEDY AT KUMBH

UP authorities need to reflect on the lessons from Wednesday stampede. Better crowd management plans need to be in place

THE SUFFERING OF the people who lost their dear ones in the tragedy at Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj on Wednesday is heartrending. The lives of at least 30 devotees were snuffed out and more than 60 were injured in a pre-dawn stampede on Mauni Amavasya, the biggest bathing day of the mela. There are fears that the toll could rise. Officials have blamed the incident on people breaking barricades in the rush for a dip in the holy waters on the auspicious occasion. A wave of pilgrims heading towards the Sangam, the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and mythical Saraswati, reportedly crashed into those on their way back after the ritual bath. In the chaos, a section of the crowd jumped queues, broke columns and trampled over devotees resting near the Sangam. The UP government delayed declaring the death toll till Wednesday evening. It has ordered an inquiry. That will, no doubt, throw more light on what went wrong. One thing, though, is clear: The incident calls for reflection on crowd management strategies. The UP government had, by all accounts, made elaborate plans for the smooth conduct of the Kumbh. Its publicity drives played a big role in the surge of visitors. It had perhaps not factored in the fact that attendance at religious gatherings almost always swells beyond the estimates drawn up by administrators. These events test even the most well-drawn-out plan. Large crowds are known to be susceptible to panic-inducing triggers. Administrators and law enforcers must, therefore, be constantly on the vigil for any sign of anxiety.

More than 10 crore people took the ritual bath on Wednesday. Attendance of this magnitude is bound to test the capacities of administrators. From declaring the Maha Kumbh area in Prayagraj a no-vehicle and no-VIP zone to preparing a plan to avoid any security issues, the UP government did put in place elaborate arrangements for the Mauni Amavasya. It has drawn criticism for not prioritising devotees and giving precedence to VIPs, photo ops, public relations and devotees from outside the country. The Kumbh Mela has always been a spectacle where politicians and celebrities rub shoulders with the mendicants and common devotees. In the digital and social media age, the pilgrims' enthusiasm to record their presence at a once in a 12-year event cannot be curbed. The devotion of millions, too, cannot be constrained. In such a situation, the authorities must act decisively and lose no time in ensuring that the crowd keeps moving — emotions such as fear, anxiety, excitement and anger can spread when people linger in one spot in a high-density area.

Three more *shahi snans* are scheduled at the Kumbh over the next four weeks. The UP government needs to quickly find out what defeated its plans on Wednesday. The inquiry into the tragedy has to be fast-tracked. If need be, the government should deploy more personnel on the ground, bolster technology aids such as drones or even take help from the country's top tech institutes to sync crowd management with real-time data. Wednesday's tragedy should not be repeated.

WAITING & ASSERTING

US Fed keeps interest rates steady. It has underlined its independence in face of Trump's criticism

IN ITS FIRST meeting of the year, the US Federal Reserve voted to keep interest rates unchanged. The target range for the federal funds rate remains at 4.25 to 4.5 per cent. While the central bank shied away from providing any forward guidance, most economists expect it to hold rates in its next meeting as well. The markets have reacted negatively. The Dow ended the day down 0.31 per cent, while the S&P 500 fell by 0.47 per cent.

The Fed noted that economic activity was expanding at a "solid pace", and unemployment had "stabilised at a low level", while inflation remained "somewhat elevated". Recent data points to the strength of the US labour market. In December 2024, 2,56,000 jobs were added, significantly outstripping expectations. The unemployment rate edged downwards to 4.1 per cent, underlining the strength of the growth momentum. However, data from the US Labour Department showed that inflation, as measured by the consumer price index, rose to 2.9 per cent in December, up marginally from 2.7 per cent in November, indicating that the last mile of disinflation is proving to be difficult. Sticky inflation coupled with a strong labour market suggests less scope for greater policy easing. In his comments, Fed chair Jerome Powell noted that the central bank would have to see "real progress on inflation or some weakness in the labour market before we consider making adjustments".

The uncertainty before the global economy, and the Fed, is how Donald Trump's policies on tariffs, taxes and immigration will play out. Powell is reported to have said that "the committee is very much in the mode of waiting". However, the Fed has come under criticism from Trump. On a social platform, the US President said that "the Fed failed to stop the problem they created with inflation". He added that "if the Fed had spent less time on DEI, gender, ideology, 'green' energy, and fake climate change, inflation would never have been a problem". This comes after Trump is reported to have told business leaders via video at the World Economic Forum in Davos that "with oil prices going down, I'll demand that interest rates drop immediately, and likewise they should be dropping all over the world". While Powell responded by saying that it would not be appropriate to comment on what the President says, he has pushed back. Asserting the Fed's independence, he said that the "public should be confident that we will continue to do our work as we always have focusing on using our tools to achieve our goals and keeping our heads down".

EVERY SECOND COUNTS

With 89 seconds to midnight, the Doomsday Clock's hands have never inched closer to global calamity

WITH PARTS OF the world ravaged by war, nuclear threats and climate change, a device that warns humanity of its proximity to global destruction would be invaluable. A group of 18 researchers at the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists (BAS) at the University of Chicago has indeed maintained such a device since 1947. The bad news is that the Doomsday Clock's hands have just inched closer to catastrophe. In fact, with 89 seconds to midnight, the BAS has asserted that "continuing on the current path is a form of madness".

The Doomsday Clock was created by a group of scientists who had previously worked on the Manhattan Project — the American R&D programme led by J Robert Oppenheimer during World War II, which culminated in the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They recognised the growing dangers of nuclear weapons in a new era of geopolitical tensions and originally set the clock at seven minutes to midnight. However, since 2007, the BAS began factoring in the deadly risks posed by climate change. It was no surprise, then, that until 2025, the closest the clock had ever been set to midnight — just two minutes away — was in 1953, when the US and the Soviet Union tested thermonuclear weapons, and again in 2018 due to "a breakdown in the international order". The furthest the Clock has been set was 17 minutes to midnight, in 1991, following the Soviet Union's collapse and an arms reduction treaty with the US.

The global economy is slowly recovering from the devastation caused by Covid. Conflicts across the world continue to take their toll. Last year was the hottest year recorded in human history; 2025 could offer little relief. In the midst of this turmoil, the Doomsday Clock ticks ever closer to midnight. While it is a symbolic representation, it remains a powerful call to action. *Cada segundo cuenta* — every second counts. If world leaders remain indifferent and complacent, the tolling of the midnight bells may not be far off.



SHAILAJA CHANDRA

THE RIVER YAMUNA and Arvind Kejriwal's claim that Haryana was mixing poison in its waters released to Delhi has become a major election issue. Legal wrangling on the matter has started, and the Election Commission has questioned the statement. Kejriwal said it was his duty to warn the citizens of Delhi. With just five days to go before the Delhi election, it might be a moment to look at the health of the river, beyond politics.

There are three separate issues concerning the Yamuna and Delhi — drinking water, pollution and environmental flow.

First, the facts. The water coming from Haryana is the only source of drinking water in Delhi and anxieties about its potability affect citizens, particularly when accountability is opaque. The supply of drinking water becomes a crisis in Delhi every few months. The capital receives its drinking water from several key inlets that all originate in Haryana, chief among them the Wazirabad Barrage, where raw water from the Yamuna is received in Delhi. The flow at Wazirabad depends on the releases from Haryana's Hathni Kund Barrage.

During the lean seasons, water levels often drop, leading to ammonia contamination and water shortages in Delhi. The city's drinking water depends on these inlets. Treatment at Delhi's Wazirabad, Chandrawal, Okhla and Haiderpur and Bawana treatment plants rests entirely on the availability of water from Haryana. When the water supply is depleted, what goes into the treatment plants becomes untreatable, leading to shutdowns, which have a cascading effect on water supply. There is frenzy over securing tankers and collecting water, and this is the only subject of conversation in affected neighbourhoods.

The solution lies in joint inspection of water released by Haryana — both in terms of quality and quantity. There is also the need for an independent monitoring system to be established, and retribution in case the water released is short of the agreed norm or contains pollutants that render it untreatable for drinking. In view of the extreme distrust between

The river, Delhi's lifeline, needs a consensus between states — not a political slugfest

The studies by the YMC and NIH underscore the critical importance of maintaining adequate environmental flow in the Yamuna to ensure its ecological health and the well-being of communities that depend on it. But it is unlikely that Haryana and other states will pay heed to this unless it is mandated either by the central government after arriving at a consensus or a court of law. Given the size and complexity of the issues plaguing the Yamuna, it is time that people at the helm of affairs — politicians, bureaucrats or engineers — address major problems. The solutions are in black and white.

governments and the matter going to the apex court every year, it is time a more functional and transparent system is put in place.

The second issue is of pollutants, apart from ammonia. This is largely due to sewage flowing in the stormwater drains, the discharge of industrial effluent mainly from unlicensed household industries, and solid waste dumping. During the period 2018 to 2021, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) set up the Yamuna Monitoring Committee (YMC) to monitor the abatement of pollution in the river. Five reports were given to the NGT, which pinpointed the roles and responsibilities of 16 stakeholders who contribute substantially to pollution. During the life of the committee, each of the stakeholders — which included the Delhi Jal Board, Delhi Development Authority, and the governments of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh — committed to a slew of measures. These have not been undertaken.

The Najafgarh, Supplementary and Shahdara drains are significant contributors to the pollution in the Yamuna, as they carry substantial amounts of untreated sewage and industrial waste from various regions, including parts of Haryana and UP. To mitigate this, both states had committed to establishing sewage treatment plants (STPs). In Gurugram, the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority had found that approximately 80 million litres of untreated sewage was discharged daily into stormwater drains leading to the Najafgarh drain. However, as of the latest reports, Haryana too has not fully implemented its commitments.

Long before 2018, Delhi had started work on an "interceptor project" to trap and treat sewage before it is discharged into the Yamuna. Despite notable improvements, which are on record, the project has not achieved its intended outcomes and the river continues to suffer from significant pollution due to incomplete sewer connections in unauthorised colonies, operational inefficiencies in some STPs, and the continuous inflow of untreated industrial waste.

The third issue is environmental flow. The National Mission for Clean Ganga under the Ministry of Jal Shakti had asked for a report from the National Institute of Hydrology (NIH) in Roorkee. The NIH study was aimed at assessing the flow of water necessary to maintain ecological balance and support essential riverine functions. The NIH concluded that the current water withdrawals upstream significantly reduce the river's flow through Delhi, exacerbating pollution levels and harming aquatic life. It recommended regulating water releases from upstream barrages, especially during lean seasons, to maintain a minimum environmental flow.

The YMC, too, had pointed out that Delhi suffers from severely reduced flow, especially during the nine non-monsoon months, and this was leading to high contamination and ecological degradation. It recommended revisiting the 1994 water-sharing agreement between the basin states of Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, and UP to ensure a more equitable distribution of water.

The studies by the YMC and NIH underscore the critical importance of maintaining adequate environmental flow in the Yamuna to ensure its ecological health and the well-being of communities that depend on it. But it is unlikely that Haryana and other states will pay heed to this unless it is mandated either by the central government after arriving at a consensus or a court of law. Given the size and complexity of the issues plaguing the Yamuna, it is time that people at the helm of affairs — politicians, bureaucrats or engineers — address major problems. The solutions are in black and white. What is missing is the will to reach a consensus and to deal with the problem in an equitable and just manner.

Unless that happens, neither promises nor manifestos have any meaning. The sooner citizens realise what is happening, the better.

The writer is former chief secretary of Delhi and was a member of the Yamuna Monitoring Committee set up by the NGT



MEHUL PANDYA

AS INDIA LOOKS to achieve its target of a \$5-trillion economy over the next few years, what remains crucial will be maintaining a sustainable growth path without losing our focus on critical issues like fiscal discipline and economic inequality. The Union Budget 2025 carries the potential to impact the economy significantly. It arrives at a crucial time, with the economy facing challenges such as weak GDP growth and low consumer spending. Key expectations include tax reforms to provide relief to individuals and boost consumption, increased capital outlay for infrastructure development, and support for sustainable initiatives in various sectors.

Capital expenditure has become critical in determining India's growth. The government should continue focusing on productive capex, which has a higher multiplier effect on growth, especially when consumer spending shows weakness. This will support India's ambition of achieving the \$5-trillion target.

Recent data highlights an increase in India's gross fixed capital formation (GFCF), which climbed to 30.8 per cent of GDP during FY24, surpassing the pre-pandemic average of 28.9 percent, observed during the fiscal years 2015 to 2019. However, a chunk of this growth has been supported by the government's capex push and an upswing in household investments in residential dwellings.

Even though the government has been prioritising infrastructure development, the first half of FY25 (H1FY25) has seen disruptions in momentum due to multiple elections. Data reveals that capital expenditure by central and state governments fell by 15.4 per cent and 10.5 per cent year on year, respectively. Moreover, major central public sector enter-

KEEP EYE ON CAPEX BALL

Interplay between public investment and growth will need careful navigation

The overall private sector capex has yet to witness a strong pickup. Headwinds primarily emerge from global policy uncertainties, geopolitical risks, oversupply from China, increased borrowing costs, and muted domestic demand. With the expected monetary policy rate cut and policy support from the Union Budget, we remain hopeful about a likely pickup in private capex going forward.

prises reported a 10.8 per cent decline in capital expenditure during H1FY25, reaching only 43.6 per cent of their annual target, reflecting cautious spending amid economic challenges.

To bolster capex by states, the Centre has raised the allocation for the 50-year interest-free loans in the Union Budget for FY25 to Rs 1.5 trillion. Of this, Rs 550 billion is an unconditional loan, while the rest is tied to conditions such as industrial growth, land reforms, and state capex growth. It is essential to monitor states' utilisation of this loan — in the previous fiscal year, they used only Rs 1.1 trillion of the budgeted Rs 1.3 trillion. However, the slowdown in the public capex seems to be temporary, with a likely pickup in the second half.

The overall private sector capex has yet to witness a strong pickup. Headwinds primarily emerge from global policy uncertainties, geopolitical risks, oversupply from China, increased borrowing costs, and muted domestic demand. With the expected monetary policy rate cut and policy support from the Union Budget, we remain hopeful about a likely pickup in private capex going forward.

Gross FDI inflows have performed well as of FY25 year-to-date; gross FDI inflows stand at \$48.6 billion, higher than \$42.1 billion in the comparable period of last year. However, higher repatriation of profit has resulted in muted FDI inflows on a net basis. This and the recent outflow of FPIs increase depreciation pressure on the rupee. Given the volatility in the investment landscape arising from global uncertainties and slowing domestic growth, fiscal support remains crucial at this juncture.

The Centre's budget allocations for capex have more than doubled, from 1.6 per cent of GDP in FY19 to a projected 3.4 per cent in FY25.

Meanwhile, state capex is also expected to grow modestly to 2.6 per cent of GDP in FY25, exceeding pre-pandemic levels. Closer scrutiny is warranted regarding the actual deployment of these budgets, as states have often struggled to realise their plans fully.

That said, an upward trend in order books for the capital goods sector, combined with a recovering infrastructure sector, provides a glimmer of hope for increased capital spending across various industries. Order books in the capital goods sector grew 23.6 per cent in FY24, against the CAGR of 4.5 per cent in the preceding four years. Moreover, in H1FY25, there was 10.3 per cent growth compared to the end of FY24, implying healthy momentum.

Infrastructure companies, particularly those involved in road development, saw a decline in their aggregate order book by around 15 per cent in FY24. However, in FY25, the situation has improved, with substantial new orders already secured, showing 20.5 per cent growth in just the first half of the year. Most new orders are coming from the public sector, particularly state governments, indicating a possible pickup in public capex going forward.

In conclusion, while the government has set ambitious capex targets, the slowdown in allocations in recent months has impacted India's growth momentum. Even though we expect overall public capex to improve following the election period, the current economic environment necessitates vigilant monitoring of capex trajectory. The vital interplay between public investment and growth will need careful navigation to harness the potential of India's burgeoning economy.

The writer is MD and Group CEO, CareEdge



JANUARY 31, 1985, FORTY YEARS AGO

BILL AMENDED

THE GOVERNMENT DROPPED the controversial clause 2 C of the Anti-Defection Bill following the strong opposition it evoked in the Congress (I) parliamentary party. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who listened to the strong resentment expressed by member after member, told his partymen to reconsider the clause. He said he, too, had reservations about it.

MILITANCY IN PUNJAB

PUNJAB IS AGAIN witnessing a revival of Sikh fundamentalism. Terrorists are also becoming

active. The situation, which is causing concern to the authorities, has prompted the government to intensify its anti-terrorist operations. Combining of the areas including Hoshiarpur, Ludhiana and Faridkot districts, which recently witnessed some serious incidents of terrorism, has been going on, resulting in the arrest of some suspects and clues about some others.

CONTACT WITH AKALIS

THE UNION GOVERNMENT is believed to have established direct contact with the Akali Dal chief, Harchand Singh Longowal, to know his views on the resumption of talks and as-

sess the mood of the Akalis. According to sources, the contact was established through R V Subramaniam, senior advisor to the Punjab governor, who flew to Udaipur a few days ago in a special plane.

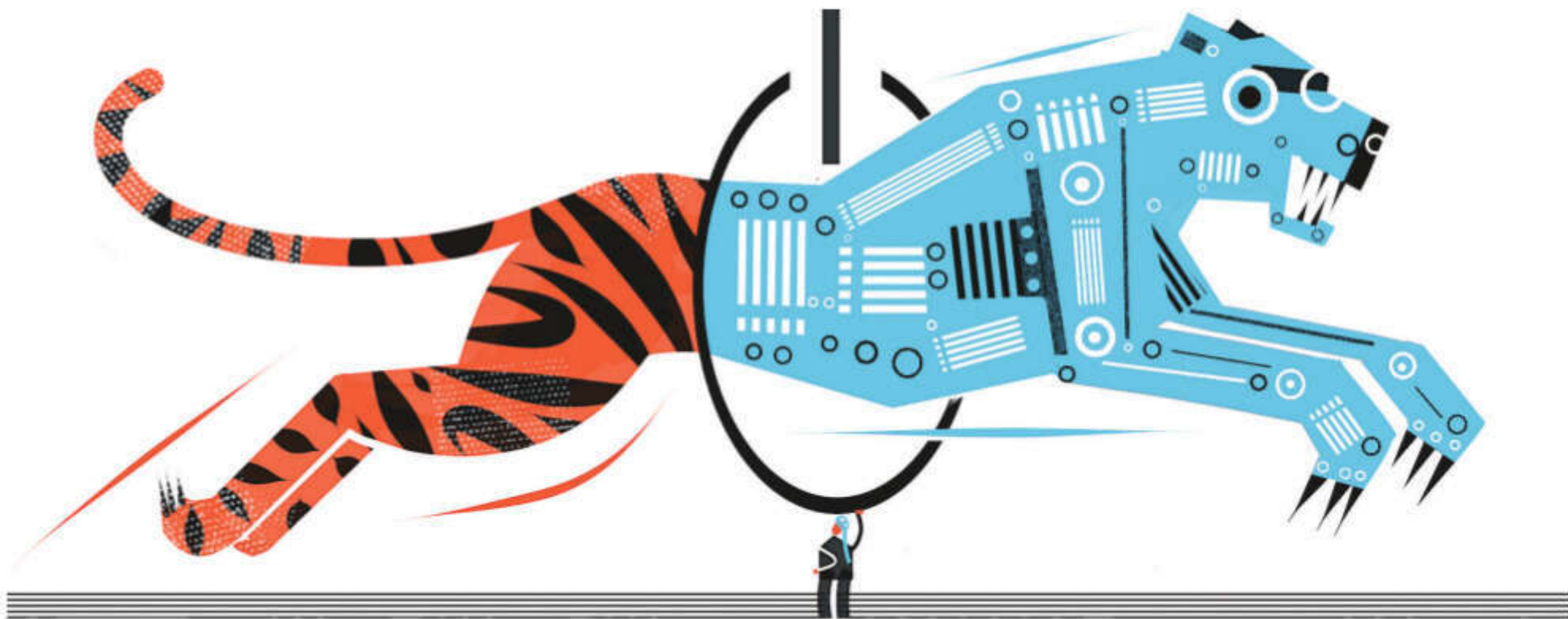
HOMAGE TO GANDHI

MARTYRS' DAY WAS observed throughout the country and tributes were paid to Mahatma Gandhi on his 37th death anniversary. President Zail Singh, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, besides a host of dignitaries, paid floral homage at the Mahatma's samadhi at Rajghat. Amidst tight security, the dignitaries participated in a prayer ceremony.

15 THE IDEAS PAGE

DIS/AGREE
THE BEST OF BOTH SIDES

A fortnightly column, which offers not this-versus-that, but the best of both sides, to inform the debate



C R Sasikumar

The launch of DeepSeek’s model has set off a global AI race. Where does India stand?

It’s time for the AI leap

Unveiling of Chinese company’s AI tool is an opportunity to work on low-cost innovation. India has the talent and resolve — it must act now



B RAVINDRAN AND KRISHNAN NARAYANAN

DEEPSEEK, A CHINESE startup, recently released its AI model (R1) designed for advanced reasoning tasks. It has raised a virtual storm worldwide. The AI models, which have been open-sourced, are supposed to have been built using just 2,000 Nvidia H800 GPUs, matching the performance of leading systems like OpenAI’s ChatGPT 4.0, but at a fraction of the cost (just \$6 million for its final training). These numbers (of AI infrastructure and costs of model development) are an order of magnitude better than leading frontier AI models.

Some have hailed DeepSeek’s emergence as “AI’s Sputnik moment”, while others have expressed scepticism about the origins and actual costs of its rapid advancement. The stock markets are in a tizzy. Startups/researchers worldwide have begun testing, even locally installing, and trying to replicate the results of DeepSeek’s models. The dust is settling. One thing is clear: This moment can catalyse new AI developments in the world. But what does it mean for India?

Chinese engineers looking to develop foundation models/LLMs faced significant challenges in acquiring large quantities and the latest versions of Nvidia’s GPUs. Given these constraints, they cleverly combined several known AI engineering techniques, while making some unique contributions as well, to radically improve efficiencies and lower costs of AI-model training and inferencing.

For instance, DeepSeek claims that it uniquely leveraged “reinforcement learning” techniques to create an AI model with advanced reasoning behaviours like self-verification and complex chains of thought, autonomously. It uses a “mixture of experts” technique to assign different parts of a training task to specialised units or “experts” within the model, ensuring that only the most relevant sections are used at any given time. To make the system even more efficient, DeepSeek uses other optimisation techniques to quickly find and process information without using much memory, and also predict two words at a time instead of one. All these AI engineering methods make the system faster and more resource-efficient while still handling complex problems. The lower cost encourages more startups to use DeepSeek in their real-world applications.

Several questions arise with respect to DeepSeek’s implications for India. Why didn’t we create this here? Is there an opportunity to create newer models in the future? Will our developers use models like this and benefit from them?

Let us start with the implications for developing AI applications first. The most significant aspects of DeepSeek models are their cost-effectiveness and open access. These

models achieve performance that matches existing models, like GPT-4, but at a fraction of the cost. The API access is roughly one-tenth to one-twentieth the price of global AI models. This price reduction is a game changer for the Indian AI industry. It means that high-quality language models become much more accessible and affordable for a wide range of applications and users.

DeepSeek is open source, which is very important, as it allows users to download the models and run them on their own hardware if they have the capacity. We are already seeing others create local installations of DeepSeek models — even without GPUs. This means Indian startups don’t need to rely on servers located in China and can create their own version of the DeepSeek service, much like Perplexity has already done.

Second is the issue of AI research. India has a strong AI talent pool, but it’s mostly focused on building applications on top of existing AI systems. While India can use existing LLMs very well for this purpose, we need to focus on fundamental research in order to create our own cutting-edge AI foundation models. There is a strong need for increased AI research funding and a shift in our approach to AI development. To start with, we expect that multiple efforts will be undertaken in India (in universities and companies) where existing models of DeepSeek/Meta’s Llama will be installed locally, and fine-tuned with India-specific or domain-specific data. Remember, DeepSeek did not happen overnight — it involved the efforts of hundreds of researchers/engineers in under two years.

The lower costs of training and inference mean that researchers can perform many more experiments. Andrej Karpathy, one of the engineers involved with DeepSeek, has suggested establishing a global “RL-gym” to create a wide

range of RL environments to understand how LLMs think and make decisions. This may spur research towards developing AGI. At the same time, let us not forget that there are several other areas of AI to research — predictive AI and physical AI, for example.

There are only a few efforts in India to create our own LLMs. We must use the DeepSeek moment to catalyse multiple and competing mission-mode projects to develop our own foundation models. Besides the government, private sector companies and philanthropists can also fund some of these AI grand challenges. The

India AI Mission’s GPU cluster will come in handy for these projects.

Multi-disciplinary teams should be put in place. The projects require expertise in AI frameworks like PyTorch, advanced attention mechanisms, efficient model training techniques and reinforcement learning. Engineers need skills in optimising AI performance using low-precision computing and specialised processing methods. Teams should also have hardware expertise in GPU acceleration, distributed computing and high-speed networking.

India has the talent. It has the resolve. The time for collective AI action is now.

Ravindran is Professor and Head of the Wadhvani School of Data Science and AI, IIT Madras. Narayanan is co-founder and president of iitihaasa Research and Digital



SUBIMAL BHATTACHARJEE

ON JANUARY 20, as the world tuned into the inauguration of Donald Trump as the 47th US President, DeepSeek, a Chinese company, established in 2023 by Liang Wenfeng, a young engineer and entrepreneur, launched its first generative AI large language model (LLM) — DeepSeek R1. In a week’s time, this model became the most downloaded app in the US, sending stock markets crashing across the globe and triggering debates if the generative AI bubble would follow the dotcom bubble.

This disruptive model’s pace and capability at a fraction of the infrastructure cost has challenged the US’s supremacy, premised on its massive high-cost data centre ecosystems and high-performing semiconductor chips despite China’s dominance in rare earth metals and engineering capability. As the top leaders of the world gather in Paris on February 10-11 to deliberate on “action AI”, this shock prompted by DeepSeek is going to feature in discussions; it will also give direction to how the race for generative AI will have to be handled.

Generative AI is not just a technological frontier; it is a geopolitical battleground. The ability to develop and control foundational models confers significant economic and strategic advantages. Countries that lead in AI innovation can shape global standards, influence international norms, and gain a competitive edge in industries ranging from defence to healthcare. The US-China rivalry in AI is a case in point. The US has long been the dominant force in AI research and development, thanks to its world-class universities, tech giants, and venture-capital ecosystem. However, China’s concerted efforts to become a global AI leader by 2030 have narrowed the gap. DeepSeek’s success is emblematic of China’s broader strategy to achieve self-reliance in critical technologies and reduce its dependence on Western imports.

For other nations, this rivalry presents both challenges and opportunities. On the one hand, the concentration of AI expertise and resources in a few countries risks creating a new form of technological colonialism, where smaller nations become dependent on foreign AI systems. On the other hand, the democratisation of AI tools and open-source initiatives offers a pathway for countries to build their own capabilities and assert their sovereignty in the digital age.

India, with its thriving tech industry and vast pool of engineering talent, is uniquely positioned to become a major

player in the generative AI space. However, despite its strengths, India lags behind in developing foundational models. Most Indian AI startups and enterprises rely on foreign LLMs, which limit their ability to innovate and cater to local needs. The effort to purchase 10,000 graphic processing units (GPU) is yet to gather steam to be able to support the modest AI projects being planned around optimal healthcare delivery, improved crop yields, and enhanced access to personalised education.

Investing in foundational models is not just a matter of national pride; it is an economic imperative. Generative AI has the potential to add trillions of dollars to the global economy, and India cannot afford to be a passive consumer in this transformative wave. Moreover, India’s diverse linguistic landscape presents a compelling use case for localised AI models. With over 22 officially recognised languages and hundreds of dialects, India requires AI systems that can understand and generate content in multiple languages. Foundational models tailored to Indian languages would not only address domestic needs but also create export opportunities in other multilingual regions.

To achieve this vision, India must adopt a multi-pronged strategy. First, the government should increase funding for AI research and development, particularly in academia and public-private partnerships. Initiatives like the National AI Strategy and the establishment of AI research centres are steps in the right direction, but more ambitious efforts are needed. Second, India must invest in infrastructure to support AI innovation. This includes high-performance computing resources, cloud infrastructure, and data-sharing frameworks that enable researchers and startups to train large-scale models.

Collaboration with global tech leaders and participation in international AI consortia is crucial to accelerate progress. Third, India must foster a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in AI. This requires not only technical skills but also a mindset that embraces experimentation and risk-taking. Initiatives like AI hackathons, startup incubators, and industry-academia collaborations can nurture the next generation of AI leaders. Fourth, Indian tech giants should start the LLM pursuit as India has access to better GPUs and interconnects compared to China. The iCET sets India on the path of comprehensive tech cooperation with the US.

DeepSeek’s rise is a testament to the transformative power of generative AI and the shifting dynamics in the global AI landscape although it still remains to be seen what is the fairness in all its responses, particularly when it comes to prompts about China and its political systems. It has stated that its R1 model is open source and has laid out its reasoning in a paper in Github. So, there is the scope to test and validate that model and see if such models can be repeated at reasonable costs, factoring in concerns about bias, privacy, and misuse.

The writer, a defence and cyber security analyst, is former country head of General Dynamics

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — due to meet Donald Trump as soon as next week — has spurned plans for ‘the day after’ in Gaza, largely because he has sought to defer such a day.” — THE GUARDIAN

A light to guide us

Now more than ever, Mahatma Gandhi’s politics, philosophy and life must be followed and emulated



SACHIN PILOT

WHY SHOULD WE remember Mahatma Gandhi 77 years after he was assassinated? Because more than ever, his legacy is of contemporary relevance and universal importance. Gandhi was a multidimensional person who — while engaged in politics — gave new insights into every walk of life such as social justice, peaceful resistance, morality, communities and service. He understood that the path to good governance started from social change. His writings are testimony to his keen observation of his environment and eagerness to engage constructively with the problems of society.

The world remembers him for several reasons. First, Mahatma Gandhi’s philosophy of *satyagraha*, meaning a firmness and insistence on truth, revolutionised the way social and political conflicts could be addressed. Unlike traditional methods that often relied on violence or coercion, *satyagraha* emphasised the power of truth, love, and non-violence to bring about change. Gandhi demonstrated this principle during key movements such as the Salt March, where thousands peacefully defied British laws and the Quit India Movement. His method sought to appeal to the moral conscience of the oppressor, fostering reconciliation rather than perpetuating cycles of violence. Gandhi’s approach has had a lasting global impact, influencing leaders like Martin Luther King Jr in the US, Nelson Mandela in South Africa, Lech Walesa in Poland and Aung San Suu Kyi in Myanmar. These leaders adopted *satyagraha* to challenge systemic injustices such as racial segregation and political oppression. His work teaches that peaceful resistance, when combined with unity and determination, is a powerful weapon against oppression, making him a timeless symbol of the power of non-violence. *Satyagraha* remains a powerful tool today to make our governments more accountable and ensure that they stay true to their constitutional obligations.

Second, Gandhi addressed systemic inequalities, particularly those affecting marginalised communities. His campaigns against caste discrimination, untouchability, and gender inequality continue to resonate. Gandhi believed in the inherent dignity of every individual and worked tirelessly to dismantle systems of inequality and injustice. One of his most significant efforts was his fight against the oppressive practice of untouchability. He advocated for their integration into the mainstream and their equal rights, challenging deeply entrenched social norms. His campaign included raising awareness, promoting education, and even living among marginalised communities to understand their struggles.

Gandhi also championed gender equality, advocating for women’s education and their active participation in social and political life. He saw women as equal partners in the struggle for freedom and encouraged them to lead movements, as seen in the Salt March. His emphasis on non-violence and moral strength gave many marginalised in-

dividuals the courage to speak out against injustice. His solution to escape crony capitalism was trusteeship and cooperation, which showed an alternative to capitalism and socialism. Today — as we continue to repair fault lines along caste, religion, economics — Gandhi’s vision of social justice serves as an inspiration for movements seeking to combat systemic inequality. Student protests against paper leaks and mismanagement of public examinations across different states in India embody this spirit and have shaken the foundations of several governments. We have been witnesses to one of the most successful peaceful agitations by India’s farmers, which led to the withdrawal of the farm laws in 2021. That is the epitome of the Gandhian struggle — peaceful protests leading to policy change.

Third, Gandhi’s emphasis on Gram Swaraj is a shining example of empowering India’s villages. He envisioned a society that is composed of autonomous self-reliant villages. Gandhi championed simple living, self-sufficiency, and the responsible use of resources. In an era of climate change and environmental crises, his emphasis on sustainability and harmony with nature offers valuable lessons. Gandhi’s lifestyle was a testament to his belief in simplicity and sustainability. He advocated for a life free from excessive materialism, emphasising the importance of self-reliance and local production. His promotion of the *charkha* (spinning wheel) symbolised the importance of self-sufficiency and small-scale community-based economies. He argued that true wealth lay in the well-being of communities and their ability to live harmoniously with nature. His emphasis on reducing waste, living within one’s means, and conserving resources aligns closely with modern movements advocating for sustainability.

Fourth, Gandhi propagated morality in politics. His life exemplified integrity, humility, and courage. He showed that leadership rooted in moral conviction, rather than power or wealth, could inspire profound societal transformation. He demonstrated humility, rejecting wealth and power, and choosing to live among the people he served. His dedication to *satya* (truth) and *ahimsa* (non-violence) was unwavering, even in the face of adversity. By remembering Gandhi, we reaffirm the timeless power of non-violence, empathy, and moral leadership. His ideals remain a guiding light for building a more just, peaceful, and equitable world. Gandhi’s emphasis on non-violent resistance and human rights has become a cornerstone of modern international movements advocating for democracy, justice, and equality. His legacy reminds us that the fight for freedom and human dignity requires not only courage and perseverance but also a commitment to peace and understanding.

In today’s polarised world, Gandhi’s teachings provide a blueprint for addressing global challenges such as inequality, authoritarianism, and human rights abuses. Let us not forget that India, being his *jannbhoomi* and *karmbhoomi*, has greater responsibility in sustaining Gandhi’s teachings. We can do this through constructive work that contributes to nation-building, helping others, peacefully resisting immoral policies, and building empathetic communities.

The writer is a Congress Member of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly from Tonk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POWER GAMES

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Diminishing the university’ (IE, January 30). The proposed UGC draft regulations have sparked widespread concern among state governments, academics and universities. The attempt to centralise power by granting governors the authority to appoint VCs without the input of state governments undermines the latter’s autonomy and may lead to increased political influence in higher education. Universities are formed by acts of state legislatures. They are funded by state governments. The UGC has no mandate to control and regulate the functioning of the universities, even if education is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution. Further, doing away with the need for teaching experience for being appointed VC will compromise academic integrity and allow non-academics to occupy key educational positions. The Centre’s intention is apparent and for the sake of higher learning, it must be challenged.

SS Paul, Nadia

DON’T LOWER GUARD

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Breaking the ice’ (IE, January 29). The initiation of talks between the officials of India and

China to improve ties is welcome. The tensions at the Line of Actual Control after the 2020 Galwan conflict are easing due to marathon discussions undertaken by the military commanders. The trust deficit remains, but to restore it is China’s responsibility. The issues pertaining to de-induction, disengagement, and trade imbalance should also be resolved at the earliest. India must not lower its guard in view of Beijing’s deceitful nature.

Subhash Vaid, New Delhi

PREPARE BETTER

THIS REFERS TO the report, ‘30 dead, 60 injured in stampede as crowds surge at Maha Kumbh’ (IE, January 30). Stampedes at large gatherings have become the norm, not the exception. It is unfortunate that the crowd management authorities and state government could not read the writing on the wall. Undoubtedly, what happened was avoidable. In India, overcrowding should be anticipated. It would be advisable to screen a short video preceding the event that showcases the precautions to be taken in case of an emergency. The government ought to shun VIP treatment which leaves the general public at the receiving end of such disasters.

Aanya Singhal, Noida

GOLD

₹83,800

USD RATE

₹86.62

OIL

\$80.49

SILVER

₹94,150

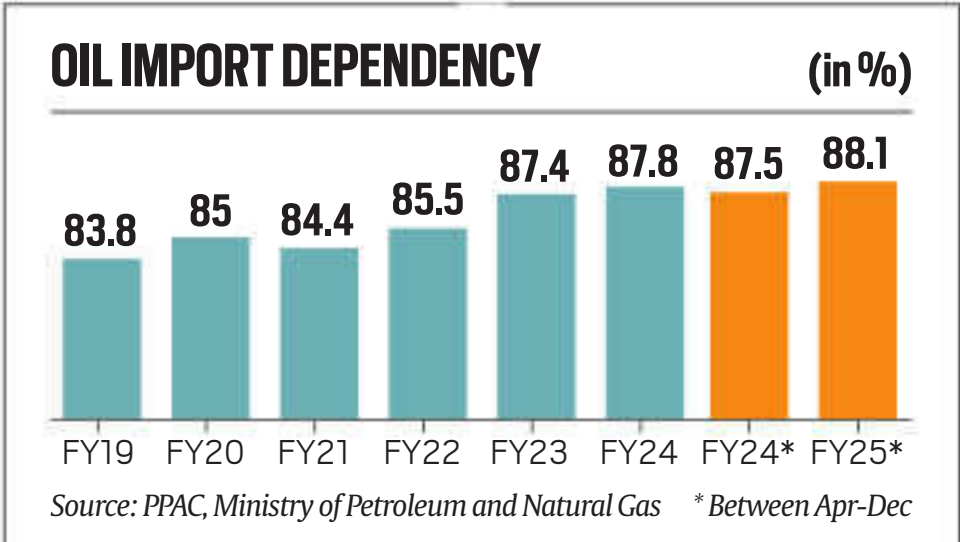
Note: Gold, silver rates are at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) per barrel as of January 28

APRIL-DECEMBER DATA

India’s oil import reliance up at 88.1% as demand growth pips domestic output

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

INDIA’S DEPENDENCE on im-ported crude oil continues to rise due to increasing energy de-mands and lagging domestic production. This trend is a key concern for the Indian economy. In the first nine months of the current financial year, India’s oil import dependency reached 88.1 per cent, up from 87.5 per cent in the same period the previous year, and 87.8 per cent for the full financial year 2023-24 (FY24), per latest data from the Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell of the oil ministry. India’s energy needs are consistently growing, leading to in-creased oil imports. This is fuelled by factors like growing energy-intensive industries, increased vehicle sales, a rapidly expand-ing aviation sector, growing con-sumption of petrochemicals, and a rising population. India’s reliance on imported oil has generally increased over the years, with the exception of FY21 when demand was sup-pressed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. India’s oil import de-pendency was 87.8 per cent in FY24, 87.4 per cent in FY23, 85.5 per cent in FY22, 84.4 per cent in FY21, 85 per cent in FY20, and 83.8 per cent in FY19. India’s heavy reliance on im-



ported crude oil makes its econ-omy vulnerable to global oil price fluctuations. This also impacts the country’s trade deficit, for-foreign exchange reserves, the ru-pee’s exchange rate, and inflation rate, among others.

Oil import reliance: What data shows

India’s crude oil imports rose to 179.3 million tonnes in April-December, from 173.7 million tonnes in the same period the previous year. Meanwhile, do-mestic oil production declined slightly to 21.6 million tonnes from 22 million tonnes. Total domestic consumption of petroleum products in April-December rose 3.4 per cent year-on-year to 178.5 million tonnes, with only 21.2 million tonnes of products coming from domesti-cally produced crude oil, leading

to a self-sufficiency level of just 11.9 per cent, per the PPAC data. The country’s gross oil import bill for the first nine months of FY25 was \$102.5 billion, an in-crease of almost 4 per cent year-on-year. Crude oil imports top the list of India’s merchandise imports.

Demand, imports likely to rise

Crude oil consumption and imports are projected to increase further due to increased demand for petroleum fuels and products. Consumption of petroleum products is projected to increase by 4.7 per cent in FY26, reaching 252.93 million tonnes, according to latest estimates by the PPAC. If these projections hold, India’s pe-troleum fuel and product con-sumption in FY26 will hit yet an-other record.

India’s energy needs are consistently rising, leading to increased oil imports, fuelled by growing energy-intensive industries, increased vehicle sales, and a rapidly expanding aviation sector

Unlike many countries, India is seen as a major growth centre for oil demand given the future consumption potential and rela-tively low per-capita energy de-mand currently. In fact, India is among the few markets where refinery capacity is expected to expand substantially over the coming years. India currently has a refining capacity of nearly 257 million tonnes per annum. In February 2024, Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) had said that India’s oil de-mand growth was expected to overtake China’s by 2027, mak-ing the former the biggest driver of global oil demand growth through the remainder of the decade “underpinned by strong economic and demographic growth”, notwithstanding the growing electric vehicle (EV) penetration, energy efficiency, and rising biofuel consumption.

India’s petroleum consumption has been scaling new heights with each passing year, with the exception of two years when de-mand was hit because of the pan-demic. The revised estimate for the current fiscal—241.68 million tonnes—is slated to be the high-est-ever petroleum product con-sumption level so far, but will likely be topped in the next fiscal. The current record consumption level—234.26 million tonnes—was achieved in FY24.

India’s efforts to cut reliance on oil imports

The Indian government aims to reduce its reliance on im-ported crude oil but faces chal-lenges due to sluggish domestic oil output amidst rising demand. In 2015, the government aimed to reduce reliance on oil imports to 67 per cent by 2022. However, import dependency has only in-creased. The government has im-plemented several policies to en-courage investments in India’s oil and gas exploration and produc-tion sector. It is also promoting electric mobility, biofuels, and other alternative fuels to reduce oil imports. While there has been an in-crease in electric mobility adop-tion and the blending of biofuels with conventional fuels, it is not sufficient to offset petroleum de-mand growth.

ARC recoveries from retail loan assets may rise to 60-65%

Mumbai: Rating agency Crisil has forecast a significant improve-ment in asset reconstruction com-pany (ARC) recoveries next fiscal, driven by the increasing acquisi-tion of retail loan portfolios. Cumulative ARC recoveries for retail assets are projected to rise to 60-65 per cent next fiscal, up from 55-60 per cent this fiscal. This improvement is attributed to the faster churn of retail loans, which have a lower redemption time of 2.5-4 years, compared to 5-6 years for corporate assets, said Crisil. The banking industry’s gross non-performing assets (NPAs) have hit a multi-year low of less than 3 per cent, providing a favourable environment for ARCs. Furthermore, a regulatory amendment allowing ARCs to ac-quire Special Mention Accounts-2 has provided a tailwind for the sector. The growth in ARC recover-ies is expected to be around 8 per cent next fiscal, driven by the in-creasing acquisition of retail loan portfolios. This development is likely to have a positive impact on the banking industry, as it will help to further reduce NPAs and improve asset quality.

Pharma, consumer goods: Trump’s tariff threats, and where India could feel the heat

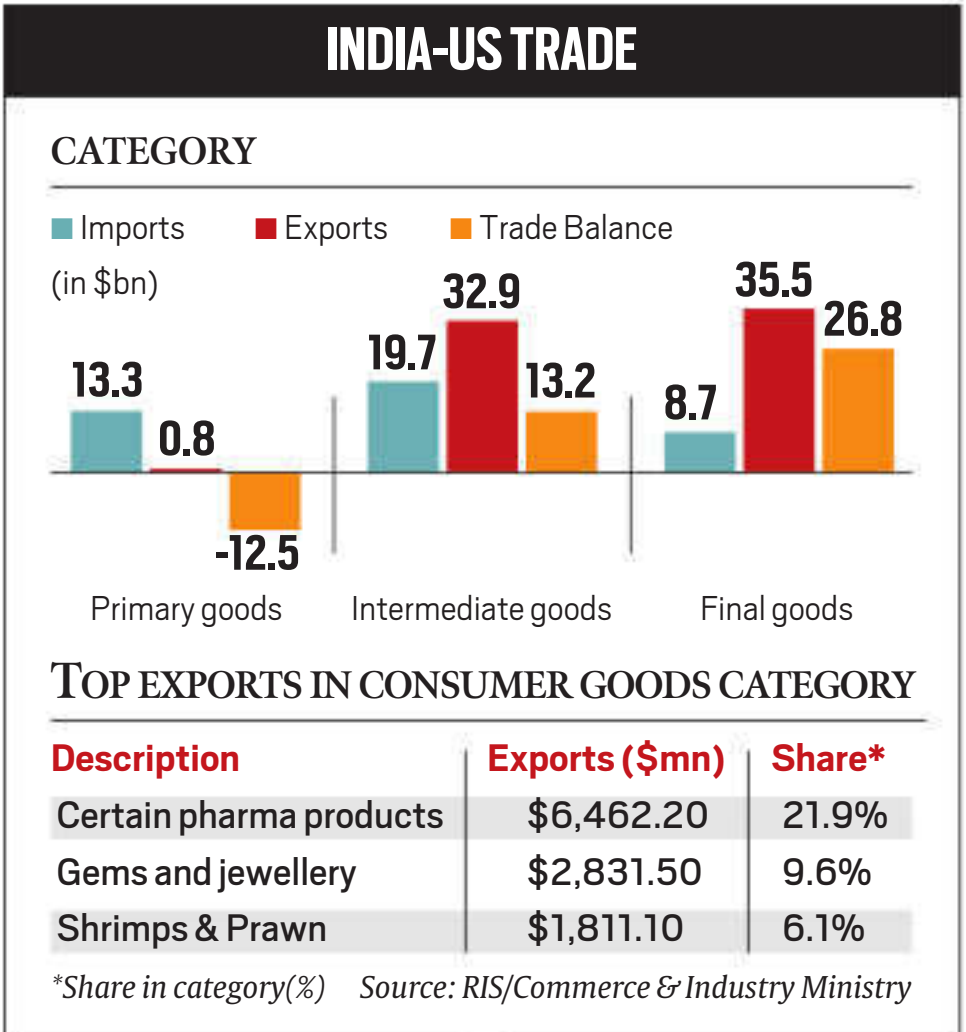
RAVI DUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

A DAY AFTER US President Donald Trump on Monday issued a fresh tariff threat against India, among other countries, the White House following Trump’s phone call with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said that the President had em-phased the importance of India “increasing its procurement of American-made security equip-ment” and moving towards a “fair” bilateral trading relationship. The marked shift in American trade policy under Trump, which increasingly aims to seek “recip-rocal” market access in both de-veloped and developing nations alike, could leave India’s top goods exports to the US—pharmaceu-tical products, gems and jewellery, and marine products—particu-larly vulnerable to tariffs under the second Trump administration. During his first term, Trump had targeted Indian steel and alu-minium exports.

That aside, there is a risk of an across-the-board tariff on all items entering the US, which could hit overall demand for imported goods in the country. The new US Treasury Secretary, Scott Bessent, is drawing up plans to impose 2.5 per cent tariffs across the board, *The Financial Times* reported. However, Trump told reporters on Tuesday that he wanted a tariff rate “much bigger” than 2.5 per cent. If imposed, the impact of tar-iffs on India could be dispropor-tionately high, as the US is India’s largest trading partner, with bilat-eral trade in 2023 crossing \$117 billion. India is also vulnerable to changes in American trade policy, as the US market is India’s largest export market for both goods and services. Most importantly, the US is the only country with which India has a trade surplus, making it a crucial source of US dollar earnings.

Pharma sector: India’s biggest vulnerability

The 2023 India-US trade data suggests that India’s tariff vulner-ability could lie in the ‘final goods’ category, which recorded the largest sectoral trade surplus of \$26.8 billion with the US. The fi-nal goods category also con-tributes 79.3 per cent of India’s overall trade surplus with the US. Notably, India had a \$33.8 billion overall goods trade surplus with the US in 2023. Within the final goods cate-gory, the pharmaceutical sector, followed by the gems and jew-ellery sector, are the largest trade segments where India enjoys a significant trade surplus. Pharmaceutical products com-prised the largest 21.9 per cent share of the \$20 billion worth of final consumer goods that India exported to the US in 2023. Precious metals, with a 9.6 per cent share, and shrimps and prawns, with a 6.6 per cent share,



occupied the second and third spots. “The new trade regime may target a select few high-value items, particularly from the phar-maceuticals, fisheries, and jew-ellery sectors. If the trade restric-tions adopt a broad-based goods approach, segments such as chemical products, made-up tex-tiles, and wood pulp may also come under scrutiny. In the event of product-specific actions, ex-ports from the pharmaceuticals, fisheries, and gems and jewellery sectors would likely bear the brunt,” said the think tank Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) in a report last month. Official trade data suggests that in the last 10 years, India’s goods trade surplus with the US grew from \$16.64 bil-lion in FY14 to \$35.32 billion in FY24, as India’s goods exports to the US nearly doubled from \$39.14 billion to \$77.51 billion, making the US the largest export destina-tion, with a 17.73 per cent share in India’s total export basket. Notably, over 70 per cent of India’s IT export revenue comes from the US, making India vulnerable to US trade policy changes, particularly in relation to H-1B visa norms.

Why is China a bigger tariff target than India?

On his first day in office, Trump instructed his commerce and treasury departments to investi-gate the causes of America’s “large and persistent” annual trade deficits in goods, as well as the “economic and national security” implications of such deficits, ac-cording to an official document ti-tled America First Trade Policy re-leased by the White House. US trade data shows that India contributes barely \$33.2 billion, or 3.2 per cent, of America’s overall trade balance, compared to China, which contributed 30.2 per cent, or \$317.7 billion, in 2023. Most no-tably, India is only the ninth-largest contributor to America’s goods trade deficit. The top trad-ing partners that could, therefore,

be targeted are China, Mexico, and the European Union if the US de-cides to seek a reciprocal trade bal-ance. An National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) paper titled Importing Political Polarisation and Electoral Consequences of Rising Trade Exposure (2017) stated that grow-ing import competition from China has contributed to a shift to the right in the political beliefs of US adults. The paper also noted that in the 2016 presidential elec-tion, trade shocks increased the vote share of the Republican can-didate. The research paper ex-plain-ed that the China trade shock, caused by China’s entry into the WTO in 2000 and the re-sulting influx of cheap Chinese goods into the US, led to a decline in US manufacturing jobs. “While in earlier decades, manufactur-ing helped workers without a college degree reach the middle class, the sector’s steep decline has left US employment more partitioned between highly paid professional occupations and low-wage ser-vice jobs. Industries more exposed to trade with China have seen higher plant closures, larger con-tractions in employment, and lower incomes for affected work-ers,” the paper stated.

Why are tariffs critical to Trump’s politics?

Trump’s affinity for tariffs predates the 2024 US presidential election. During his first term, he launched a tariff war with China, India, and other countries, primarily to ap-pel to his core voter base. The 2016 US election showed that Trump won 89 of the 100 counties most affected by Chinese import competition. Trump likely would not have won the election without support from voters in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin—states that had suffered significant manufacturing job losses due to Chinese imports, a research paper by NBER in 2017 indicated.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

BRIEFLY
Made-in-India Jimny 5-door debuts in Japan

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki India on Thursday said Jimny five-door model which is ex-clusively manufactured at Maruti Suzuki’s Gurugram-based plant, was unveiled in Japan on Thursday. “The in-troduction of the Made in India Jimny 5-door in Japan is a testament to the global level of excellence in our manu-facturing capability,” Maruti Suzuki India MD and CEO Hisashi Takeuchi said. PTI

US GDP grows at slower pace by 2.8% in 2024

Washington: US GDP grew at 2.3 per cent in Q4 com-pared to 3.1 per cent in the third quarter, the US Commerce Department’s Bureau of Economic Analysis said in its advance GDP estimate. Growth for the full year came in at 2.8 per cent, compared to 2.9 per cent in 2023. REUTERS

SoftBank in talks to invest up to \$25 bn in OpenAI

New York: SoftBank is in talks to invest up to \$25 bil-lion in ChatGPT owner OpenAI, according to a per-son familiar with the matter. SoftBank could invest \$15-25 billion directly into Microsoft-backed OpenAI, the person said. REUTERS

Sebi issues new advisory to check finfluencers

Mumbai: Markets regulator Sebi has restricted persons involved in investor educa-tion or finfluencers from using market price data of the last three months for any security in their communi-cation. ENS

IBBI chief urges cos to volunteer for IBC resolution

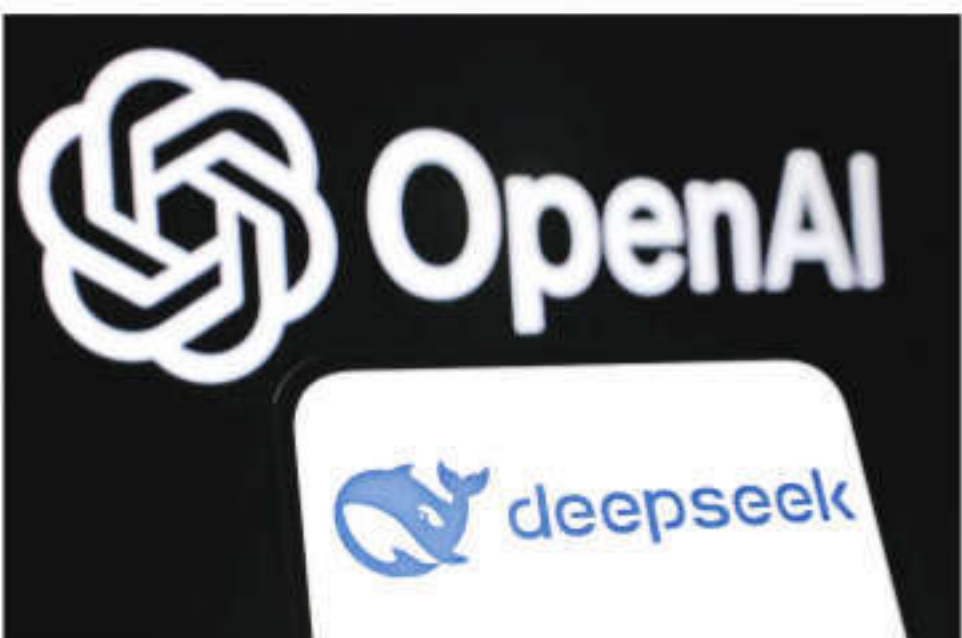
Mumbai: IBBI chief Ravi Mital on Thursday urged companies to volunteer for insolvency. “That is where value destruction is the least,” he said. ENS

AI MODEL COPYING CHARGE

Did DeepSeek copy OpenAI’s artificial intelligence technology?

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

EVEN AS ChatGPT creator OpenAI faces a barrage of copy-right infringement cases in some countries, the company believes that its upstart Chinese rival DeepSeek may have copied from its artificial intelligence (AI) tech-nology. Not just OpenAI, but one of US President Donald Trump’s top advisors has also levelled this claim, without yet presenting much evidence. DeepSeek’s entry into the AI space have caused an upheaval in the technology industry. It has sent Nvidia’s stock on a down-ward spiral, since their model was trained on inferior graphics processing unites (GPUs) com-pared to what the likes of OpenAI have access to. And its entry has reignited the conver-sation around stricter export controls. It is in this context that OpenAI has said that DeepSeek may have used a technique called “distillation,” which al-lows its model to learn from a pretrained model, in this case ChatGPT. While DeepSeek has



OpenAI suspects DeepSeek may have tried training a new AI model by repeatedly querying a larger, pre-trained model, a technique commonly referred to as distillation. Reuters

been accused of intellectual property theft ever since it gained mainstream attention, some industry experts have dis-missed these claims saying they stem from an inadequate under-standing of how models such as DeepSeek are trained.

OpenAI’s suspicion about DeepSeek

OpenAI prohibits the practice

of training a new AI model by re-peatedly querying a larger, pre-trained model, a technique com-monly referred to as distillation, according to their terms of use. And the company suspects DeepSeek may have tried some-thing similar, which could be a breach of its terms. “We know that groups in the P.R.C. (China) are actively work-ing to use methods, including what’s known as distillation, to

replicate advanced US AI mod-els,” a spokesperson for OpenAI said in a statement. “We are aware of and reviewing indica-tions that DeepSeek may have inappropriately distilled our models, and will share informa-tion as we know more.” David Sacks, Trump’s AI adviser, told Fox News, “There’s substantial evidence that what DeepSeek did here is they distilled the knowledge out of OpenAI’s models... And I don’t think OpenAI is very happy about this.”

Industry players counter OpenAI’s assertions

Some, however, disagree with assertions that DeepSeek copied technology from OpenAI and the likes. “There’s a lot of misconception that China ‘just cloned’ the outputs of OpenAI. This is far from true and reflects incomplete understanding of how these models are trained in the first place...” Aravind Srinivas, CEO of Perplexity said in a post on X. “DeepSeek R1 has figured

out RL (reinforcement learning) finetuning. They wrote a whole paper on this topic called DeepSeek R1 Zero, where no SFT (supervised fine tuning) was used. And then combined it with some SFT to add domain knowl-edge with good rejection sam-pling (aka filtering). The main reason it’s so good is it learned reasoning from scratch rather than imitating other humans or models,” he added. The idea of using RL be-came a focus point for AI companies in 2024. “This new paradigm involves starting with the ordinary type of pretrained models, and then as a second stage using RL to add the reasoning skills,” ex-plain-ed Dario Amodei, CEO of Anthropic, in a blog post. SFT is a process in machine learning where a pre-trained model is further trained (fine-tuned) on a labeled dataset spec-ific to a particular task. This ap-proach leverages the general knowledge the model has al-ready acquired during its initial pre-training phase and adapts it to perform well on a more spe-

cialised task. As per an attached summary with DeepSeek’s model on its Github page, the company said it applied RL to the base model without relying on supervised fine-tuning as a pre-liminary step. “This approach al-lows the model to explore chain-of-thought (CoT) for solving complex problems, resulting in the development of DeepSeek-R1-Zero. DeepSeek-R1-Zero demonstrates capabilities such as self-verification, reflection, and generating long CoTs, mark-ing a significant milestone for the research community. Notably, it is the first open re-search to validate that reasoning capabilities of LLMs can be in-ventivised purely through RL, without the need for SFT. This breakthrough paves the way for future advancements in this area,” the summary said.

OpenAI’s own copyright troubles

Around the world, and specifically in countries like the US and India, there is growing scepticism of news publishers over concerns of copyrighted

material, such as news reports, being used by companies like OpenAI for training their founda-tional models, without per-mission or payment. Last November, news agency ANI had sued OpenAI in the Delhi High Court, accusing the company of unlawfully using Indian copyrighted material to train its AI models. Earlier this week, a number of digital news publishers, including *The Indian Express*, have filed an interven-tion in the case. The contention is that com-panies like OpenAI have devel-oped LLMs by “training” on vast quantities of text, including, without a licence or permission, copyright-protected works. This “unlawful utilisation of copy-righted materials exclusively benefits OpenAI and its in-vestors, to the detriment of the creative works across the entire industry in India,” said the Digital News Publishers Association said in a statement. OpenAI is facing a number of similar lawsuits in other juris-dictions as well. FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

TOPOF THE WORLD



Salwan Momika in Malmö, Sweden, in September 2023. *Reuters*

SWEDEN
Anti-Islam
campaigner shot
dead, 5 arrested

Stockholm: Swedish police arrested five people on Thursday after an Iraqi anti-Islam campaigner was shot dead hours before a court verdict was due in a trial over his burning the Koran, as the prime minister expressed concerns over the killing's links to a foreign power. The five were arrested in connection with the shooting of Salwan Momika, 38, an Iraqi refugee, in a house in Sodertälje near Stockholm Wednesday, and ordered detained after a prosecutor's order, police said. Swedish prime minister Ulf Kristersson said Momika's killing might be linked to a foreign power. Vice Prime Minister Ebba Busch condemned the murder. **REUTERS**

UKRAINE
Russian drone
strikes kills at
least four

Kyiv: A Russian drone blasted a hole in an apartment building in north-eastern Ukraine during a nighttime attack, killing at least four people and injuring nine others, officials said Thursday. The Shahed drone blew out a wall and surrounding windows in the apartment block in Sumy, a major city, just after 1 am, the Sumy regional administration said. Four people were rescued from the rubble, and a child was among the injured, it said, adding 120 were evacuated. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called it "a terrible tragedy, a terrible Russian crime." **AP**

SOUTH AFRICA
Jacob Zuma's
daughter held on
terror charges

Johannesburg: A daughter of former South African President Jacob Zuma has been arrested and is expected to appear in court on Thursday to face terrorism charges. Duduzile Zuma-Sambudla, who is also a member of the South African Parliament, is accused of inciting violence during riots in July 2021 which led to the deaths of more than 350 people. She handed herself over to police on Thursday, police said. Her party confirmed that Zuma-Sambudla would appear in court Thursday. **AP**

PENTAGON SAYS COPTER HAD 'FAIRLY EXPERIENCED CREW'

No survivors as plane carrying 64 collides with army chopper over DC

28 bodies found, Trump claims diversity in hiring 'caused' disaster

DAVID SHEPARDSON & STEVE HOLLAND
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 30

MORE THAN 60 people were dead after an American Airlines regional passenger jet collided with a U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter Wednesday and crashed into the Potomac River near Reagan Washington National Airport. "At this point we do not believe there were any survivors," District of Columbia fire chief John Donnelly said at a Thursday press conference. Donnelly said 28 bodies had been recovered from the river so far, in what was shaping up to be the deadliest US air disaster in more than 20 years.

"We will work to find all the bodies and reunite them with their loved ones," he said. American Airlines said 60 passengers and four crew members were aboard the jet, while US officials said the helicopter was carrying three soldiers on a training flight. The helicopter had a "fairly experienced crew" that was operating with night vision goggles, US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said on Thursday, as the Pentagon ordered a 48-hour pause in flying for the unit involved in the crash.

"We have been told that there are no survivors. We mourn with all those who have been impacted," Wichita mayor Lily Wu said. The collision occurred as the jet was approaching to land at Reagan. Radio communications showed the chopper crew knew the plane was in the vicinity.

US Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said both the helicopter and the airplane had been flying standard flight patterns, and there had been no breakdown in communication. Airspace is frequently crowded in the U.S. capital region, and officials have raised concerns about busy runways at Reagan National Airport. "We do not know what led to this crash, but we have some very strong opinions and ideas," President Donald Trump said. He blamed diversity requirements at the Federal Aviation Administration and his two Democratic predecessors for the collision saying that standards for air traffic controllers had been too lax. "For some jobs, we need the highest level of genius," he said. **REUTERS, WITH NYT INPUTS**



Emergency workers investigate the wreckage in the Potomac River in Washington DC on Thursday. *NYT*

'I SAW A FIREBALL, THEN IT WAS JUST GONE'

The collision occurred at around 9 pm in some of the world's most tightly controlled and monitored airspace, just over 5 km south of the White House and the US Capitol.

A few minutes before crash

■ Air traffic controllers ask American Airlines Flight 5342 if it could land on a shorter runway. Pilots agree.

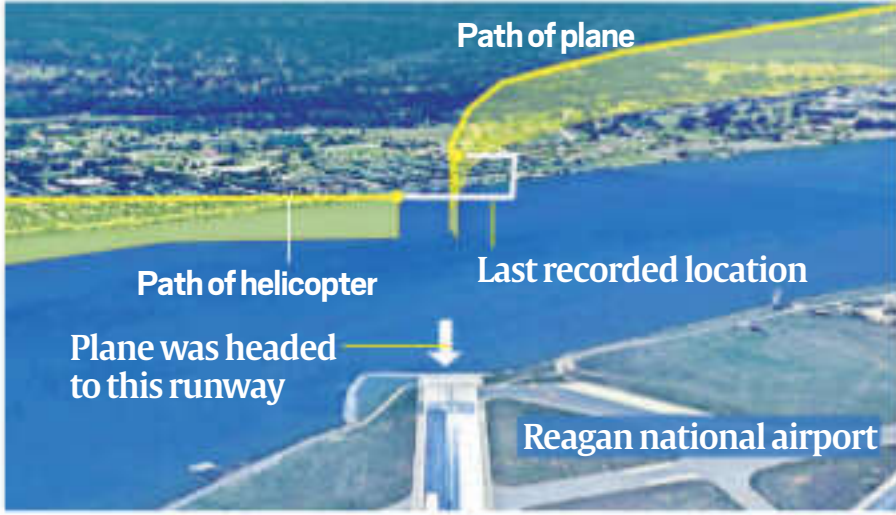
■ ATC clears the jet to land. Plane adjusts approach to new runway.

30 seconds before crash

■ A controller asks the helicopter if it had the plane in sight.

■ Moments later, controller makes another radio call to helicopter: 'PAT 25 pass behind the CRJ' — apparently telling copter to wait for the Bombardier CRJ-701 twin-engine jet to pass.

■ There is no reply.



Seconds later

■ Aircraft collide. Plane's radio transponder stops transmitting about 732 m short of runway.

■ 'Crash, crash, crash, this is an alert three,' says a controller.

The aftermath

■ 'It was... out in the middle of the river,' says another controller. 'I saw a fireball and then it was just gone. I haven't seen anything since they hit the river.'

Congested airspace shared by civil, military planes

DAVID SHEPARDSON
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA, JAN 30

THE CRASH of an American Airlines passenger jet and a U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter near Reagan Washington National Airport Wednesday highlighted issues around the congested airspace shared by civilian and military aircraft over the US capital.

Military helicopters and passenger airplanes are a common

sight along the Potomac River in the Washington region, where the collision happened. The area is home to numerous military bases and three major airports.

There have been several near-miss incidents at Reagan Airport that have sparked alarm, including a near-collision in May 2024 between an American Airlines jet and a small airplane and one in April 2024 between Southwest and JetBlue airplanes.

The close calls coincide with a shortage of air traffic controllers that has delayed flights and raised safety concerns across the US. The FAA in October opened an audit into runway incursion risks at the 45 busiest US airports after a series of near-miss incidents. Reagan National is particularly busy. From 2016 to 2019, there were 88,000 helicopter flights within 48 km of Reagan Airport, including about 33,000 military and 18,000 law

enforcement flights, the Government Accountability Office said in 2021.

US Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said Thursday the flight paths of the two aircraft were not unusual for the area and that both the helicopter and the airplane had been flying standard flight patterns. Over the last two years, a series of near-miss incidents have raised concerns about U.S. aviation safety and the strain on understaffed air-traffic-control operations. **REUTERS**

Trump to detain 'worst criminal aliens' at Guantanamo, signs migrant deportation law



Donald Trump after signing the Laken Riley Act at the White House on Wednesday

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 30

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump on Wednesday signed the Laken Riley Act into law, giving federal authorities broader power to deport immigrants in the U.S. illegally who have been accused of crimes. He also announced at the ceremony that his administration planned to send the "worst criminal aliens" to a detention center in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The bipartisan act, the first



NASA recovery team members carry a capsule containing the first asteroid samples in Utah in September. *AP file*

meteorites. "This discovery was only possible by analyzing samples that were collected directly from the asteroid then carefully preserved back on Earth," Institute of Science Tokyo's Yasuhito Sekine, said in an editorial.

Combining the ingredients of life with an environment of sodium-rich salt water, or brines, "that's really the pathway to life," said McCoy, the National Museum of Natural History's curator of meteorites. "These processes probably occurred much earlier and were much more widespread than we had thought before." NASA's Daniel Glavin said one

of the biggest surprises was the relatively high abundance of nitrogen, including ammonia. While all of the organic molecules found in the Benu samples have been identified before in meteorites, Glavin said the ones from Benu are valid — "real extraterrestrial organic material formed in space and not a result of contamination from Earth."

Benu — a rubble pile just one-half of a kilometer across — was originally part of a much larger asteroid that got clobbared by other space rocks. The latest results suggest this parent body had an extensive underground net-

work of lakes or even oceans, and that the water evaporated away.

Many are pushing for a mission to collect rocks and dirt from the potentially waterlogged dwarf planet Ceres in the main asteroid belt. Jupiter's moon Europa and Saturn's moon Enceladus also beckon as enticing water worlds. Meanwhile, NASA has core samples awaiting pickup at Mars, but their delivery is on hold while the space agency studies the quickest and cheapest way to get them here.

"Are we alone?" McCoy said. "That's one of the questions we're trying to answer." **AP**



Israeli hostage Arbel Yehoud, 29 as she is handed over to the Red Cross in Khan Younis on Thursday. *Reuters*

Hamas frees 8 hostages, Israel releases 110 from jails after delay

Netanyahu demands assurance on safe exit of captives after chaotic handover

NIDAL AL-MUGHRABI, EMILY ROSE & MAAYAN LUBELL
CAIRO, JERUSALEM, JAN 30

HAMAS FREED three Israeli and five Thai hostages in Gaza on Thursday and Israel began releasing 110 Palestinian prisoners after delaying the process in anger at the swarming crowds at one of the hostage handover points.

Arbel Yehoud, 29, abducted from Kibbutz Nir Oz in the Hamas-led assault on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, looked fearful and struggled to walk through the crowd as armed militants handed her to the Red Cross in a tense scene in the southern city of Khan Younis.

Another Israeli hostage, Gadi Moses, 80, was also released along with five Thai nationals working on Israeli farms near Gaza when the militants burst through the border fence.

Earlier, in Jabalia, an Israeli soldier, Agam Berger, wearing an olive green uniform, was led through a narrow alley between heavily damaged buildings and over piles of rubble before being handed to the Red Cross.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the sight of their chaotic handover was shocking and threatened death to anyone hurting hostages.

He and Defence Minister Israel Katz said they had ordered a delay in the releases of the prisoners "until the safe exit of our hostages in the next phases is assured". The prime minister's office said later that mediators had committed to ensuring the safe passage of

MINISTER: ISRAELI TROOPS TO REMAIN IN WEST BANK'S JENIN

Jenin: Israeli troops will remain in the Palestinians' Jenin refugee camp once the large-scale raid they launched last week is complete, Defence Minister Israel Katz said on Wednesday as a military crackdown in the occupied West Bank extended into a second week. Hundreds of Israeli troops backed by helicopters, drones and armoured vehicles have been fighting sporadic gunbattles with Palestinian militants while carrying out searches in the streets and alleyways for weapons and equipment. "The Jenin refugee camp will not be what it was," Katz said during a visit to the refugee camp. **REUTERS**

hostages in future handovers.

Later on Thursday, buses arrived in the West Bank city of Ramallah carrying some of the 110 Palestinian prisoners to be freed as part of the phased agreement that halted more than 15 months of war in the coastal territory on Jan. 19.

Zakaria Zubaidei, one of the leaders of Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas's rival the Fatah group, was the most prominent Palestinian prisoner to be freed. He escaped from prison in 2021 but was then captured. **REUTERS**

FINDINGS PROVIDE STRONGEST EVIDENCE YET THAT ASTEROIDS MAY HAVE PLANTED SEEDS OF LIFE ON EARTH

Are we all aliens? NASA asteroid samples show ingredients of life from a watery world

MARCIA DUNN
CAPE CANAVERAL, JAN 30

ASTEROID SAMPLES fetched by NASA hold not only the pristine building blocks for life but also the salty remains of an ancient water world, scientists reported Wednesday. The findings provide the strongest evidence yet that asteroids may have planted the seeds of life on Earth and that these were mingling with water almost right from the start.

"That's the kind of environment that could have been essential to the steps that lead from

elements to life," said the Smithsonian Institution's Tim McCoy, one of the lead study authors.

NASA's Osiris-Rex spacecraft returned 122 grams (4 ounces) of dust and pebbles from the near-Earth asteroid Benu, delivering the sample canister to the Utah desert in 2023 before swooping off after another space rock. It remains the biggest cosmic haul from beyond the moon. The two previous asteroid sample missions, by Japan, yielded considerably less material.

Small amounts of Benu's precious black grains — leftovers

from the solar system's formation 4.5 billion years ago — were doled out to the two separate research teams whose studies appeared in the journals *Nature* and *Nature Astronomy*. But it was more than enough to tease out the sodium-rich minerals and confirm the presence of amino acids, nitrogen in the form of ammonia and even parts of the genetic code.

Some if not all of the delicate salts found at Benu — similar to what's in the dry lakebeds of California's Mojave Desert and Africa's Sahara — would be stripped away if present in falling





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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

EXPLAINED CULTURE

Year of the Snake: How Chinese calendar works

AISHWARYA KHOSLA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

MILLIONS AROUND the world welcomed the Chinese New Year on January 29. Unlike the Gregorian calendar, the Chinese use a lunisolar calendar, which has guided the rhythms of life in China and beyond for more than three millennia. How does the Chinese calendar work?

Lunisolar calendar

The purpose of any calendar is to mark the passage of time.

A solar calendar uses the time it takes the Sun to make a single revolution around Earth (roughly 365 days) to mark a year. A lunar calendar, on the other hand, is based on the Moon's 29.53-day synodic orbit around Earth.

A 12-month-long lunar calendar adds up to 354 days, roughly 11 days short of a solar year. This means that over time, lunar calendars fall out of sync with the solar year, and consequently with seasons.

This is problematic for multiple reasons, including that it makes it difficult to plan agricultural processes which are guided by seasonal changes in the weather.

This is why many cultures — the Chinese, Buddhists, Burmese, Assyrians, Hebrews, Kurds, Nepalis, Hindus, Japanese, Koreans, Mongolians, Tibetans, and Vietnamese — have adopted lunisolar calendars, which weave in both solar and lunar cycles.

The Chinese calendar

Each day of the Chinese calendar begins at midnight, each of its 12 months starts on the day of a new moon, and the year commences with the second or third new moon following the winter solstice, the moment in the year when days begin to lengthen again. Months in the Chinese calendar alternate between 29 and 30 days.

Since 12 lunar months do not add up to a solar year, once roughly every three years, the Chinese calendar adds a 13th month known as *run yue* which brings



Chinese New Year celebrations in Kolkata on Wednesday. PTI

the calendar back in alignment with seasonal cycles.

The Chinese lunisolar calendar operates on a sexagenary (60-year) cycle. This is a product of the interplay of five key components: the Ten Heavenly Stems, the Twelve Earthly Branches, the Five Elements (Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal, and Water), the alternating forces of Yin and Yang, and the twelve zodiac animals.

Each year is designated by a unique combination of these elements, creating a repeating pattern that is at the centre of Chinese fortune-telling traditions.

Year of the Snake

2025 is the Chinese Year of the Snake, paired with the 'wood' element.

The snake, the sixth animal in the Chinese zodiac, symbolises wisdom, intuition, and transformation. People born in a Year of the Snake are often regarded as deep thinkers with an air of mystery. They are said to be calm and observant, preferring careful planning over impulsive action. This sign is also associated with elegance, sophistication, and a strategic mindset. But their introspective nature can sometimes make them seem aloof.

Wood symbolises creativity, flexibility, and growth, making this a time for personal evolution and embracing change, much like a snake shedding its skin. The combination of snake and wood is thus believed to symbolise wisdom, growth, and transformation.

IN POLAR BEAR FUR, POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO 'FOREVER CHEMICALS'

A NEW study says the fur of polar bears contains an oily substance that helps them remain dry despite the creatures sliding on ice and diving into water to hunt. This finding could potentially help develop an alternative to replace Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances or PFAs, also called "forever chemicals".

The study, titled 'Anti-icing properties of polar bear fur', was published in the journal *Science Advances* on Wednesday. Researchers tested the resistance of the animal fur to ice using samples of polar bear fur from Svalbard in Norway and compared them with human hair. They washed half the fur samples and hair to clean them of sebum, an oily substance secreted by skin glands connected to hair follicles in mammals.

Upon testing the unwashed samples

against ice, they were found to contain sebum that was comparable to fluorinated ski skins. These materials are used in skis to grip them to ice and help them glide. However, fluorinated skins contain PFAs. Though extensively used in making nonstick cookware, water-repellent clothing and grease-resistant products, these chemicals do not break down and can remain in the environment for prolonged periods. Analysing the properties of fur sebum revealed that it lacks squalene, a substance that is predominant in human sebum. The fur sebum also contains cholesterol and other fatty acids. "These could be unique to polar bears, but we can't be sure of the composition of animal sebum," physicist Bodil Holst, a co-author of the study told the *New Scientist* magazine. **ENS**



UDIT MISRA

SATURDAY'S UNION Budget for 2025-26 will come at a time when the Indian economy is facing a significant challenge.

In itself, this isn't an unusual scenario for Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. In 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic hit soon after the Budget was presented, leading to nationwide lockdowns and India going into a technical recession. The 2021 Budget was followed by the vicious Delta wave, and the 2022 Budget was followed by Russia's invasion of Ukraine that led to a spike in inflation.

This time, the challenges are more economic in nature.

State of the economy

Overall GDP growth rate seems to be reverting to its pre-pandemic pace. India grew at less than 4% in 2019-20, and the annual average growth rate of GDP (compounded annual growth rate) has been less than 5% since then.

Indians (in their personal capacity) are not spending enough on goods and services, and private firms have been holding back on investing in the creation of new productive capacities. With President Donald Trump's focus on tariffs and the looming threat of a global trade and currency war, bets are off on exports becoming an engine for economic growth.

That leaves the government with the job of single-handedly kickstarting the economy by spending more. It has been trying to do that to a great extent over the past few years, but it has had little success in reviving a durable growth momentum. Meanwhile, its finances are stretched, and there is pressure to reduce its annual borrowings and pare its existing mountain of debt.

Less tax, more to spend?

The solution, it seems obvious, lies in the hands of the consumer. Unless people start spending more, it may not be possible to achieve 7%-8% on a consistent basis.

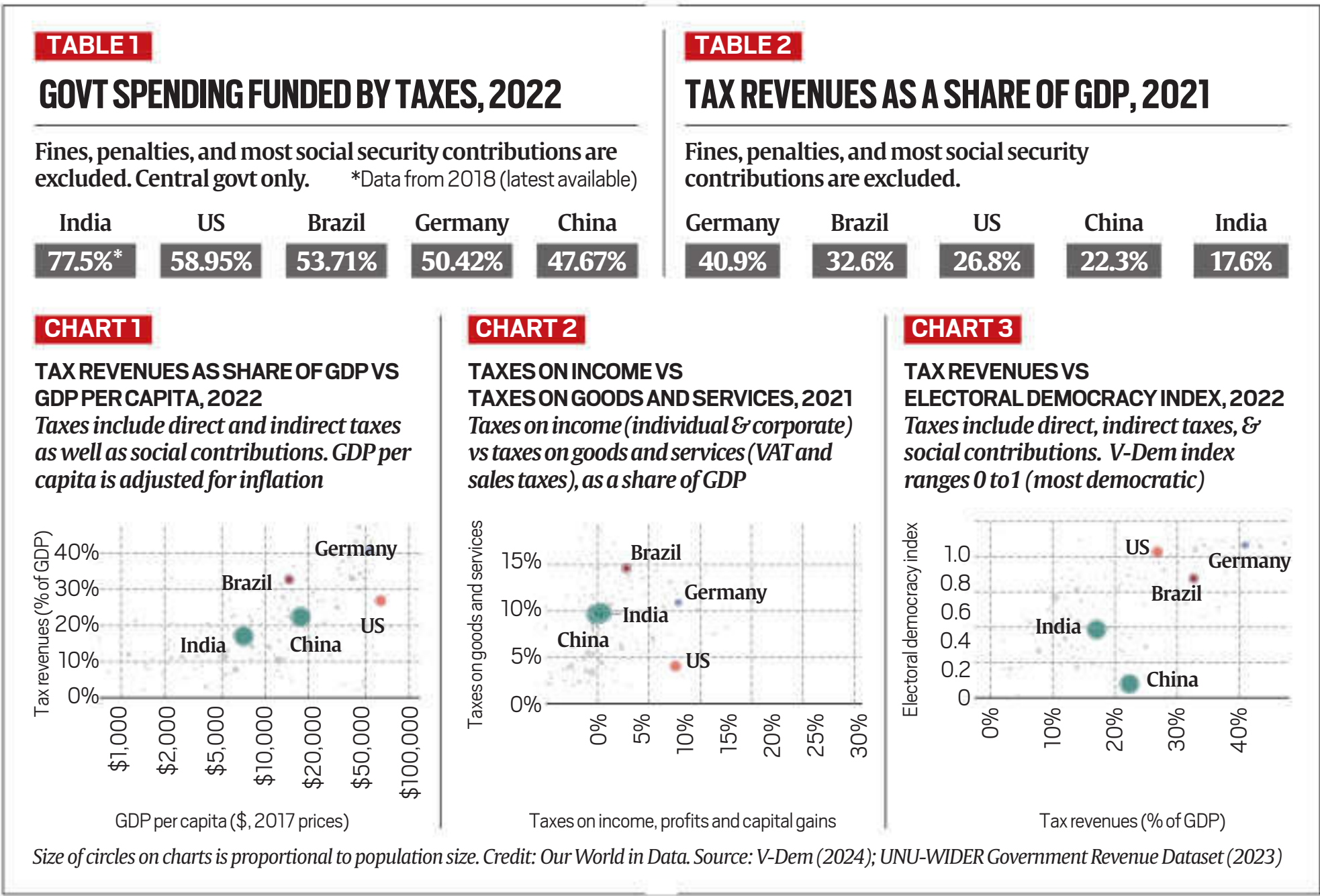
Many argue, therefore, that it is time to cut taxes. Leaving more in the hands of consumers will hopefully trigger a spending cycle that will incentivise firms to start investing, thus creating more and better-paying jobs that will lead to a new round of spending, and so on.

There is another reason why many people — especially those who are categorised as "middle class" — demand a cut in taxes: there is a growing sense that the Indian government has been over-taxing its citizens.

Is that correct? Here are two tables and three charts, all from Our World in Data, a sci-

Taxes and the citizen

Many feel that Indians are being overtaxed. But India's tax revenue as percentage of GDP is not as high as many developed countries even though it funds a very high proportion of the Centre's spending



entific research nonprofit affiliated to Oxford University, which provide relevant context.

India and other countries

TABLE 1 shows the share of central government spending funded by taxes in five major economies — and demonstrates the critical importance of tax revenues for the Indian government. At close to 80%, the Indian central government has a very high dependence on tax revenues, significantly more than the Chinese and Brazilian governments.

Cutting tax rates or collecting less taxes will mean the government will have to borrow more from the market, competing with private firms for investible funds and, in the process, drive up interest rates across the board.

TABLE 2, however, shows that when it comes to total tax revenues as a share of total national GDP, India ranks fairly low — well below 20%. Most developed countries raise much higher levels of revenues as a proportion of GDP. India, despite being highly dependent on taxation for the government's spending, is able to target a far narrower tax base.

HOWEVER, India is much poorer than these developed countries. *Chart 1* maps tax revenues as a share of GDP versus GDP per capita. In other words, it tries to understand where India stands in terms of raising taxes (as a percentage of GDP) relative to its average income levels.

The chart shows that India fits into a broad pattern: the richer a country the more capable is its government in raising tax revenues

as a percentage of the overall GDP. So, India is behind China, which is behind the US.

But there are variations. A larger dataset (not shown here) shows that France and Germany raise much higher tax revenues as a percentage of GDP than Saudi Arabia or even South Korea, despite being at roughly similar levels of per capita income. It seems that the older, more established economies are more efficient in raising revenues.

It is noteworthy that India raises a higher proportion of tax revenues than countries such as Mexico and Indonesia that are richer than India in GDP per capita.

CHART 2 shows what kinds of taxes are used to bring in revenue. Direct taxes such as personal incomes taxes are more progressive and just — that is, the rich can be made to pay a higher rate of tax than the poor. Indirect taxes such as GST are regressive since a poor person pays at the same rate as the rich.

It is reported that in India both direct and indirect taxes roughly amount to around 7% (of GDP) each. That would make India lie favourably compared with countries such as Brazil, Chile, and Poland, which have much higher levels of indirect tax collections with the same levels of direct tax collections.

The larger dataset also shows that richer countries use direct taxes to raise much higher levels of taxation compared to emerging economies such as China, Vietnam, or India.

Together, Charts 1 and 2 suggest that Indians should expect higher collections especially from direct taxes such as personal

income taxes as the country becomes richer and the government becomes more efficient in collecting taxes.

CHART 3 looks at whether electoral democracies tend to tax their citizens more. The data suggest that the higher a rank for a country in electoral democracy, the more tax revenues its government is able to raise. India does better than Bangladesh while it is behind Brazil, the US, and Germany on both the electoral democracy index and tax revenue collection (as %age of GDP). This trend suggests that as India improves its electoral democracy ranking, higher tax collection should be expected.

Of course, there are countries that lie at the opposite end of the spectrum. For instance, the larger dataset shows that China is able to raise a higher proportion of tax revenues than Chile despite being nowhere near the latter in electoral rankings. And Poland raises more revenues despite being at the same level on the electoral democracy index as Indonesia and Mexico.

Upshot of the data

While many believe that the Indian government is overtaxing its citizens, the data show that India's tax revenues (as percentage of GDP) is not as high as many of the developed countries even though it funds a very high proportion of the central government's spending.

And as India becomes more "viki" and prosperous (in per capita income terms), and its democracy deepens, tax collection can be expected to increase further.

SOPHIYA MATHEW
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

DAYS AFTER AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal accused the BJP-led Haryana government of deliberately "poisoning" Delhi's water supply, the Haryana government lodged a complaint against Kejriwal on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, Delhi Chief Minister Atishi and Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann met Election Commission officials, and alleged that the Haryana government was deliberately releasing large amounts of ammonia into the Yamuna.

What is ammonia?
Easily dissolvable in water, ammonia is a

colourless, gaseous chemical with a sharp odour. It is widely used in animal feed production, plastic and paper manufacturing, and as a fertiliser, coolant, cleansing agent, and food additive, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Major sources of ammonia pollution include runoff from farmlands, effluents from industries where ammonia is used, and untreated sewage. The chemical is also naturally released in water with the degradation of organic matter. In the long term, ammonia in human bodies can cause damage to internal organs due to its corrosive properties.

Why is ammonia an issue in Delhi?
Dye units, distilleries and other factories

concentrated in the Panipat and Sonapat districts of Haryana, as well as sewage from residential colonies, are believed to pollute the stretch of the Yamuna before it enters Delhi at Wazirabad. As a result, several quality parameters are impacted, including dissolved oxygen in the water — which reaches zero in the Delhi stretch of the river. The situation worsens in the dry, winter months due to the absence of freshwater upstream.

Water treatment plants cannot treat water with ammonia content of more than one part per million (ppm). A spike in ammonia levels thus disrupts the capital's water supply.

How is ammonia in water treated?
The Delhi Jal Board's water treatment

plants use chlorine to treat excessive ammonia. According to officials, 11.5 kg of chlorine is needed per litre of water per hour to neutralise one ppm of ammoniacal nitrogen.

Some amount of chlorine should remain in the treated water after the treatment process so that pathogens can be neutralised. As the ammonia levels increase in winter, the efficiency of the water treatment plants reduces, according to the Delhi Jal Board.

For years now, the Delhi and Haryana governments have failed to devise a long-term solution to resolve the issue of excessive ammonia in water. Delhi proposed an *in-situ* ammonia treatment plant at the Wazirabad pond in March 2023. However, it remains under development.

Managing crowds at religious gatherings: learnings from an NDMA study

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

A STAMPEDE at the Mahakumbh Mela on Wednesday left at least 30 people dead and 60 injured. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the administration was overwhelmed by the huge crowds moving towards the Sangam Nose at the same time.

A report published in 2014 by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the apex body on formulating disaster mitigation policies in the country, found that the "majority of the crowd disasters in India and developing countries have occurred at religious places".

What causes stampedes?

Stampedes can be caused by structural reasons (including weak temporary structures, poor barricading, poor guardrails, poorly-lit stairwells, narrow exits, etc.), fires

or electrical failures, inadequacies in crowd control, crowd behaviour, poor security, and lack of coordination between stakeholders.

According to the NDMA report, crowd control is key to avoiding stampedes. Crowd control can fail due to several reasons: the arrival of larger than anticipated crowd, allowing people in excess of a venue's holding capacity, limited holding areas before the entrance, lack of access control, closed/locked exits, lack of adequate and strong railings to marshal the queue, lack of sectoral partitions to segregate assembled crowds, etc.

According to the report, improper/inadequate arrangements add to the problem. Panic or excitement leads to either overcrowding or accelerated movement. "On occasions, this has led to deaths because of crushing, suffocation, and trampling. ...Compressive asphyxia has been the most common reason for deaths..." the report says.

What role does crowd behaviour play?

According to the report, understanding crowd behaviour is an important aspect of preventing stampedes.

"Individual behaviour in a crowd is sometimes influenced by the behaviour of others. The unlawful actions of a few people can result in larger numbers following them. Research has shown that understanding of crowd behaviour has led to a community-based approach to crowd control instead of force based control," the report says.

Long waits at places of worship may "result in a few devotees climbing up the fences which could lead to a large number following them causing overcrowding in another area".

Inappropriate or poorly managed control procedures may worsen the situation. "For example, police reacting to a group of unruly people may chase them in a direction opposite to the incoming crowd, which may create a collision, and hence a disaster," it says.

EXPLAINED POLICY

What does the report say about past incidents?

The report makes a reference to the August 2003 stampede at the Nashik Kumbh, where 29 pilgrims died.

According to the report, a magisterial inquiry found these reasons for the stampede: the pressure of people at various points on the barricades, a sudden flow of people in the reverse direction, *sadhus* were allowed to move in procession on elephants and in jeeps along with pilgrims, and unforeseen ingress of pilgrims onto the path from various points.

Following the stampede at the Kalubai Yatra Mandhardevi at Wai, Satara, in January 2005, in which 293 people were killed, an inquiry commission under Justice Rajan Kochar found the following causes: "Wrong crowd estimates (More pilgrims expected because of Tuesday) ; Temple compound not big enough to hold large

number of pilgrims; Narrow, steep, wet (slippery), winding path with (illegal) vendors (some having gas cylinders) on both sides; Illegal electric connections; Inadequate safety, security (no watchtowers, public address systems), fire, water, and medical assistance; Poor Infrastructure (Only plans, no implementations); Lack of coordination among various stakeholders."

How does crowd control work?

The NDMA report argues that most stampedes can be prevented with proactive and holistic planning, and flawless execution.

"The guiding principle for crowd control should be managing the demand-supply gap through i) controlling the crowd inflow, ii) regulating the crowd at the venue, and iii) controlling the outflow, if needed," the report says.

In order to understand demand, the report says, the authorities need to understand the history of numbers, crowd arrival

patterns, type of visitors, etc.; and in order to understand the supply, authorities need to calculate the capacity at the venue — things like seating capacity and offerings or prayers possible per hour.

"At a number of places, demand simply outstrips supply, leading to overcrowding. Because of this, there is a need for an input control i.e., restricting the number of entries. A mandatory registration process makes this possible," the report says.

Giving the examples of shrines at Vaishnodevi and Sabarimala, the report says a lot of places have started online registration of pilgrims. "This registration process could be used to influence the arrival pattern," it says.

The report says that at a number of places, it is impossible to increase supply capacity because of religious beliefs or topological reasons. In such cases, since the wait is unavoidable, the only possibility is to make it comfortable.

**Office of Superintending Engineer,
Rampur Circle, P.W.D. Rampur**
Short Term Notice Inviting E-Tender (Second Time)

Letter No. 337 /E –Tender R.Cir. /24-25 Dated : 16.01.2025

On behalf of the Governor of U.P. tender for following work are invited by the Superintending Engineer, Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur online on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from registered contractors with UP PWD (as per column no. 8. The bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders to qualify for the award of the contract. Bids must be downloaded online from **10:00 AM on date 01.02.2025 to 03:00 PM** on dated **07.02.2025** and the technical bids will be opened online **date 07.02.2025 at 03:30 PM** in Office of Superintending Engineer Rampur Circle PWD Rampur and Financial bids of the qualified bidders will be opened on date & time as notified.

2. Details of the works are following:

Sl. No	DISTRICT	Name of Work	Estimated cost Excl. GST (Rs. in Lakh)	Bid Security (Rs.in Lakh)	Cost of tender documents including GST. (RS.)	Time of completion of the work (Including rainy season)	Category of road contractor eligible	Address of Executive Engineer executing the work	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Bilnor	Badigarh Suawala road km 10 to Mehsanpur to Gurdwara road.	33.70	3.37	2354.00 (Security will be accepted only net banking)	02 Months (Including Rainy Season)	"A, B & C" in Road Category	CD-2 PWD Bijnor (Hq - Najibabad)	Rampur Circle, PWD Rampur	Moradabad Zone, PWD Moradabad
2		Renewal of Badhapur Ramjiwala road Km 2,3,4,5,6 (200) and 6(800)	38.30	3.85						

- The Rate adopted in the BOQ are including all other taxes but excluding GST.
- The Bid Security and tender cost should be deposited online through Net Banking as per Column 5 & 6 in the table.

All terms & conditions can be seen on website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. The bidder have to login on Prahari URL <http://wms.uppwd.gov.in/Prahari> to upload required documents as per Government order no. 879(1)23-7-2020 dt. 25.08.2020 & E.N.C./H.O.D.'s up pwd order No. 4859/4M-LC/2020 dt. 27.08.2020

Executive Engineer CD-2, PWD, Bijnor (Hq Najiababd) Email – ceepwdnjb@gmail.com	UPID-227604 Date 29/01/2025 www.upidadv.gov.in	Superintending Engineer Rampur Circle, PWD, Rampur Ph. 0595 – 2351163 Email – pwdrampur@gmail.com
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**Bihar State Power Generation
Company Limited**

5th Floor, Vidyut Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna – 800 021

Website: <https://bspgcl.bihar.gov.in>

Email ID: chiefengineerbspgcl@gmail.com

CIN: U40102BR2012SGC018888



Govt. of Bihar

Notice Inviting Tender for Request for Selection (RfS)

NIT No. 02/PR/BSPGCL/2025

Description of work	EMD	Tender Document Cost	Bid Processing Fee
BSPGCL invites Request for Selection (RfS) (Single Bid Two Envelop System) from technical capable and financial sound positioned bidders for setting up of total 125MW/250 MWh Standalone Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) under Tariff based Competitive Bidding (TBCC) with support of Viability Gap Funding (VGF) under Build -Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) model in the state of Bihar at different Grid Sub-stations of Bihar State Power Transmission Company Limited (BSPTCL) for a period of 12 years.	Rs. 7.5 Lakh/MW as per the capacity to be quoted by the bidder.	Rs. 25,000/- + GST @ 18% (non-refundable).	As per Eproc2.
Start Date of Online Sale of Tender Documents	21.02.2025 15:00 Hrs. onwards		
Pre-Bid Meeting Date (Physical & Online)	At 11:30 Hrs. on 03.03.2025, Venue: Conference Hall 5 th floor Vidyut Bhawan, Patna-800021.		
Last Date of Online Sale of Tender document:	Upto 14:00 Hrs. of 23.03.2025.		
Last Date of Submission of Original EMD	Upto 15:00 Hrs. of 23.03.2025.		
Last Date of Online Submission of Tender	Upto 17:00 Hrs. of 23.03.2025.		
Date of Opening of Techno-Commercial Part (Part-I)	16:00 Hrs. onwards on 24.03.2025.		
Date of Opening of Financial Part (Part-II)	To be intimated to the eligible Bidders through e-mail.		
Online E-Reverse Auction Request Schedule	E-Reverse Auction Request Schedule will be communicated after completion of evaluation of Financial Bid (Part-II). The qualified bidders will be informed accordingly.		

(I) Contact No.7763813863.

(ii) E-mail Id- chiefengineerbspgcl@gmail.com

Chief Engineer, BSPGCL

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

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SBD आधारित प्रतियोगिता दर निविदा

(केवल ई-टेंडरिंग पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

बिहार राज्य अंतर्गत विभिन्न विद्यालयों के कार्य हेतु अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। कोई भी संवेदक जो केंद्रीय / राज्य सरकार / सार्वजनिक क्षेत्रों में निवेशित हो, निविदा में भाग ले सकते हैं परन्तु इस निगम का खरिददेण कार्य के आदान के बाद कराना अनिवार्य होगा।

1. विधानपदाता का पदनाम एवं पता	मुख्य अतिथि, बिहार राज्य शैक्षणिक आधारभूत संरचना विकास निगम, पटना।
2. निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत की तिथि	28-01-2025
3. निविदा कागजगत अपलौड करने एवं	दिनांक 06-02-2025 से 13-02-2025, 15.00
अपलौड करने की अवधि पूर्वाह्न से	बजे तक। (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
4. संवेदक द्वारा निविदा अपलौड करने की	दिनांक 13-02-2025 के 15.00 बजे तक।
अंतिम तिथि/समय	(on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
5. अग्रप्राप्त सभी शब्द पत्र, मूल में	दिनांक 14-02-2025 के 15.00 बजे तक।
जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि/समय स्थान	बिहार राज्य शैक्षणिक आधारभूत संरचना विकास निगम,पटना।
6. प्री-बीड मीटिंग का समय एवं स्थान	मुख्य अतिथि, बिहार राज्य शैक्षणिक आधारभूत संरचना

		विकास निगम, पटना। दिनांक- 08-02-2025 के 15.00 बजे।
7. तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि/समय :	दिनांक- 15-02-2025 के 15.30 बजे	
अंतिम तिथि/समय :	(on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)	
8. वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान :	तकनीकी बीड के निष्पादन के उपरान्त।	
9. कार्य की विवरण:-	(on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)	

Sl. No.	Work Name	BOQ Amount (In Lakh)	EMD IN (In Lakh)	Cost of BOQ IN RS	Period of Completion	Tender/ Retender
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Construction of +2 level School Building at- UHSS Thengpur Block- Paroo, District- Muzaffarpur (Group No.- SSS - 2109C).	221.77	4.44	10,000/	15 Months	ReTender
2	Construction of +2 level School Building at- UHSS Rakauli, Block- Andar, District- Siwan (Group No.- SSS - 2142A).	221.77	4.44	10,000/	15 Months	ReTender
3	Construction of +2 level School Building at- UHSS Khodaibari Urdu, Block- Husainganj, District- Siwan (Group No.- SSS - 2142B).	221.77	4.44	10,000/	15 Months	ReTender
4	Construction of +2 level School Building at- UHSS Sighi, Block- Ziradei, District- Siwan (Group No.- SSS - 2142C).	221.77	4.44	10,000/	15 Months	ReTender
5	Construction of Different Building for Centre of Excellence at DIET Building Tarar, Aurangabad.	587.53	11.75	10,000/	15 Month	ReTender
6	Construction of Different Building for Centre of Excellence at DIET Building Pirauta, Bhojpur.	1118.64	21.18	10,000/	15 Month	ReTender

PR. No.018384 (B&C) 2024-25 मुख्य अभियंता
विस्तृत जानकारी www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

संपूर्ण सुरक्षा केन्द्र में आएँ, निःशुल्क एच.आई.वी. व यौन जनित रोग जाँच एवं उपचार पाएँ

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, ANGUL
E-Mail - sencerwangul@yahoo.co.in ☎ 06764-236404

No. 419 // Dt. 28/8/25 //

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR ROAD WORKS IN ODISHA
Bid Identification No. Road Online AGL- 22/2024-25

1. Name of the work : Road works
2. Total No. of work : 01 No.
3. Estimated cost : Rs. 579.37 Lakhs
4. Class of Contractor : As per annexure.
5. Period of completion : As per annexure.
6. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul	Road Online- AGL- 22/2024-25	31.01.25 10.00 A.M	14.02.25 up to 5.00 P.M	13.02.25 upto 1.00 P.M	15.02.25 11.00 A.M	Will be intimated separately
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For detailed Notice inviting Tenders, Please visit to the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

OIPR- 251801/11/0033/2425 Sd/- Chief Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul.



**TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF VETERINARY HOSPITAL
SPECIALITIES AND GENERAL ITEMS**
Directorate of Animal Husbandry

Room No. - 152, First floor, Vikas Bhawan, New secretariat
Patna -800015, Contact info: dirahd-bih@nic.in

TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are invited (for the selection of firms and rate fixation) under **Two-bid** system from reputed Manufacturers or from their Authorized distributors/ Authorized agencies/ Authorized representatives in conformity with details contained in tender documents for "**Tender for Supply of Veterinary Hospital Specialities And General Items**" for Animal Husbandry Directorate, Bihar, Patna as per the specifications mentioned in Annexure - I

Notice Inviting Tender Ref. No: 2025/AHD/02
(Only through E- Tender on website: <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)

Tender Schedule

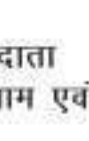
Particulars	2025/AHD/02
Tender Reference No.	2025/AHD/02
Date and time for downloading of bid document	31.01.2025 at 10:00 AM (up to last submission date)
Last date and time of submission of online bids.	21.02.2025 up to 01:00 PM
Date, time & Place of Pre Bid Meeting	11.02.2025 at to 11:00 AM (Animal Husbandry Directorate, Vikash Bhawan, New Secretariat, Patna)
Last date and time for submission of original EMD and Samples.	21.02.2025 up to 03:00 PM
Date, Time and Place of opening of Technical Bid.	21.02.2025 at 04:00 PM (Animal Husbandry Directorate, Vikash Bhawan, New Secretariat, Patna)
Date and time of opening of Financial Bids.	To be intimated later on (After finalization of technical bid)
Validity of Tender	180 days
Bid Processing Fee	As applicable.

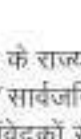
Director
Animal Husbandry, Bihar

PR. No. 018391 (Animal) 2024-25

This information is available on website www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdibihar also

रक्त की आवश्यकता पड़ने पर लाईसेंस प्राप्त ब्लड बैंकों से ही रक्त प्राप्त करें।

 अल्पकालीन निविदा सं-01/2025																					
बिहार पुलिस अकादमी, राजगीर, नालंदा																					
01. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता	- पुलिस अधीक्षक सह सहायक निदेशक (प्रशासन), बिहार पुलिस अकादमी, राजगीर, थाना-छभीलापुर, पिन कोड-803116 - इस विज्ञापन की विशेष जानकारी को लिये अकादमी के वेबसाइट www.bpa.bihar.gov.in से डाउनलोड करना होगा।																				
02. विज्ञापन का नाम / विवरणी	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>क्रम</th> <th>किट का विवरणी</th> <th>किट की संख्या</th> <th>अभियुक्ति</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>01</td> <td>Seman Detection Kit</td> <td>15 अदद</td> <td>प्रत्येक किट के</td> </tr> <tr> <td>02</td> <td>Explosive Detection Kit</td> <td>10 अदद</td> <td>Specification के</td> </tr> <tr> <td>03</td> <td>Evidence collection Kit</td> <td>15 अदद</td> <td>संबंध में विशेष</td> </tr> <tr> <td>04</td> <td>DNA Sample collection Kit</td> <td>15 अदद</td> <td>जानकारी हेतु</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> अकादमी के वेबसाइट को देखें।	क्रम	किट का विवरणी	किट की संख्या	अभियुक्ति	01	Seman Detection Kit	15 अदद	प्रत्येक किट के	02	Explosive Detection Kit	10 अदद	Specification के	03	Evidence collection Kit	15 अदद	संबंध में विशेष	04	DNA Sample collection Kit	15 अदद	जानकारी हेतु
क्रम	किट का विवरणी	किट की संख्या	अभियुक्ति																		
01	Seman Detection Kit	15 अदद	प्रत्येक किट के																		
02	Explosive Detection Kit	10 अदद	Specification के																		
03	Evidence collection Kit	15 अदद	संबंध में विशेष																		
04	DNA Sample collection Kit	15 अदद	जानकारी हेतु																		
03. चयन प्रक्रिया	01. सभी निविदा दाता अपनी-अपनी निविदा पुलिस अधीक्षक सह सहायक निदेशक (प्र शासन), बिहार पुलिस अकादमी, राजगीर के नाम से अपनी-अपनी निविदा तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय बिड अलग-अलग लिफाफों में बिहार पुलिस अकादमी, राजगीर में निर्धारित निविदा बॉक्स में जमा कर सकते हैं। 02. निर्धारित समयवधि के बाद आने वाले निविदा को स्वीकार नहीं किया जाएगा। 03. तकनीकी बिड में सफल होने वाले फर्म का ही वित्तीय बिड खोला जाएगा। 04 निविदादाता का अंतिम रूप से चयन का आधार किट का दर एवं गुणवत्ता होगी।																				
निविदा डालने की संक्षिप्त प्रक्रिया																					
निविदा डालने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	17 / 02 / 2025 अपराह्न 05.00 बजेतक																				
निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	18 / 02 / 2025 बजे ऑडिटोरियम / कॉन्फ्रेंस हॉल में																				
उक्त सूचना state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर भी देखी जा सकती है। PR- 018555 (Police) 2024-25																					
सहक निदेशक (प्रशासन) बिहार पुलिस अकादमी, राजगीर																					
नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार																					



बिहार साक्षरता योजना

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, कार्य प्रमंडल-01, मोतिहारी

अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या – E-06(SBD)/2024-25
(कैबल ई-टेंडर प्रक्रिया के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc.bihar.gov.in पर)

बिहार के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से बिहार राज्य के किसी भी कार्य विभाग / निगम / अन्य राज्य सरकार / केन्द्र सरकार / सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रम या राष्ट्रीय या अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्थापित के किसी भी एजेंसी में समुचित श्रेणी में निविधित संवेदकों से प्रशिक्षित दर निविदा को बीड प्रणाली (तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय) अन्तर्गत आमंत्रित किया जाते हैं। यदि संवेदक बिहार राज्य के किसी कार्य विभाग / निगम में पूर्व से निर्धारित नहीं है, तब एकरारनामा के पूर्व निर्मातलिखित का स्वीकार पत्र (लेटर ऑफ एक्स्पेसट्रेस) प्राप्त होने के बाद बिहार राज्य के किसी भी कार्य विभाग / निगम (जिसमें निबंधन की प्रक्रिया लागू हो) में निबंधन कराना अनिवार्य होगा।

1. कार्यों की विवरणी : – पंचायत सरकार भवन

युग्म संख्या	कार्य का नाम	परिमाण विपत्र की राशि (लाख ₹0 में)	अवधन की राशि (औन लाईन मंड या ऑफ लाईन मंड में कैबल B.G. के रूप में) (लाख ₹0 में)	परिमाण-विपत्र का मूल्य (अप्रत्यक्षीयिके वल औनलाइन मंड में मुगलान) (रुपये में)	बीड प्रोसेसिंग शुल्क (अप्रत्यक्षीयिके कैबल औनलाइन मंड में मुगलान) (रुपये में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (माह में)
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
	जिला पूर्वी चम्पारण (मोतिहारी) के कल्याणपुर प्रखंड अन्तर्गत ग्राम पंचायत बरहरहा महानंद के मौजा बखरी महेश में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	299.99272	6.000	10,000.00	3,540.00	14 माह

2. विज्ञापन निर्यात करने की तिथि : दिनांक – 29-01-2025

3. निविदा कागजात अपलोड करने की प्रारम्भिक की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक –08-02-2025 को 10.00 बजे अप्राहान तक।
(सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

4. प्री-बीड मीटिंग का समय, स्थान एवं तिथि : दिनांक 05-02-2025 समय 03.00 बजे, मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, विवेकवर्द्धया भवन, जयपुर तल, कमरा नं-423, बेली रोड, पटना-800015

5. निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 13-02-2025 समय 3.00 बजे अप्राहान तक।
(सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

6. तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 13-02-2025 समय 3.30 बजे अप्राहान तक।
(सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

7. वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 13-02-2025 समय 3.00 बजे अप्राहान तक।
(सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

8. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : समम पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में घोषित की जायेगी।
(सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

9. निविदा की देवता अवधि : 120 दिन (निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि के बाद)

कार्यपालक अभियंता
स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन,
कार्य प्रमंडल-01, मोतिहारी

PR. No. 018386 (Planning) 2024-25

विस्तृत जानकारी www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

गर्भाशय की पहली तिमाही में माँ की एच आई वी और सिफिलिस की जाँच जरूर करायें

विशेष शाखा पुलिस मुख्यालय मध्यप्रदेश भोपाल

क्रमांक- विशा/स्टोर/2025-25(32) दिनांक 27/01/2025

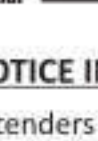
निविदा सूचना का शुद्धि पत्र
(Corrigendum)

विशेष शाखा पुलिस मुख्यालय की निविदा सूचना क्रमांक **SB/Store/2024-25(591), Bhopal, Dated 17-12-2024** द्वारा **Body Worn Camera** के क्रय हेतु ई-निविदा सूचना जारी की गई है। उपरोक्त आमंत्रित निविदा के माध्यम से क्रय किये जाने वाले उपकरण के समय-सारणी में "आंशिक संशोधन" के संबंध में "शुद्धि पत्र" (Corrigendum) जारी किया गया है जो [website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app](https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app) पर तथा विभाग की वेबसाइट www.mppolice.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

हस्ता./-

सहायक पुलिस महानिरीक्षक,
विशेष शाखा (सा), म.प्र. भोपाल
दूरभाष कं.-0755-2443654

G-22347-24



Bihar Museum Society, Patna

(An Autonomous Society under the Department of Art, Culture & Youth,
Government of Bihar)

Nehru Path (Bailey Road), Patna-800001

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR CAFETERIA AT PATNA MUSEUM, PATNA

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed Firms/ Agencies/ Companies under "Two-bid system - Technical Bid (un-priced) and Financial Bid (priced) to provide CAFETERIA SERVICES in Patna Museum, Patna, Buddha Marg. Detailed information of the Tender Document can be downloaded from the website <http://biharmuseum.org> or <http://prdbihar.gov.in/> <https://state.bihar.gov.in/yac>. The bidder has to submit non-refundable tender processing fee of Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of Rs. 2,00,000 (Rupees Two Lakh Only) through demand draft in favor of BIHAR MUSEUM SOCIETY, PATNA, payable at Patna along with the Technical Bid. EMD will be returned to the all-unsuccessful Firms/Agencies/ Companies after 30 days of finalization of the tender. Tender Document complete in all respects in a sealed envelope is to be submitted by Speed Post/Registered Post only at the Office of The Director General, Bihar Museum, Bailey Road' Patna - 800001. The tenders received late / tenders without Processing Fee/Conditional tenders / Incomplete Tenders in any respect would be rejected. The Director General, Bihar Museum, Patna reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason. Regarding any information of the proposed work, bidder should contact office of the Director General, Bihar Museum, Patna on any working day, before submission of bid. Queries can be emailed at director.general@biharmuseum.org/additional.director. admin@biharmuseum.org/bmpatna2014@gmail.com

Important Dates for the selection process:

- (i) Date for pre-bid conference ---15th February 2025 at 3.00 p.m.
- (ii) Last date for submission of Tender- 28th February 2025 up to 11.00 a.m.
- (iii) Date of opening Technical Bid---28th February 2025 at 03.00 p.m.
- (iv) Date of opening Financial Bid- Will be informed.

Venue for pre-bid Conference: Pre-bid Conference will be held at the office of the Director General Bihar Museum, Bailey Road, Patna—800 001.

This information is available on state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also

(Ranbeer Singh Rajput)
Additional Director-Admin (I/c)
Bihar Museum

PR- 18472 (ART) 2024-25

नरो की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA				TENDER NOTICE		
SR. No.	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	HVPSNL	TRANSPORTATION OF 100 MVA 220/33KV TF FROM YARD GATE TO TE PLINTH AT 220KV SUBSTATION LAHA AHIR	28.01.2025 06.02.2025	6.84 LACS	www.hvpsn.org.in	0172-2583789 PRO@HVPSN.ORG.IN
2	HVPSNL	AUGMENTATION OF EXISTING 132KV DOUBLE BUS BAR OF 220KV SSTN REWARI FROM TWIN ACBSR ZEBRA CONDUCTOR TO TWIN ACBSR MOOSE CONDUCTOR.	28.01.2025 13.02.2025	5.22 LACS	www.hvpsn.org.in	0172-2583789 PRO@HVPSN.ORG.IN

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, VISIT OUR SITE : www.hvpsn.org.in or you can contact directly to the person in charge of the project.

M. No. 221610494

POOMPUHAR SHIPPING CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Tamilnadu Enterprise)
692, Anna Salai, IVth Floor, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035, India
Telephone No. : 044 - 24330505 / 807, Fax : 91-44-24344593 / 24335706,
E-mail : pscship@gmail.com CIN : U63090TN1974PLC006596

Expression Of Interest (Eoi)

PSC/TECH/EOI/FERRY ACQUISITION/001/2024-25, Dt. 30.01.2025)

Notice inviting EOI to find suitable specification to design, construction and delivery of three ferries.

Last date for Receipt : **13.02.2025/1500 hrs**

Opening : **13.02.2025/1530 hrs**

Interested Ferry builders/Firms are advised to refer our website www.tamilship.com / www.tn.tenders.gov.in for specific transparent details. This advertisement is invitation only. The details given in the website are comprehensive. Further, all communications will be updated through our web site only.

DIPR/395/TENDER/2025

General Manager (Operations)



**HARYANA STATE WAREHOUSING
CORPORATION**

DISTT OFFICE: REWARI

Email: dmhwcrewari@gmail.com

AUCTION NOTICE

Public auction of following unserviceable/ obsolete articles on **“As is where is basis”** lying at various centers in Rewari circle as per details given below will be held on dated 03.02.2025 as per mentioned schedule at District office Rewari.

Sr No	Name of Centre	Al- Flask (Nos)	Wooden crates	“C” Class gunnies (Nos)	Miscellaneous Articles	Schedule of Auction					
				Jute							
Cluster -1					Navtal Locks, Grading Set, Steel Table etc. (Details of other miscellaneous items is available in D.O. Rewari)						
1	Rewari-I	95	2862	0			9.00 AM				
Cluster-2											
2	Rewari-II	110	1050	1975				10.00AM			
Cluster-3											
3	Rampura	1050	185	1518					11.00 AM		
Cluster-4											
4	Ateli	110	251	0						12.00	
5	Kanina	115	275	0						Noon	
Cluster -5											
6	Narnaul	15	161	0							1.00PM
7	Nangal Chaudhary	60	50	0							
Cluster -6											
8	Mohindergarh	15	1030	658							
Cluster 7											
9	Jhajjar	2500	2052	10627		3.00 PM					
	Total	4070	7916	14778							

Contact No. : Smt. Rekha Malik 9416083606

Terms & Conditions

- 1- The materials can be inspected by the concerned party during the office hours on any working days at the concerned warehouse.
- 2- Earnest money of Rs.20000 to be deposited by every participant/ bidder in favor of Haryana State Warehousing Corporation Rewari before the start of auction.
- 3- Successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% of value of bid at the fall of hammer and remaining in RTGS/DD with tax failing which the earnest money will be forfeited.
- 4- The quantity mentioned above may increase or decrease.
- 5- The committee reserves the right to accept or reject the highest bid without assigning any reasons.
- 6- The material will be lifted within 20 Days of the auction. Extension in lifting period can be granted for fifteen days on the payment of storage charges.
- 7- Other terms and conditions will be announced at the time of auction.

Date: 28.01.2025
Place: Rewari
No. 32168/HRY

Rekha Malik
District Manager

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Sugandha Devi, M/o Ratan Kr 57,vill- charkakol, post- kushmani, Godda, P.O: Godda, DIST : Godda, Jharkhand 814133, I have changed my son's name and shall hereafter be known as RATAN THAKUR 0130048730-1

I,hitherto known as Kavita Kumari D/O Chand Sarna employed as Administrative Assistant in Ministry of Defence,R/O NCH/406, Timarpur,P.O Civil Lines,Dist North Delhi,Delhi-110054,I have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Shreya Shrine. 0040771620-11

I,Vijay Lakshmi Punjabi W/o Shri Shankar Gaba R/o J-105, First Floor,Ashok Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi-110052 changed my name to Kanchan Gaba. 0040771618-8

I,Vaibhav Nagpal,R/o,N2-1001 Lifestyle Homes, Sector-83, Gurgaon(Haryana),have Changed My Minor Son's Name From Parth to Parth Nagpal. 0040771617-4

I,Umesh Kumar,S/o Mr Bishnudeo Sahai,R/O House.No.116, Block-16,DakshinpurI Extension,Dr. Ambedkar Nagar,South-Delhi,New Delhi-110062,declare that name of father has been wrongly written as B.D.Sah in my service records.My father correct name is Bishnudeo Sahai,which may be amended accordingly. 0040771618-7

I,Sapna Kapur,D/o Falak Daman Sudarshan and Ex.W/O Rakesh Kapur,Decree No.HMA No.1827/2024,R/O,H.No.4,Right Portion,University-Road,Adjoining Sir Shankar Lal Concert Hall, Delhi University, Malka Ganj, Delhi-110007,declare that name of my-minor daughter ILARIA KAPUR aged-16 years has been wrongly written as KYRA in her Birth Certificate.No.MCDOLIR-2208-003015399,Correct name of my minor daughter is ILARIA KAPUR. 0040771620-9

I,Saurabh Tomar,S/o-Ram Singh Tomar,R/O KH.NO.89-90,Street no 6, Shri Ram Gali,Wazirabad Delhi 110084 have changed my name to Sourabh Tomar. 0040771617-3

I,Saara Kaur D/o Maninder Kaur R/O WZ-224, Gali-No.7 Lajwanti Garden Delhi-46 have changed my name to Saara M Kaur. 0040771636-5

I,Roshni Singh D/o-Anil Singh R/O-C-116, Sector-V, Uttam Nagar, Bhagwati Vihar, D.K.Mohan Garden, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Mahi and my correct date of birth is 16.10.2006. 0040771618-2

I,Razia w/o,Kamaluddin, R/O-1948, Gali Nal Wali,Hauz Sui Walan, Darya Ganj,Delhi-110002,have changed my name to RAZIA BEGUM permanently. 0040771620-4

I,Ratan Lal S/o,Late Hira Lal R/O-435,Maharathi-Colony, Jwala-Nagar, Shahdra,Delhi-32,also at-C-110 Chander-Nagar,Ghaziabad (UP)do hereby declare and inform to all concerned-that I, Ratan Lal and Nauratan or Nauratan Lal is one and same-person and my correct DOB-is 19-07-1942. Henceforth, my name may be read as 'Ratan Lal'. 0040771636-3

I,Rajat Garg S/o Prakash Garg R/O-E-1/59, Second-Floor Sector-7,Rohini Delhi-110085, inform that my name Rajat Prakash Garg and Rajat Prakash is same person. 0040771622-6

I,RUBAN SINGH RAUTELA,S/o-HARVANSH SINGH RAUTELA,R/O-C-374/D,Ramesh Enclave,Kirari Suleman Nagar,Delhi-110086,declare that name of mine,my father and my mother has been wrongly written as RUBAN, HARVANSH SINGH, and NANDANI in my 10th and 12th educational documents the actual name of mine and my father and my mother are RUBAN SINGH RAUTELA and HARVANSH SINGH RAUTELA and NANDANI RAUTELA, respectively. 0040771622-4

I,RAMESHWAR DUTT VATSA,S/O-SHRI CHANDAN LAL SHARMA,R/O-C-434/15,KHATIO WALI-GALI JATWARA MOHLLA, BAHADURGARH,JHAJJAR,HARYANA-124507, in the Khata Khatoni my father's name is wrongly-mentioned as CHANDGI but his correct name is CHANDAN LAL SHARMA. 0040771622-1

I,Preeti Devi,W/o-Rajesh Maan R/O,H.No.90, Adhakar Gali,Near Government School,VTC: Daultabad, Farrukhnagar, Gurgaon (Haryana)-122006,have changed my name to Preeti. 0040771620-7

I,Poonam,W/o,Ravinder Kumar R/O,H.No.75, Kadiapur,Basai, Gurgaon-122006(Haryana), have changed my name to Poonam Devi. 0040771617-6

I,Neetu Kumari,W/o-Deepak Kumar,R/O-Ward, No.44,Bharatpur,Tehsil and District-Bharatpur, Rajasthan,inform that in my husband's Army documents my name is Neetu Devi wrongly-written instead of correct name Neetu Kumari. Amendment accordingly in service records. 0040771620-2

I,Nareesh Agarwal,S/o Purushotam Das Agarwal,R/O D2,Khazan Basti,Maya Vihar,Nangal Raya,South West Delhi,Delhi-110046,have changed my name to Naresh Kumar Agarwal. 0040771622-3

I,Malkiat Singh S/o Balbant Singh R/O,H.No.310,Gali No.1A,Shyam Kunj,Bhondsi, Gurgaon-122002 (Haryana), Have changed my name to Malkiat Singh Bhatia. 0040771617-1

I,MEENA MANJHI,W/O SANJAY MANJHI,R/O B-1/54, BLOCK-B1, GALI NO.2, VIKAS VIHAR, VIKAS NAGAR,UTTAM NAGAR, DELHI-110059,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MEENA KUMARI. 0040771620-3

I,MANOJ KUMAR father of yash sehwrawat,R/O KHASRA.No.810,K-BLOCK, PART-2,MAHIPALPUR EXTN.,NEW DELHI-110037,inform that in my son's school documents my name is incorrect which is manoj Sehwrawat.Therefore manoj kumar and manoj sehwrawat are same person. 0040771622-7

I,MANJU W/O RAM KARAN R/O HNO.46,NEAR OLD CHOUPAL,HAMIDPUR,DELHI-110036,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MANJU DEVI. 0040771620-5

I,Kusum, W/o-Vivek Goyal, Add-Near Geeta bhawan mandir, mohalla kareliya bazar, Mahendragarh, Haryana-123029, have changed my name to Kusum Devi 0040771617-7

I,KRISHAN GOPAL PAL,S/O PREM SINGH,R/O,PLOTNO.37,3rd-FLOOR,PKT-8,SECTOR-21,ROHINI,MAIN-Road,SULTANPURI,C-BLOCK,DE LHI-110086,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KRISHAN GOPAL. 0040771617-2

I,Jitendra Duwa,S/o-Radhey Shyam Dua,R/O,GF1/138,Vishv Enclave,Sports Computer, Delhi Road,Sabum Godam,Meerut-250002(Uttar Pradesh),have changed my name to Jitender Dua. 0040771617-5

I,Devi Datt S/O Radhe Shyam R/O,H.No 04, Taya, Talya,Almora, Taya, Uttarakhand-263680,have changed my name to Devi Datt Kandpal. 0040771622-2

I,DHRUVV SHEEL S/o Abhay Sheel R/O,H.No.20-D,Pocket-4,Mayur,Vihar Phase-1,VtC Chilla,Sroda Khadar,Patparganj East Delhi-110091,have changed my minor daughter name PAVNI SHEEL aged 3 years to AMBIKA SHEEL 0040771622-5

I,Anil S/o-Bharat Ram,R/o,M-1/12, Budh-Vihar Phase-I,Budh-Vihar, North-West Delhi-110086,have changed my name to Anil Kumar. 0040771620-6

I,ALIBHA, W/o Ajay Kumar Nayak,R/O-House.No. 268,Shahapur Jat Village,New Delhi-110049,have changed my name ALIBHA to ALIBHA NAYAK for all purposes. 0040771620-1

I,ARUN KUMAR CHAUHAN,S/O ASHOK KUMAR,R/O 670-A-2 SHAHTI KHAND-4,NEAR CHURCH,INDIRAPURAM,SHIPR A SUN CITY, Ghaziabad,UTTAR PRADESH-201014,have changed my name to ARUN CHAUHAN. 0040771618-1

I,ADITYA Singh,S/o Parmeshwar Singh,R/O H.No.427, Naraina Village, Kair,PO Kair,Dist. South West Delhi,Delhi-110028,declare that my name & DOB is wrongly mentioned as Adit Singh & 07.12.2007 in my school record,My actual & correct Name is Aditya Singh and DOB is 29.12.2009. 0040771614-1

I,Zaheen Khan S/o Lt. Atique Khan R/O X-41B, DDA Flats, New Ranjeet Nagar, New Delhi-110008 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that Zaheen Khan and Zaheenuddin Khan both are same person and in future will be known by Zaheen Khan only for all purposes. 0040771512-1

I,Suresh Kumar,S/o-Gyani Ram R/O,Gali.No.29,Bagh-Colony,Karan Vihar Karnal Haryana 132001, have changed my name from Suresh to Suresh Kumar,for all purposes. 0040771636-1

I, Sonia W/o Swaran Singh Dhingra R/O Flat No.1004, Tower-G, Hilston Urbtchec, Sec-79, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP-201301, have changed my name to Sonia Dhingra for all future Purposes. 0070948117-1

I,Seema Devi W/o Karamvir R/O H NO 875/34, VIJAY NAGAR, ROHTAK, HARYANA-24001 Have Changed My Name To Seema 0070948071-1

I, Satyanarayan Badhai S/o Dukhi Badhai residence Quarter No. 2124, Type-2, Pocket-4, Lodhi Road Complex, New Delhi-110003, have changed the name of my son Gopal Ji (DOB-14.06.2010) and hereafter he will be known as Abhijeet. 0040771524-1

I, Ravi Raj Khatri S/O Neyota Ram Khatri, R/O HV-92, C Rock View Officers Enclave, Air Force Station Palam, Delhi-110010, I have changed the name of my minor daughter Veda Khatri aged about 9 Years and She shall hereafter be known as Veda Khatri 0070948105-1

I,Ramesh S/o Sohan Lal R/o Plot No.139, Ground Floor, BLK-A, PKT-4, Near NDPL Office, J.J.Colony, Sec-20, Rohini, Delhi-110086 have changed my name to Ramesh Kumar for all purposes. 0040771511-1

I, Rakesh Kumar S/o Late Sumer Chand R/o C-7/152-153, GF, Sec-8, Rohini, Delhi-85 have changed my name to Rakesh Gupta for all purposes 0070948114-1

I,Radhakrishnan P son of S Padmanabhan resident of D2-303, Saviour Park Apartments, Loni Road, Mohan Nagar, Ghaziabad have changed my name from Radhakrishnan P to Radhakrishnan Padmanabhan vide Affidavit NO IN-DL22902998727628X dated 22/01/2025 at Delhi 0040771619-1

I, Prashant Kumar S/O Manoj Kumar, R/o A-21, Gali No-1, Soniya Vihar, Delhi-332718, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Prashant Kumar Mehta. 0070948119-1

I,Rajeshwari,W/o Late Lalit Kumar R/o A-224, MIG-Flat,Brij Vihar, Ghaziabad,U.P.-201011, have changed my name to Rajeshwari Rastogi. 0040771636-2

I, Praful Surwade S/o Uttam Surwade R/o B-103, Shivdarshan CHS, Chanakya Nagar, Kalyan, Thane have changed my name to Praful Uttam Surwade 0070948059-1

I, Pawan Kumar S/O Nanak Chand, R/o WZ-96A, Near CRPF Camp Guru Nanak Nagar, Tilak Nagar, Rajouri Garden West Delhi-110018, I have changed the name of my minor daughter Riya Kapoor aged about 13 Years and He shall hereafter be known as Riya Kumar 0070948103-1

I, Navish Chandra Pandey S/o Anand Sarwoop Pandey R/O A-46B, Deepak Vihar, Vikas Nagar, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi-110059, have changed my-name to Navish Chand Pandey. 0040771636-4

I, NANDANI SHHODWANI W/O JAGDISH KUMAR R/O 4613/13, JAI MATA MARKET, TRI NAGAR, DELHI-110035 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NANDANI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040771620-12

I,Bhaskar Dutta,S/o-Ramendra Kumar Dutta,R/o-Flat No.1105, Tower-17, Paras Tierrea, sector-137 Noida, have lost,my original provisional allotment letter of the above address. Finder may contact. (M):- 9435035832 0040771622-10

I,LEENA MALHOTRA,W/o TARUN MALHOTRA, Flat no.407, KONARK APARTMENT,122, IP Extension, Delhi 110092, have LOST my Original Allotment & Possession Letter Finder Contact-9811399895. 0040771617-10

I,Manoj Kumar S/O Mahavir Singh, R/O A-21, Gali No-1, Part 1 Zero Pusta, Sonia Vihar Delhi, Saba Pur, Shahdara North East Delhi-110094, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Manoj Kumar Mehta. 0070948120-1

I, MEENAKSHI DHYANI W/O SOHAN DHYANI R/O C-510, SECTOR-19, NOIDA, DISTT- GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, U/P-201301, confirm that in my MY SON'S (PRATHAM DHYANI) SCHOOL DOCUMENTS) my name has been wrongly written as MEENAKSHI instead of MEENAKSHI DHYANI. My correct name is MEENAKSHI DHYANI for all future Purposes. 0070948113-1

I, Komal Ahuja, S/o Prem Kumar Ahuja, R/O Flat no. 6022, ATS KOCOON, Sector 109, Gurgaon-122017 have changed my name from Komal Ahuja to Kabir Ahuja and I will be known/called by the name of Kabir Ahuja in future. Kabir Ahuja and Komal Ahuja are one and same person. 0040771523-1

I, JAGDISH SHHODWANI S/O GIRDHARI LAL R/O 4613/13, JAI MATA MARKET, TRI NAGAR, DELHI-110035 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO JAGDISH KUMAR FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040771605-1

I, Deepak Kumar R/o Anand House Gali No.1, Mohammadpur Dwedha Muradnagar Ghaziabad U.P-201206 have changed my minor son's name from Shaurya Deep to Shaurya Mittal. 0070948116-1

I, Chatterjee Neha Ajaykumar W/o Amit Sirohi R/O 405 swastik apartment ward no 8 opp aggarwal dharmshala po Mehrauli south delhi 110030 have changed my name to Neha ajay Chatterjee 0070948068-1

I,Chander Prakash Gupta, S/o Late Pitambar Lal Gupta, residing at BH-642A, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi, have changed my name to Chander Prakash. Hereafter, I shall be known as Chander Prakash for all purposes. 0070948121-1

I, Anubha Gandhi W/o Sh. Saurabh Gandhi R/o H.No.-1203, Tower-3, Kensington Park Appmt., Sector-133, G.B. Nagar, Noida, U.P.-201304, have changed my name to Anubha Duseja Gandhi for all future purposes. 0040771520-1

I,Siddiqui Yasmeen Akbar D/O Akbar Siddiqui R/o I-321, Gali no 5 Sangam Vihar New Delhi-110080 have changed my name to Siddiqui Yasmean Akbar 0070948071-1

I,hitherto known as, PRAJNA SMITA MOHAPATRA, Date-of-Birth: 12-June-2006,D/O Balthunthanath Mohapatra,R/O 801,Blok-C,Type-V,Lok-Sabha Secretariat-Residential Complex, Sector-2,R.R.K.Puram, New Delhi-110022,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PRAGYA SMITA MOHAPATRA,for all purposes. 0040771620-8

I, AARNA, D/O Arpit Jindal residing at D-101, Aishwaryam, Gaur City-2, Greater Noida West, Gautam Budh Nagar, UP-201318 have changed my name to Aarna Jindal for all purposes. 0070948122-1

I Meena W/o Ashok Kumar R/O C-111, Gali no-5 Bhajan Pura, New Delhi-110053 have Changed My Name to Meena Devi 0070948070-1

I Khushaboo Gupta R/O F2/289 gali no 18, ratiya marg, sangam vihar, New Delhi-110080 have changed my name to Khushboo Gupta 0070948089-1

I, Basna W/o Kamlesh Kumar Meena R/O Village Kalarama Ki Dhani, Gadhora, Kaakho Ambadi, Sikrai, Dausa Rajasthan-303501 have changed my name from Basna to Basna Devi for all future purposes. 0040771642-1

I, Vinod Kumar Sarin S/o Late Shri Banarsi Das P/O H. No.-394, Street No. 12, Lalita Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my name written as Vinod Kumar Verma in Sale Deed Registration No. 5388 dated 23.07.1970 of my Property No. 394, Street No. 12, Lalita Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 and Vinod Kumar Sarin and Vinod Kumar in some of other documents. Vinod Kumar Verma, Vinod Kumar and Vinod Kumar Sarin are the names of one and same person and I shall hereafter be known as Vinod Kumar Sarin for all future purposes. 0040771619-1

I, Vinod Kumar Sarin S/o Late Shri Banarsi Das P/O H. No.-394, Street No. 12, Lalita Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my name written as Vinod Kumar Verma in Sale Deed Registration No. 5388 dated 23.07.1970 of my Property No. 394, Street No. 12, Lalita Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 and Vinod Kumar Sarin and Vinod Kumar in some of other documents. Vinod Kumar Verma, Vinod Kumar and Vinod Kumar Sarin are the names of one and same person and I shall hereafter be known as Vinod Kumar Sarin for all future purposes. 0040771619-1

I, Vinod Kumar Sarin S/o Late Shri Banarsi Das P/O H. No.-394, Street No. 12, Lalita Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my name written as Vinod Kumar Verma in Sale Deed Registration No. 5388 dated 23.07.1970 of my Property No. 394, Street No. 12, Lalita Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 and Vinod Kumar Sarin and Vinod Kumar in some of other documents. Vinod Kumar Verma, Vinod Kumar and Vinod Kumar Sarin are the names of one and same person and I shall hereafter be known as Vinod Kumar Sarin for all future purposes. 0040771619-1

I, Vinod Kumar Sarin S/o Late Shri Banarsi Das P/O H. No.-394, Street No. 12, Lalita Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my name written as Vinod Kumar Verma in Sale Deed Registration No. 5388 dated 23.07.1970 of my Property No. 394, Street No. 12, Lalita Park, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 and Vinod Kumar Sarin and Vinod Kumar in some of other documents. Vinod Kumar Verma, Vinod Kumar and Vinod Kumar Sarin are the names of one and same person and I shall hereafter be known as Vinod Kumar Sarin for all future purposes. 0040771619-1

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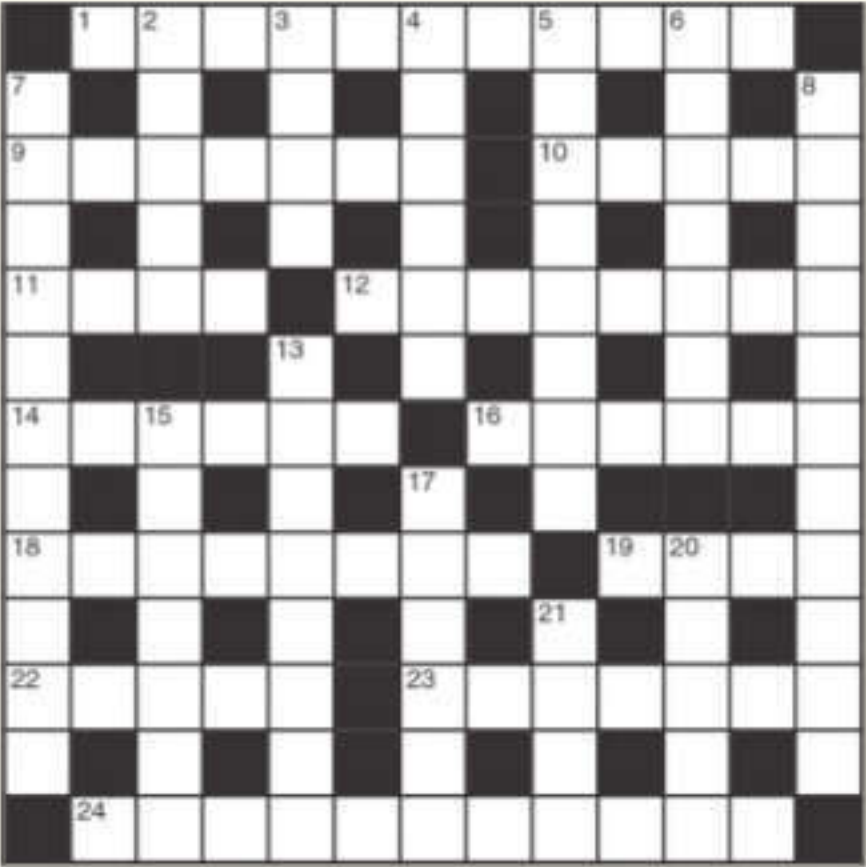
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CROSSWORD 5588

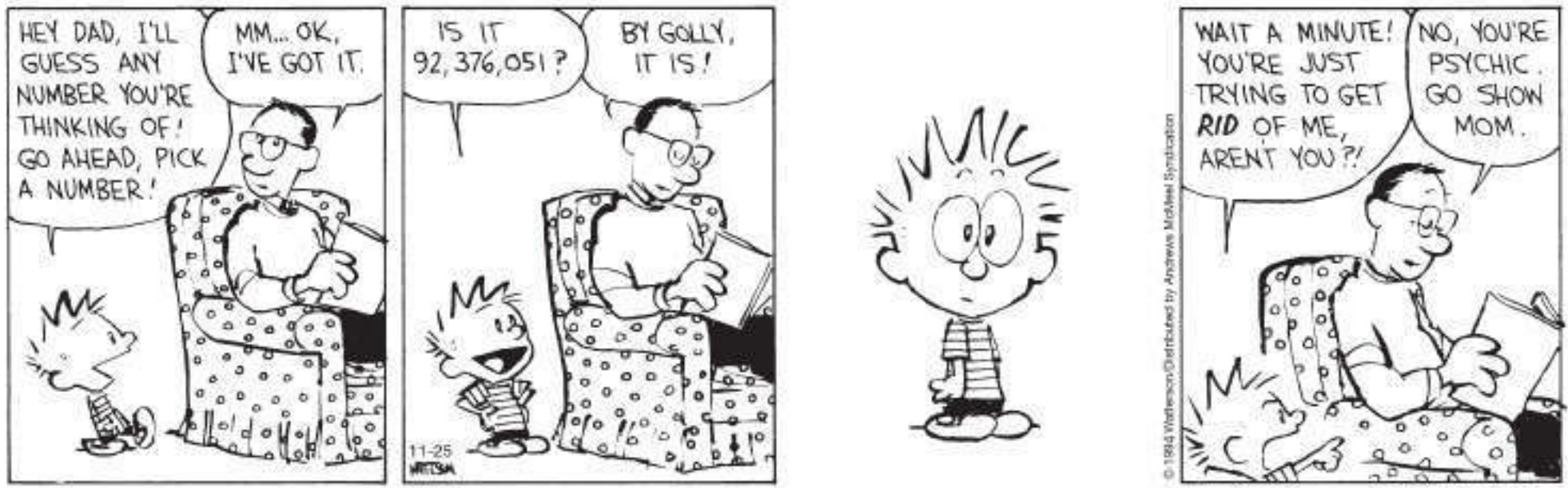


- ACROSS
- 1 Complaint of the motorist using too much petrol? (11)
- 9 I managed to name a Persian (7)
- 10 Fall in production of plums (5)
- 11 Turns and leaves (4)
- 12 More of the same in Latin (2,6)
- 14 Change roles? (6)
- 16 Prosecuted about it but satisfied (6)
- 18 Peer's son gives wrong answers (8)
- 19 Before midday the doc gets shot (4)
- 22 No permission for recesses (5)
- 23 A group on leave (7)
- 24 This form of state aid can be rather remote (2,1,8)
- DOWN
- 2 Gold blend tea in spout (5)
- 3 Take off the garment right away (4)
- 4 Time taken by a secretary (6)
- 5 Fault set right and proper (8)
- 6 By endless work advanced to become rich (7)
- 7 An offhand impression (11)
- 8 Vicissitudes rarely encountered in Holland (3,3,5)
- 13 Married in the old-fashioned way (8)
- 15 Get rid of players on strike (4,3)
- 17 Awards given for zero marks (6)
- 20 Italian bankers I left to become a doctor (5)
- 21 A delay cuts back the celebration (4)

Solutions Crossword 5587 Across: 1 Litter, 4 Ofttimes, 9 Poking, 10 Espouses, 12 Trap, 13 Clear, 14 Kite, 17 Crash landing, 20 Draw together, 23 Root, 24 Brass, 25 Acts, 28 Verbatim, 29 Museum, 30 Servings, 31 Versed Down: 1 Lipstick, 2 Take away, 3 Ernie, 5 Fast and loose, 6 Twos, 7 Massif, 8 Sashes, 11 Clear warning, 15 Sharp, 16 Angel, 18 Checkers, 19 Presumed, 21 Graves, 22 Poorer, 26 Dali, 27 Cute



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

There are still intense feelings lurking in the emotional undergrowth, but our stars favour simple affairs like shopping and finding other ways to disperse with your hard-earned cash. You can compensate for any mistakes you made yesterday.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

You are still having to come to terms with difficulties and opposition created by people you thought were on your team. Perhaps they are still on your side after all, and maybe their criticism is a way of helping you back on to the straight and narrow.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

There are a number of mysteries around. Perhaps something valuable will be lost, or perhaps a friend will entrust you with a secret. All should be revealed before long, so spend the day searching for clues. Actually, a partner might have just the answers you need.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Passive resistance will achieve more than belligerence. Probably you'll find that if you make a point of charming other people, and of showing them how much you can enjoy yourself, their opposition will melt away. You may even convince them that they were wrong about you.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Everything appeared to be going according to plan until more planets began pouring into sensitive and emotional areas of your chart. Now, all your personal and family plans will have to be revised and re-thought. Still, it's good to have a chance to tighten up your act.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Out of a total of ten planets, five are now playing on your side, so you can afford to be more than a little complacent and confident. You may feel that it is impolite to boast, but at least you should spare yourself five minutes to rest on your laurels.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

One way or another, you should be ready to bring one economic cycle to an end, but you must also be prepared to take all the important decisions. It may be another few weeks before monetary matters are settled, so don't submit to unfair pressure.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

It may be difficult to distance yourself from individuals, places or situations which are churning up your emotions or making you feel undervalued. However, it is not impossible. All depends on a change in your attitudes to your own strengths and talents.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

It's a day of work for all Sagittarians everywhere. Even those of you who had decided to put your feet up will have to find some way to keep active or risk the onset of boredom. Even if you're relaxing, you'll do it as well as you can. And don't worry about rumours or gossip.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

There are some disruptive aspects around at the moment, but they probably bother other people more than you. Your main fear may be of destitution or poverty, a deeply-held complex which may have a negative impact.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

This is likely to be a confusing moment, because while the indications in your chart are all very pronounced, they are pulling in different directions. It may be impossible to decide whether personal promises or public obligations are more important.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Far-reaching changes are about to take place in your personal life. Many Pisceans are dreaming of making a big escape, but sometimes your fantasies exist solely in your imagination. A lively Moon, should bring you a brief but helpful breathing space.

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.

I would rather be poor in a cottage full of _____ than a king without the desire to _____ - Thomas Babington Macaulay (5...4)

GWAER

ERWOO

CUPIDS

EERUBK

Solution: WAGER, WOOFER, CUSPID, REBURKE Answer: I would rather be poor in a cottage full of books than a king without the desire to read. - Thomas Babington Macaulay

Difficulty Level 4s

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

SUDOKU 5852

3 1 4 7 6 8 4 5 2 7 6 2 4 9 5 1 3 2 4 9 3 6 1

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5851

3 2 6 5 4 8 1 7 9 4 1 7 9 3 2 8 5 6 8 5 9 1 6 7 3 4 2 5 3 8 2 1 6 4 9 7 7 9 1 4 5 3 2 6 8 2 6 4 7 8 9 5 1 3 9 7 5 3 2 1 6 8 4 6 4 2 8 9 5 7 3 1 1 8 3 6 7 4 9 2 5

THE H.P. STATE COOP. MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD TOTU, SHIMLA-171011

No: 513/P&I-8/21-XXV Dated:

Short Term Tender Notice

E-tender is hereby invited for the Selection of Company/Firm/Proprietor for the marketing and sale of HIM Milk Products within and outside the state.

The Bid document is available online on 03.02.2025 at 04:00 PM and bid should be submitted in online mode on website hptenders.gov.in Bidder would be required to register in the above web-site hptenders.gov.in which is free of cost. For submission on bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring Bidders should visit in https://hptenders.gov.in & https://hpmilkfed.org for complete details. Bidders should also check the website from time to time to note the corrigendum, if any.

Sd/- Managing Director

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH ROADS & BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT

e Procurement Notice

2nd call "e" NIT. No.4/3/PFS/SH/PPD/DCE-I/DEE-4/AEE-9/2024, Dt:29.01.2025.

1) 2nd call online tenders are invited in e-procurement platform for "Consultancy services for Pre-Feasibility study on 19 State Highways to take up projects under BOT/PPP with Viability Gap Funding" (Package No. PFS No.03) vide NIT. No.4/3/PFS/SH/PPD/DCE-I/DEE-4/AEE-9/2024, Dt: 14.11.2024 (2nd call).

2) Tenders can be downloaded from 'e' procurement market place i.e., www.tender.aeprocurement.gov.in from 03.02.2025 @ 3.30PM onwards. The last date of receipt of tenders is 17.02.2025 up to 3.30PM.

3) Further details can be seen @ 'e' . procurement market place at www.tender.aeprocurement.gov.in

Sd/- For Chief Engineer (R&B) S.H., & Managing Director, APRDC. R.O. No. 3498PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22 Dt: 30.01.2025

MAHARASHTRA METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD. (Pune Metro Rail Project)

Office Address: A2, A3 Godown Block, District Court Interchange Metro Station, Nyaymurti Ranade Path, Shivajinagar, Pune - 411005, Maharashtra, India. Website: https://www.mahametro.org E-mail: tenders.pmrp@mahametro.org Telephone:020-26051074

Section-1 NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No. P1A-TR-03/2025 Dated : 31-Jan-2025

Name of Work: Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning Of 25kV Flexible Overhead Catenary System, associated 25kV Sectioning Posts, 33kV Auxiliary Sub-Station (ASS), associated Cabling And SCADA Systems For Pune Metro Rail Project PCMC-Nigdi Elevated Extension.

Interested bidders may visit Pune Metro Rail website www.punemetrorail.org or download the Tender documents and obtain further details regarding the tender from e-tender portal of Govt. of Maharashtra https://mahatenders.gov.in from 16:00 Hrs. On 04/02/2025 to 16:00 Hrs. on 10/03/2025

Executive Director/Procurement & Contracts Maha Metro, Greenest Metro Maha-Metro, PMRP

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH SAMAGRA SHIKSHA, AMARAVATI

Tender is invited through e-procurement platform for supply of Practical Records for students of classes XI and XII under "Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Vidyarthi Mitra" (SRKVM-1) vide Tender Notice NIT No. 28/2024-25, dt:29.01.2025 in Samagra Shiksha, Amaravati at Patamata, Vijayawada for 01 work in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Tenders Down loading Starts from : 01.02.2025 after 10.30AM Last date for receipt of Tender : 12.02.2025 up to 05.00 PM

Note: Further details can be viewed at https://tender.aeprocurement.gov.in or contact 0866 2428599.

Sd/-B. SRINIVASA RAO, I.A.S. STATE PROJECT DIRECTOR, APSS, AMARAVATI. No: 3499PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22 Dt: 30/01/2025

कार्यालय सेनानी 39वीं वाहिनी भारत तिब्बत सीमा पुलिस बल गृह मंत्रालय/ भारत सरकार पत्रालय- लखनावली कैम्प, ग्रेटर नोएडा (उ.प्र.) पिन कोड- 201306

Office Of The Commandant 39th Bn Indo Tibetan Border Police Force M.H.A. Govt. Of The India P.O. Lakhanwali camp, Greater Noida (UP) Pin-code -201306

Notice For Public Auction					
The Unserviceable Items Of 39th Bn, I.T.B.Police Force, Lakhanawali Camp, Surajpur, Greater Noida, Up-201306 To Be Auctioned As Per Details Under:-					
S. N.	Date	Timing	Description Of Stores	Place	Qty
1.	15.02.25	10.30 Hrs	Lx 800 Printer	39bn Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force, Lakhanawali Camp, Surajpur, Greater Noida Uttar Pradesh Pin Code- 201306	01 14279.62 14279.62 142.79 1%
2.			Mobile Phone Nol ia-3500 Classic With Bty 3 7v. Bty Charger Head Phone Stylish Phone Strap 512 Mb Memory Card User Guide		06 5500.00 33000.00 330.00 1%
3.			Fax Machine Samsung		01 14995.00 14995.00 149.95 1%
4.			Lg Ctv 29"		01 12977.00 12977.00 129.77 1%
5.			Lg Ctv 29"		01 13800.00 13800.00 138.00 1%
6.			Dvd Player Philips		02 2661.00 5322.00 53.22 1%
7.			V101 Kit		08 5900.00 47200.00 472.00 1%
8.			Free End Cable For Best		01 2769.05 2769.05 27.69 1%
9.			Free End Cable For Smart		07 2795.00 19565.00 195.65 1%
10.			Free End Cable For Smart		05 2741.00 13705.00 137.05 1%
11.			High Gain 6db Gf Ant. For Vhf Repeater Cdr 7000 Set		06 2045.00 12270.00 122.70 1%
12.			Vhf Tx/Rx Icom(2.5w) Modle- Icf-110		03 7848.00 23544.00 235.44 1%
13.			3db Gain Whip Antena With 3 Mtr Cable Rg-213		04 534.00 2136.00 21.36 1%
14.			30 Mtr Co-Axial Cable Rg-213		01 1167.00 1167.00 11.67 1%
15.			3 Db Gain G.P. Antena For Icf-110		01 690.00 690.00 6.90 1%
16.			Technical Manual For Icf-110		02 314.00 628.00 6.28 1%
17.			Bty Charger Constant Voltage 12v, 12 Amp (3 Stn) Vrla		01 27912.00 27912.00 279.12 1%
18.			Dot Matrix Printer 80 Column		08 14375.00 115000.00 575.00 .5%
19.			Gen Honda Em-650		01 20020.00 20020.00 200.20 1%
20.			Digital Multi Meter		01 5667.00 5667.00 28.33 .5%
21.			30 Mtr Rg-217 Co-Axial Cable With Connector For Icf-7000		01 3193.00 3193.00 15.96 .5%
22.			Head Phone For Icf-7000		01 408.00 408.00 4.08 1%
23.			Hf Broad Band Ant For Icf-7000		01 3146.00 3146.00 31.46 1%
24.			Mouse Key For Sys- 7000		01 410.00 410.00 4.10 1%
25.			30 Mtr Rg-217 Co-Axial Cable With Connector For Icf-7000		01 3126.00 3126.00 31.26 1%
26.			Mouse Key For Sys- 600m		01 410.00 410.00 4.10 1%
27.			Desktop Bty Charger For Vhf H/H Tx/Rx Icf-14 (Modle-Bc-100)		05 612.56 3062.80 30.62 1%
28.			Bty Cable For Sy-600m		01 3048.70 3048.70 30.48 1%
29.			Rs 232 Cable (Vdo-Tio) For Best		01 1975.34 1975.34 19.75 1%
30.			Centronic Cable (Vdu-Printer)		01 1368.46 1368.46 13.68 1%
31.			Hend Set For Best Eqpt		01 4429.06 4429.06 44.29 1%
32.			Inter Connecting Cable (Best-Tio)		01 1368.46 1368.46 13.68 1%
33.			Main Pwr Cable For Best Eqpt		01 1139.99 1139.99 11.39 1%
34.			Push Button Cli Phone For Small Ebabx System 20/8 Linemulti Port Voice Mail Matrixexchange		20 705.60 14112.00 141.12 1%

- Conditions Of Auction
1. Auction Will Be Held On "As Is Where Basis Is". The Successful Bidder Will Be Required To Deposit Full Amount In Cash On The Same Day And Lift The Vehicle On Same Day On Their Own Expenses.
2. Cheque/Drafts Will Not Be Accepted.
3. Items Will Be Auctioned Separately Not Through A Lot.
4. The Items Can Be Inspected/ Seen By The Interested Bidder/Firms Between 0900 To 1000 Hrs On The Day Of Auction At The Given Venue.
5. Making Grouping During Auction Shall Not Allow. If Any Report Or It Comes To The Notice Of The Member Of The Board Then The Bidders Will Not Be Allowed To Participate In Auction Process And His Bid Will Not Be Accepted/ Entertained And Will Have To Leave The Auction Venue Immediately.
6. Entry Of Bidders Will Be Allowed From Gate No. 1 Only (Main Gate Of Unit Campus) Which Will Strictly Close At 1030 Hrs. No Bidders/ Firm Representatives Will Be Allowed To Enter The Unit Campus After The Stipulated Time, Under Any Circumstances.
7. All Rights Are Reserve With The Commandant, 39th Bn, I.T.B. Police Force To Reject The Bid Or Terminate The Auction Proceeding Without Any Reason Thereof.
- Sd/- Commandant
- 39th Bn, IT B Police Force

CBC 19112/11/0202/2425

महाराज सूरजमल बृज विश्वविद्यालय, भरतपुर (राज.)

कार्यालय - चक्र सकीतरा, कुम्हेर, जिला डींग - 321201

Email- info@msbrjuniiversity.ac.in Website - www.msbrjuniiversity.ac.in

क्रमांक :- मसुबुवि / भजवर / 2025 / 3905 दिनांक :- 27.01.2025

Tender Notice No - 17

महाराज सूरजमल बृज विश्वविद्यालय, भरतपुर चक्र सकीतरा कुम्हेर, नं निम्नांकित कार्य हेतु GeM Portal पर निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। इच्छुक OEM/कर्म अपनी दरें GeM Portal के माध्यम से प्रस्तुत कर सकती हैं। EMD एवं Tender Cost कुलसचिव महाराज सूरजमल बृज विश्वविद्यालय के नाम से डिमाण्ड ड्राफ्ट द्वारा निविदा की अन्तिम तिथि तक विश्वविद्यालय में जमा कराई जा सकती है।

ID - GeM/2025/B/5854686

Name of work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Tender Cost	Last Date of Submission
Establishment and development of central library through conceptualization, planning, designing and execution of interior works along with smart facilities like digitalization, digitization integrated with RFID technology with smart access control & RFID tagging, Electrical & air-conditioning works, modular furniture with library book storage & management system for 30000 books.	06 Crore	2% - 12,00,000/- SSI unit of Raj. & MSME 0.50% 3,00,000/-	5000/- (50% for MSME of Rajasthan)	14-02-2025 05.00 PM Time to open bid 05.30 PM

1. बिना EMD निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जावेगा।
2. राजस्थान लोक उपापन अधिनियम 2012 एवं नियम 2013 के सभी प्रावधान लागू होंगे।
राज. संवाद / सी / 24 / 11054 कुलसचिव

WESTERN RAILWAY

MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

VARIOUS MATERIALS SUPPLY

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/07/2025 Date 27.01.2025

S.N.	Short Description of Item	Quantity	T.O.D.
47	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING	32 Nos	17-Feb-25
48	Supply and installation work for relocation of Emergency Brake Valve	212 Nos	17-Feb-25
49	VRLA CELLS OF 6V MONO BLOCK 120 AH CAPACITY.	149 Set	24-Feb-25
50	Provision of Earth Return Brush.	1474 Nos	24-Feb-25
51	Glass unit for fixed window for LHB type coaches	4359 Nos	24-Feb-25
52	MODIFIED TRANSITION SCREW COUPLING	279 Nos	25-Feb-25
53	ELECTRO MAGNETIC CONTACTOR COMPLETE ASSLY.	240 Nos	26-Feb-25
54	Anti Creep Device for 1 in 12 & 1 in 8.5 Turnout	1000 Set	26-Feb-25
55	Double Girder EOT Crane(DSL-SHROUDED TYPE) capacity 30T/10T	2 Set	03-Mar-25
56	Trl plate panel mounted brake system	60 Set	03-Mar-25
57	GEAR CASE ASSEMBLY FOR HITACHI TYPE TRACTION MOTOR.	480 Nos	10-Mar-25

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in and www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in

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BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION

CENTRAL OFFICE: STORES & PURCHASE DEPARTMENT K.H. ROAD, SHANTHINAGAR, BENGALURU-560 027

No: BMT/CO/COSP/TENDER/ 13 /2024-25 Date:29.01.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

BMTCT invites tender for procurement of the following Goods & Services through KPP Portal:

Sl No	Tender No.	Description	Last Date for Bid Submission in KPP Portal
Regular Tender			
1	BMTCT/2024-25/IND0169	Procurement of Radium Sticker and Vinyl Sticker Sheets	17.02.2025 at 17:00 Hrs.
Short-Term Tender			
1	BMTCT/2024-25/IND0167	Procurement of Clutch & Clutch Parts	17.02.2025 at 17:00 Hrs.
2	BMTCT/2024-25/IND0097/CALL-2	Procurement of PCTR and Allied Items. (CALL-2)	07.02.2025 at 17:00 Hrs.

Corrigendum: The last date & time for submission of tender in kpp-portal is extended as under.

1	BMTCT/2024-25/IND0128	Procurement of Wheel Bolt & Nuts.	17.02.2025 at 17:00 Hrs.
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The above mentioned tender details can be obtained from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Further, any addendum/corrigendum in respect of change in calendar of events, specification, other tender terms and conditions etc. will be uploaded /published through kpp-portal only.

Note: Interested Bidders need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information Log on to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. In case of further assistance, contact e-procurement cell phone No: 080-22230960,080-22234115, may also contact e-procurement for training on bid submission. Mail to support@eprocurement.kppdesk.org for further information required.

Sd/- CONTROLLER OF STORES & PURCHASES (Tender Inviting Authority)

WESTERN RAILWAY - BHAVNAGAR DIVISION

ENGINEERING WORKS

Sr. No.	E-Tender No & Name of Work	Tender Value (Rs.)	EMD Rs.
204-2024-25-R		16900633.79	234500.00
1	DEN(W) Jurisdiction: Replacement of old overhead water tank at 05 stations against the sanctioned work (1) Bhavnagar Division- Replacement of old overhead water tank at 10 stations. (Project ID 15.02.53.24.3.51.006), Bhavnagar Division: Replacement of old overhead water tank at 13 stations (Project ID 15.02.53.24.3.51.003)		
	205-2024-25	21196810.06	256000.00
2	Group work: (1) Junagadh Veraval section: Renewal of Galvanized steel channel sleeper/H-Beam sleeper on bridge No. 27. (2) ADEN- Junagadh Sub division:- TRR Br.No 27 Important bridge on JLR- SMNH section.		
	206-2024-25-R	55335494.76	426700.00
3	Provision of essential amenities at Vartej station against the sanction work Bhavnagar Division: Provision of essential amenities at Junagadh, Vartej & Adri Road.		
4	207-2024-25	14996017.97	225000.00
Dhola Junction Improvement to staff quarter at.			
208-2024-25	4779875.94	95600.00	
5	Ranpur Station: Provision of 02 Nos liftwell against the sanctioned work Bhavnagar division- Provision of 35 nos lifts at stations(Amrli Station)		
	209-2024-25-R	19536564.19	247700.00
6	Bhavnagar Para: Renovation and Improvement to Railway Hospital with provision of Fire Safety and Family Welfare building etc.		
210-2024-25	27104404.24	285500.00	
7	Bhavnagar Para: Providing 12 units type-II quarters for workshop		

For All above Tender : Bidding Start Date : 05/02/2025 Date of Bidding Closing : 19/02/2025 NIT has been uploaded on railway web site www.ireps.gov.in on Date - 28/01/2025

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Kohli wave sweeps Delhi

12,000 fans watch batsman’s return to Ranji after 13 years; some break barricades, invade pitch as chants of ‘RCB, Kohli’ add to mania

PRATYUSHRAJ
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

THE PICTURES had floated around the media, but the man in person, kicked off the mania. Virat Kohli lifted a routine Delhi Ranji Trophy tie against Railways out of its mundane existence, as 12,000 fans turned up at the Kotla on a Thursday morning to watch him in first-class cricket, his first outing since 2012.

A fan invaded the pitch within the hour, and chants rung from the Delhi metro onto the ground, as authorities had to scramble to accommodate more people in the stands.

Early on the late January morning, the Violet Line of the Delhi metro, leading upto the Kotla, was jam-packed with the coaches vibrating with chants of RCB, RCB.

Tejas, a third year law student, donning Royal Challengers Bengaluru jersey, was carrying three bottles of water and wrapped sandwiches and joked, "We are here to watch the Indian Railways play." His friend Nirvan, who came all the way from Sonapat using some choicest Delhi slang, blasted his friend, "We are only here for one guy. Virat Kohli. We can take care of our class attendance later but watching Kohli for free, you can't skip it."

Once you stepped out of Gate No 5, near the petrol pump, half a dozen boys from Burari calling themselves the "Northern Boys" were buying Virat's jersey outside the stadium. Ganesh, who calls himself the captain of the pack, said, "Who watches Ranji). We are here for Kohli."

The spectators started to line up outside Gate No 16 and 17 of the Arun Jaitley Stadium from 7 am. The Delhi & District Cricket Association (DDCA) had declared free entry for two gates, for the Gautam Gambhir stand, but at 9am, the state association was forced to open Gate No 18 after fans broke the barricades.

Once the Gautam Gambhir stand was full, the association had to open the Bishan Singh Bedi alcove, which got filled in 10 minutes. The approximate crowd for the opening day is around 15,000, and was adding by the minute, even as Delhi chose to bowl first.

Outside Gate 16, the crowd was involved in pushing and heckling the security guards and Delhi Police. A couple with a five-year-old kid fell down, while entering the game and got injured. A police bike was damaged. One of the police constables needed a bandage on the leg.

The crowd erupted once the superstar started doing warm-ups and the stadium was buzzing with chants of 'Kohli, Kohli'. There were a few boos as well after Delhi captain Ayush Badoni opted to field. But once Siddhant Sharma pinned Railways opener Anchit Yadav, the crowd erupted again. The Kohli wave could take Ranji along in its wake. In the eleventh over of the match, a fan entered the field and started running towards Kohli, with the former India captain asking security officials to go easy. After the incident, a dozen police commandos entered the stadium and were guarding the stand. Former India opener WV Raman, who is a commentator with *Jio Cinema*, compared Virat's fan following to Sachin Tendulkar. "It is at par, isn't it? I don't know when I last saw so many people watching a Ranji match."

Outside Gate 16, the crowd was involved in pushing and heckling the security guards and Delhi Police. A couple with a five-year-old kid fell down, while entering the game and got injured. A police bike was damaged. One of the police constables needed a bandage on the leg

HOCKEY INDIA LEAGUE

Adopting dogs to making *rotis*, how stars are unwinding in Rourkela

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN
ROURKELA, JANUARY 30

ADOPTING STRAY dogs, jet-setting to Bengaluru for a few rounds of golf, organising watch-parties of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, trying panipuris at a local market, learning to make rotis, or simply whiling away time at a nearby mall.

Even as they lit up the Hockey India League (HIL) — from December 28 to February 1 — with their supreme skills, some of the world's best players resorted to novel ways to break the monotony, beat the boredom and remain fresh for matches during their over-a-month-long stay in the sleepy city of Rourkela.

The league — responsible for turning around the fortunes of the Indian hockey team — was restarted in December after a seven-year hiatus. And while its relaunch was welcomed in the hockey world, the decision to hold it in just one city had a mixed response.

Rourkela, though hockey-crazy, offers limited recreation options. For the players, it meant that their lives for the last five weeks were largely restricted to the magnificent Birs Munda Stadium, the adjoining training pitch and gym, and the on-site hotel.

And so, they found ways to unwind and take their minds off hockey.

In a social media post, former World Cup and Olympic champion from Belgium, Victor Wegnez, listed 10 different things he had done

during his time in Rourkela. Among these was how his teammates at the Soorma Hockey Club had adopted stray puppies near the team hotel.

"There's a litter of puppies on the way from the hotel to the stadium, and the team has adopted this lot — taking turns to feed the litter. Sardar Singh (former India captain and Soorma mentor) and Wegnez, in particular, have gone above and beyond to look after them," Kunaal Majgaonkar, who heads Soorma's media team, said. "Sardar has got them little beds, clothes and food. There isn't much to do around Rourkela and these puppies have become the best possible distraction for the team," he said.

Wegnez, in one of his posts, thanked Sardar for adopting one of the puppies. "My little boy will grow in a lovely family thanks to Sardar," he wrote in the post, which also included a video of Australia's Jeremy Hayward trying out panipuri — and seemingly finding it not too spicy.

The players at Soorma also watched the Border Gavaskar Trophy together. "The boys were following the India-Australia Tests, and there were a few Europeans who had no idea about the game. They were constantly asking the Indian players about the rules, and they found it very intriguing. So, on their off-day, they all got together and played cricket," Majgaonkar said.

A video of a cricket match on Soorma's *Instagram* shows captain Harmanpreet Singh teasing a teammate about his bowling, and



Without entry fee, 12,000 people filled the stands at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. At one point, police had to resort to lathi charge to control the crowd. *Abhinav Saha*

Amidst frenzy, Yadav steers Railways out of danger

PRATYUSHRAJ
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30

ON A day when it was absolute chaos outside Arun Jaitley Stadium, Railways' Upendra Yadav calmed things down for his team on the first day of their Ranji Trophy fixture against Delhi. The wicketkeeper-batter scored a determined 95 and helped his team recover from a dire position at 66 for 5.

Railways were bowled out for 241 in their first essay, after a 104-run stand between Yadav and Karn Sharma (50). In reply, Delhi lost opener Arpit Rana and were 41 for 1 at stumps on Day 1.

If it was a frenzied atmosphere outside the stadium, on the 22 yards, the Railways batters were feeling the heat. There was high intensity in the first half of the day with the ever-energetic Kohli pumping the crowd to get behind the home team. And the crowd listened to his music. The Railways batters looked overwhelmed. When left-arm seamer Siddhant Sharma pinned Anchit Yadav (7) in the second over, the half-filled stadia erupted.

The noise kept getting louder with every wicket as Siddhant, Navdeep Saini and Money Grewal rattled Railways' top order.

Amidst all this, Yadav kept his cool. He started with a nice flick to square-leg and then showed his class with a perfect straight drive. He found support in veteran Karn Sharma and the duo forged a century stand for the sixth wicket. Karn fell immediately after reaching his half-century with a six off Saini's bouncer, but the bowler had the last laugh when Delhi's short-ball play finally worked.

Yadav, who hails from Kanpur and started his first-class career for Uttar Pradesh before



An intruder tried getting close to Virat Kohli on Day 1 of the match. *Abhinav Saha*

moving to Railways, admitted the response of the crowd overwhelmed his teammates, who were not used to playing in such an atmosphere. "Generally, when we play Ranji Trophy, there is not much of a crowd. It was all because of Virat Kohli. It feels good when a big player comes and plays Ranji Trophy," Yadav said.

He credited his IPL experience for not succumbing to the crowd pressure. "I was with Sunrisers Hyderabad and have seen the atmosphere in the IPL. It was quite similar.

"When I was playing for UP, Suresh Raina played a match at Green Park in Kanpur. There were big crowds for that match as well and the Kanpur crowd was as loud as we have seen in Delhi," he said.

The Railways' keeper missed out on a well-deserved century as he went for the

glory shot and was caught in the deep off Sumit Mathur's bowling. His knock was stud-d with 10 fours and a six.

It was pretty unusual for Yadav, who was intent on keeping strike but the adrenaline rush to reach his third century of the season got the better of him. "I won't say I was tired or rushed. Instead, I was confident that I could clear the boundary but I couldn't," he said.

Yadav, who was a regular for India A till last year, has fallen down the pecking order with the likes of Dhruv Jurel and Kumar Kushagra going past him. In five outings for India A, the 28-year-old has a couple of valuable knocks. He scored 76 against South Africa A at Bloemfontein and an unbeaten 71 against Bangladesh at Cox's Bazar.

"I don't know why I was dropped from

the India A side. It is up to the selectors. My job is to keep scoring runs. I have done well in T20s and List A as well," he said.

When asked whether leaving Uttar Pradesh had cost him a chance to play for India, he smiled and said: "I have never felt that way. But everyone tells me that."

Saini bends back

For Delhi, pacers Saini (3/62), Siddhant (2/35) and Grewal (2/49) made the most of the new ball and helpful conditions in the first session. Left-arm spinner Sumit Mathur (3/20) took the most important wicket of Yadav and wrapped up the tail.

It was Saini who bowled with a lot of heart in the afternoon session when it looked like the pitch had turned into a road. He broke the crucial partnership between Karn Sharma and Yadav in the 53rd over.

"The captain and I spoke about the short-ball strategy and Virat bhai also had a word with Badoni. There wasn't much happening from the pitch and we had tried to be patient. But after that, we resorted to bouncers. We knew we could concede a few runs but a wicket-taking opportunity would also arise," Saini said.

He is one of the few Delhi cricketers who have played with Kohli for India and at Royal Challengers Bengaluru. He explained why the team had extra motivation for this match, calling it the Kohli effect. "With him around, the other players' energy goes up automatically. Over the last two days, our practice sessions were just different. Because his energy was so high, our energy was also high."

BRIEF SCORES: Railways 241 all out in 67.4 overs (Upendra Yadav 95, Karn Sharma 50; Navdeep Saini 3/62, Sumit Mathur 3/20, Money Grewal 2/49) vs Delhi 41/1 in 10 overs

RANJI ROUND-UP



Shardul Thakur celebrates a wicket. *Amit Chakravarty*

Thakur records hat-trick for Mumbai

Mumbai didn't waste time in taking control of their game against Meghalaya. Inside the first half an hour of the day, the defending champions had full control of proceedings with Shardul Thakur making headlines for a hat-trick. Later, unbeaten half-centuries from skipper Ajinkya Rahane and Siddhesh Lad (89) helped Mumbai build a 127-run lead.

BRIEF SCORES: Meghalaya 86 all out (Himan Phukan 28; Shardul Thakur 4/43, Mohit Awasthi 3/27) vs Mumbai 213/2 (Siddhesh Lad 89 batting, Ajinkya Rahane 83 batting)

Karnataka wobble against Haryana

Needing to win with a bonus point, Karnataka have set themselves up for a scrap. Being made to bat first, they lost their way in the middle to end the opening day at 267/5. With the morning session always challenging to bat at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, skipper Mayank Agarwal and KV Aneesh batted well, losing only the wicket of the latter. Batting at No 3 on his return to domestic cricket, KL Rahul made only 26. **BRIEF SCORES:** Karnataka 267/5 (Mayank Agarwal 91, Devdutt Padikkal 43; Anshul Kamboj 2/25) vs Haryana

TN self-destruct, all out for 106

Tamil Nadu, who need only a draw to qualify, are staring at the possibility of failing to make the quarterfinals. While TN bowlers restricted Jharkhand to 185, they were all out for 106 with Mohamed Ali top-scoring with 37 at the top and off-spinner Utarsh Singh taking six wickets. To make matters worse, their premier batsman Baba Indrajith retired hurt and won't take any further part in the match. **BRIEF SCORES:** Jharkhand 185 (Sharandeep Singh 52, Anukul Roy 46, Virat Singh 40; Sai Kishore 3/42, Ajith Ram 3/47) & 5/1 vs Tamil Nadu 106 (Mohamed Ali 37; Utkarsh Singh 6/30).

Saurashtra set for a huge total vs Assam

Needing a bonus-point victory, Saurashtra started on a strong note, scoring 361/3 against Assam. Electing to bat first, opener Harvik Desai and Chirag Jani gave them a quick start as they went at 5 runs per over before the latter was dismissed for 80. The two put on 140 runs as Desai went on to score 130. Coming in at No.3, Cheteshwar Pujara played a characteristic innings to remain unbeaten on 95 at close.

BRIEF SCORES: Saurashtra 361/3 (Harvik Desai 130, Cheteshwar Pujara 95 batting, Chirag Jani 80) vs Assam

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

We played some cricket and football outside the hotel as team-building activities. The city is small, so options were limited. There are two malls where we occasionally went out with Indian players, but bigger cities offer more activities like bowling or golf. Holding the league in one place for such a long time felt a bit tiresome."

AB SUBBIAIH
MANAGER, KALINGA LANCERS

to play some games. On December 31st night, we had a New Year's party where we had games again. On January 6, we booked a cricket ground and took the whole team there to play a match," he said.

They took it a step further a week later. After the Toofans played the Kalinga Lancers, the team was given three days off. "So, the foreign players went to play golf in Bengaluru. Some of the Indians went to Puri, to the Jagannath temple, while some went to Ranchi; I went bowling," Pandey said.

Toofans' defender Arthur de Sloover even tried his hand at making *rotis*. "The Belgians have immersed themselves. Not just Arthur in our team, but even Victor and Vincent Vanasch from Soorma HC. They have got along

so well with everyone here," Pandey said.

The Tamil Nadu Dragons, which has also reached the semifinals, made the short trip to Ranchi — the venue for women's HIL, where the men's franchises played a match each — and took time off to visit the hockey academy in Simdega. The district is home to some of India's top women players, including Sangita Kumari, Beauty Dungdung and captain Salima Tete.

AB Subbiah, former India goalkeeper and Kalinga Lancers team manager, said Hockey India could consider adding more venues from next season so that players can unwind in larger cities.

"We played some cricket and football outside the hotel as team-building activities. The city is small, so options were limited," Subbiah told *The Indian Express*. "There are two malls where we occasionally went out with Indian players, but bigger cities offer more activities like bowling or golf. Holding the league in one place for such a long time felt a bit tiresome."

Subbiah said while the players tried to make the best out of the situation, playing cards by the pool at the team hotel, video games and so on, there was feedback that the league could be condensed a bit because there were too many breaks between matches.

While playing a five-week league in Rourkela may not have been ideal, as Wegnez put it, some of the overseas players lived "the Indian experience 100 per cent".

