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The World

TOPOF THE WORLD



People displaced by gang attacks at Kenscoff on Monday

HAITI

Gangs attack elite area, 40 killed in 8 days

Port-au-Prince: Heavily armed gangs in Haiti have attacked a neighbourhood that's home to most of the country's elite and had been largely untouched by criminals, and police have demanded help repelling the assault that has killed at least 40 people. "It's been eight days since Kenscoff has been under attack," Mayor Jean Massillon told The Associated Press on Monday. He blamed the attack on the Viv Ansanm gang coalition, with gunmen going home to home and indiscriminately opening fire. "As we speak, they have surrounded the area," Massillon said as he called for reinforcements. The dead include pastors, teachers and children, although the number is expected to be higher. **AP**

SYRIA

al-Sharaa to hold defence talks with Erdogan

Brussels: Syria's transitional President Ahmed al-Sharaa and Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan are expected to discuss a joint defense pact in Ankara on Tuesday, including establishing Turkish airbases in central Syria and training for Syria's new army, four sources familiar with the matter said. This is the first time that elements of any strategic defense arrangement by Syria's new leaders, including details of additional Turkish bases, have come to light. **REUTERS**

PAKISTAN

Registered Afghan refugees to be sent back

Islamabad: The Pakistan government has devised a plan to move registered Afghan refugees out of Islamabad and Rawalpindi and gradually repatriate them back to their country. Authorities have also been directed to implement the plan without making any public announcement, Dawn newspaper reported quoting sources. It reported that the plan was finalised in a series of meetings presided by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif last week. **PTI**



Emergency services at the scene of the attack in Orebro, Sweden, on Tuesday. *AP*

At least 10 killed as gunman attacks adult education centre in Sweden

Police say suspect acted alone, believed to be among those killed; motive unclear

JOHAN AHLANDER & SIMON JOHNSON
STOCKHOLM, FEBRUARY 4

AROUND 10 people have been killed in a shooting at an adult education centre, Swedish police said, the deadliest attack to take place in Sweden on what the prime minister said was a "painful day" for the country. The gunman is believed to be among those killed and a search is continuing at the school for other possible victims, the local police chief told a press conference. The perpetrator's motive was not immediately known. "We know that 10 or so people have been killed here today. The reason that we can't be more exact currently is that the extent

of the incident is so large," local police chief Roberto Eid Forest told reporters.

Forest said police believed the gunman had acted alone and that they did not currently suspect terrorism as a motive, though he cautioned that much remained unknown. He said the suspected gunman had not previously been known to police.

"We have a big crime scene, we have to complete the searches we are conducting in the school. There are a number of investigative steps we are taking: a profile of the perpetrator, witness interviews ... Obviously, it's a significant amount of work," he said.

Police said they had opened an investigation into murder, arson and an aggravated weapons

offence and that the search for possible further victims had continued into the evening.

The shooting took place in Orebro, some 200 km west of Stockholm, at the Risbergska school for adults who did not complete their formal education. It is located on a campus that also houses schools for children.

"It is a very painful day for the whole of Sweden," Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said on X. "My thoughts are (also) with all of those whose normal school day was turned into fear. Being locked up in a classroom fearing for your life is a nightmare no one should have to experience."

'We started running'

Maria Pegado, 54, a teacher at the school, said someone



PROCEDURES BEGIN WITH JURY SELECTION

TRIAL IN SALMAN RUSHDIE STABBING STARTS

The trial of the man charged with attempting to murder the novelist Salman Rushdie at a New York lecture is due to begin on Tuesday with jury selection. Hadi Matar, 26, has pleaded not guilty to second-degree attempted murder and assault. Rushdie, 77, was stabbed in New York in 2022, that led to the loss of his right eye and damaged his liver. **REUTERS**

DAY AFTER U.S. HALTS ACTION ON CANADA, MEXICO

China hits back with tariffs on US, launches probe against Google

15% levy on US coal, LNG, 10% on crude oil; Trump, Xi to speak on call

REUTERS
BEIJING, FEBRUARY 4

CHINA IMPOSED targeted tariffs on U.S. imports on Tuesday and put several companies, including Google, on notice for possible sanctions, in a measured response to the sweeping duties on Chinese imports imposed by President Donald Trump.

But word that Trump planned to speak with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday suggested to investors there was scope for China to receive a temporary reprieve as Trump granted to Mexico and Canada Monday.

"Let's see what happens with the call today," Trump trade adviser Peter Navarro said at a Politico event. Earlier, White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt said a call between the heads of the world's two largest economies "will happen very soon." No other specifics about when the conversation would occur were immediately available.

Beijing's limited reply to Trump's imposition of a 10% tariff on all Chinese imports underscored the attempt by Chinese policymakers to engage Trump in talks to avert an outright trade war between the world's two largest economies. China's new measures, announced as the Trump tariffs took effect, include a 15% levy on U.S. coal and LNG and 10% for crude oil, farm equipment and a small number of trucks as well as



EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in Brussels on Monday. *Reuters*

EXPLAINED

China 'keeps its power dry'

EXPERTS SAY Beijing's retaliatory tariffs is a relatively limited response — on around 30 per cent of US exports to China — while holding in reserve measures that could do even more damage to the world's biggest economies. Bert Hofman, a former World Bank official told NYT: "They're probably trying to keep their powder dry, because this could still be only the first step from the Trump administration."

big-engine sedans shipped to China from the United States.

China said it was starting an anti-monopoly investigation into Alphabet's Google. Google declined to comment on the investigation.

EU wants early US talks to avert Trump tariffs

Warsaw: The European Union wants to engage swiftly with the United States over President Donald Trump's tariffs, trade chief Maros Sefcovic said Tuesday, while his boss Ursula von der Leyen stressed EU would protect its interests in negotiations.

Sefcovic, speaking before a meeting of EU ministers to debate trade and EU competitiveness, said he wanted "early engagement" and was awaiting confirmation of the appointment of Trump's pick for Commerce Secretary, financier Howard Lutnick. "We are ready to engage immediately and we hope that through this early engagement, we can avoid the measures which would bring a lot of disturbance to the most important trade and investment relationship on this planet," he said. **REUTERS**

Sri Lanka must attain economic freedom, says Dissanayake



Anura Kumara Dissanayake in Colombo on Tuesday. *AP*

Colombo: President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on Tuesday said that Sri Lanka must work in unison to achieve economic freedom rather than yield to vulnerabilities within the global economic system.

Addressing the 77th Independence Day celebrations, Dissanayake said, "Collectively, we must persist in our struggle for freedom on behalf of this motherland... To secure our economic freedom, rather than succumbing to weakness in the global economic system and being overwhelmed by its every fluctuation, we must unite in our efforts for this motherland."

In keeping with his policy of minimizing state expenditures, the celebrations saw a reduction in the usual pomp. **PTI**

France's govt to survive confidence vote with support from far-right RN

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PARIS, FEBRUARY 4

THE HEAD of France's far-right National Rally (RN) party said Tuesday he doesn't support a no-confidence motion filed against the government, making it more likely that the prime minister will remain in office and a 2025 budget will be adopted.

A no-confidence vote is scheduled Wednesday in the National Assembly and needs at least half the 577 votes to pass. Hard-left France Unbowed, Communist and Green lawmakers are expected to vote in favour but don't have the numbers on their own to bring down the centrist government.

Jordan Bardella, president of the National Rally, the biggest group in the National Assembly, said "in the current period, the French... would not benefit from a new period of instability." The left-Socialist party said earlier it wouldn't back the no-confidence motion because "it's time to give



PM Francois Bayrou in the Parliament, Monday. *Reuters*

France a budget." On Monday, Prime Minister Francois Bayrou used constitutional powers to get the 2025 budget approved without a vote by lawmakers.

Under France's Constitution, the budget will automatically be considered as adopted if the no-confidence motion is rejected.

In December, a similar no-confidence motion triggered by budget disputes forced Prime Minister Michel Barnier to resign after only three months in office.

MATT SPETALNICK & STEVE HOLLAND
WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 4

WHEN BENJAMIN Netanyahu meets US President Donald Trump on Tuesday, the Israeli prime minister is expected to try to turn the page on sometimes tense relations with the Biden White House as the two leaders address the future of the Gaza ceasefire and ways to counter Iran.

But Netanyahu, the first foreign leader to be hosted by Trump since the pro-Israel president's Jan. 20 inauguration, could also come under pressure from an American leader whose policy goals for the Middle East may not always coincide with Netanyahu's interests.

Their meeting coincided with the scheduled resumption



Palestinians remove the rubble in the south Gaza, Tuesday

of indirect negotiations this week between Israel and Hamas on the crucial second stage of the ceasefire deal and hostage release. The two men will hold a joint press conference and then

warned of punitive actions for such a campaign.

Police arrested them on Monday night following a video of leaflet distribution published on the Facebook page of Awami League. *Dhaka Tribune* reported on Tuesday. "They were arrested at an autorickshaw garage in the

2 held in Bangladesh for handing out Awami League leaflets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHAKA, FEBRUARY 4

BANGLADESH POLICE arrested two people for distributing leaflets of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League party, a day after the interim government



People wait to board a ferry to Piraeus, following an increased seismic activity on the island of Santorini, Tuesday. *Reuters*

landslides and avoid indoor gatherings.

Efthimios Lekkas, head of the state-run Earthquake Planning and Protection Organisation, said the epicentre of earthquakes in the Aegean Sea was moving northward away from Santorini, emphasising that there was no connection to the area's dormant volcanoes.

"This may last several days or several weeks. We are not able to predict the evolution of the sequence in time," Lekkas told state-run television.

In Santorini's main town, Fira, the narrow, whitewashed streets along the island's clifftops were

deserted — a rare sight even in the off season — except for small pockets of tour groups, many from Asian countries.

Joseph Liu, from Guangzhou in southern China, said he had wanted to visit Santorini for years after seeing it in a documentary. He joined family and tour group members on a balcony deck typically used for high-end wedding receptions.

"This place is amazing, really beautiful. Just like I saw in the programme: the mystery, the scenery," he said. "The (group) leader told us about the earthquakes before we came so it was not a surprise." Retired police of-

ficer and ship worker Panagiotis Hatzigeorgiou, who has lived on Santorini for more than 30 years, said he has turned down offers to stay with relatives in Athens.

"Older residents are used to the earthquakes... But it's different this time. It's not the same to have earthquakes every 2-3 minutes. The main thing is not to worry," he said, adding with a laugh: "Now we can listen to music alone and have coffee by ourselves." In Athens, government officials are continuing to hold daily high-level planning and assessment with briefings from officials. **AP, WITH REUTERS INPUTS**

2,500 - 2,700 PEOPLE FLOWN OUT SINCE MONDAY, OFFICIAL SAYS SEQUENCE OF QUAKE MIGHT LAST SEVERAL WEEKS

Quakes rattle Greek islands, as a few brave tourists enjoy having Santorini to themselves

DEREK GATOPOULOS
SANTORINI, FEBRUARY 4

MORE GREEK islands closed schools Tuesday as hundreds of earthquakes rattled the Aegean Sea, while a handful of hardy tourists enjoyed having Santorini's stunning views to themselves.

Hundreds of quakes have been registered every few minutes in the sea between the volcanic islands of Santorini and Amorgos, in the Aegean Sea, in recent days, prompting authorities to shut schools in Santorini and the small nearby islands of Ios,

Amorgos and Anafi until Friday.

A tremor with a magnitude of 4.9 was recorded by the Athens Geodynamic Institute at 0246 GMT on the island, most of whose popular white and blue villages cling to steep cliffs.

Hundreds of permanent residents and workers rushed to a port early on Tuesday to embark for the Greek capital.

Thousands of residents and seasonal workers have left the Cycladic Islands. Ferry and commercial flight operators added services to accommodate departures.

The quakes have caused cracks in some older building but

no injuries have been reported so far. On Tuesday, schools were shut on 13 islands, up from four the previous day. Santorini earlier cancelled public events, restricted travel to the island and banned construction work in certain areas.

Flights out of Santorini to Athens were full, Greek air carrier Aegean Airlines said on Tuesday. A total of 2,500 to 2,700 people were expected to have flown out since Monday by the end of the day, it added.

Emergency rescue crews were also on the ground, while people were advised to stay out of coastal areas due to the risk of

देश बदल रहा है,
आप भी इस परिवर्तन में भागीदार बनें



अपने बच्चों के
उज्ज्वल एवं सुरक्षित भविष्य
तथा भारत के विकास के लिए
चुनाव में अपने मताधिकार का
अवश्य प्रयोग करें...

मतदान अवश्य करें



Dr. Upasana Arora, Dr. P.N. Arora



All India Multispeciality Hospitals Ranking Survey 2024



YASHODA
Super Speciality Hospitals
KAUSHAMBI



Yamuna water row: Haryana Police books Kejriwal for ‘inciting riots’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 4

HARYANA POLICE registered an FIR Tuesday against AAP national convener and Delhi’s former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including inciting riots and promoting enmity. The FIR follows a Kurukshetra court order and is in connection with Kejriwal’s remarks accusing the Haryana government of poisoning the Yamuna waters.

The FIR has been registered against Kejriwal and others on the basis of a complaint filed by Kurukshetra resident Jagmohan Manchanda in the court of sub-divisional judicial magistrate, Shahbad. It comes a day before Delhi votes for the Assembly elections. Kejriwal is seeking re-election from New Delhi Assembly constituency.

The FIR has been lodged under Sections 192 (inciting riots), 196 (1) (promoting hatred), 197 (1) (spreading false or misleading information that could harm India’s unity), 248 (a) (false charge with the intent to harm), and 299 (insulting religion or religious beliefs) of BNS-2023.

In his complaint, Manchanda has mentioned that he is an advocate by profession and is “aggrieved by the act and conduct” of Kejriwal.

“The complainant has seen a viral video of Arvind Kejriwal wherein he has made provocative statements making wild and vile allegations against the State of Haryana including Haryana government and the ruling party BJP,” reads the FIR that has also annexed Kejriwal’s statement in Hindi that he made on January 28.

Manchanda, in his complaint, has also quoted various Central government as well as media reports refuting Kejriwal’s accusations.

‘River of my childhood doesn’t exist anymore... it is a cesspool now’

SOPHIYA MATHEW & NEETIKA JHA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

NEERAJ BHATTI has one enduring memory from his childhood. He and his friends would bunk class, go to the banks of Yamuna and jump into its waters for a swim.

To avoid his mother knowing and getting angry, he says, he would shave off his head. “She (mother) would otherwise find out from my wet hair,” he recalls.

He is 35 now. “No child can go for a swim in Yamuna. It’s a cesspool now,” he adds.

Sitting in a dungy shed ostensibly for cattle in Jagatpur village in Wazirabad right on the banks of Yamuna, Bhatti’s face lights up as he recounts his juvenile escapades.

His mother Veervati (59), seated on a cot nearby, listens curiously. “Whenever I would recall this memory from my childhood, it would brighten my mood. But now it also makes me sad. That river of my childhood doesn’t exist anymore,” he says.

“Yamuna was much cleaner 30 years ago than it is today,” he adds.

The Yamuna and its polluted waters have become an issue during this poll campaign with warring parties AAP and BJP engaging in a bitter blame game. Last month, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal accused the BJP-led Haryana government of deliberately “poisoning” the waters of Yamuna and thus Delhi’s water supply. Soon, the debate moved to the polluted waters of the river.

The Yamuna meanders for around 52 km inside the National Capital Territory of Delhi. The river’s path is divided into three stretches that includes the 22 km from the Wazirabad Barrage to the Okhla Barrage.

Bhatti’s mother Veervati says she has lived on the banks of Yamuna all her life. “It is now a nal-



Threat of demolition near Yamuna worries residents. Express

lah,” she says. “I too remember taking a bath in the river during summer... also taking a dip on auspicious days.”

N D Sharma (47) runs a chemist store in Wazirabad. He says that the villagers living close to the river share a close bond with it. “It is a holy river and people share a bond with it... it’s like mother...,” he says. “Pollution is an issue that has been ignored for too long. It was talked about by the (political) parties because of the elections. It’s a mere political stunt and won’t yield any results. People are aware of this.”

A doctor running a small clinic in Jagatpur village talks about skin infections that have become “very common” during the recent years. “Whenever villagers take a dip in the polluted river, they complain of rashes and itching,” he says. “I get a lot of such cases during Chhath Puja.”

Majority of the villagers, he says, are dairy workers or farmers. “...no government has ever addressed this issue properly,” the doctor, who didn’t want to be named, says. “Look at the condition of roads here... the drains are all clogged... nobody here expects

the government to solve the pollution crisis.”

Though the river dries up to a trickle for almost nine months a year, the acrid odour emanating from its polluted waters is normal for people in Chilla village. They farm vegetables on the floodplains. Every morning, they head to the vegetable markets in East Delhi to sell their produce – brinjals, spinach, cauliflower, coriander and fenugreek.

Barely a few metres away from the Yamuna, Gita Devi (37) is busy washing her kitchen utensils with water from a plastic bottle. There is a vast mustard field in full bloom near her jhuggi. “When the river floods, this entire field is submerged. Water reaches our home too,” Devi says.

For the residents here, however, the looming threat of demolition by the Delhi Development Authority to make way for a riverfront is the bigger worry. “Every time there is a flood, we move away from the river and live in tents till the waters recede... We are pained that our leaders do not even think of us or help us find safe homes,” says Amar Chand (65), a daily wage labourer.



Atishi, her rival Bidhuri’s son booked for violation of MCC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

HOURS AFTER poll campaigning for the Delhi Assembly elections ended on Monday, Chief Minister Atishi, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate for Kalkaji, and her opponent Ramesh Bidhuri’s son were booked for allegedly violating the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), police said.

The FIR against the Delhi CM came after chaos unfolded in the early hours on Tuesday at Baba Fateh Singh Marg where a crowd had gathered in her presence. A policeman, said officials, was allegedly assaulted by two AAP members while he was recording a clip of a poll code violation.

Ravi Kumar Singh, DCP, South-East, said, “On February 4 around 12.59 am, a gathering was reported at Baba Fateh Singh Marg, Govindpuri. Head Constable (HC) Kaushal Pal responded to the call and began videography. AAP members Ashmit and Sagar Mehta obstructed and assaulted him. A case was registered under



Arvind Kejriwal, along with CM Atishi and AAP MP Raghav Chadha, in New Delhi on Tuesday. Praveen Khanna

sections of BNS for causing obstruction in the discharge of public duty and assault while on duty...”

Police said the CM was present in the area along with two cars when a crowd had also gathered and volunteers were stopping cars, leading to chaos.

“We have registered an FIR against the Kalkaji AAP candidate at the Govindpuri Police Station under various sections and further investigation is under process,” a

police official said.

In several posts on X, meanwhile, Atishi alleged that men associated with her opponent Ramesh Bidhuri were roaming around in her constituency late Monday evening. The AAP alleged that Bidhuri’s son Manish was among those roaming around in the area after the campaign had ended.

Atishi slammed the police on X. “The Election Commission is amazing! Ramesh Bidhuri ji’s

family members are openly violating the code of conduct. No action is being taken against them. I filed a complaint and called the police and ECI, and they filed a case against me! Rajiv Kumar ji: How much will you ruin the electoral process.”

Punjab CM and AAP leader Bhagwant Mann also reacted to the case against Atishi. “Instead of filing a complaint against hooliganism by the BJP in Delhi, a police case has been registered against the Delhi Chief Minister on a complaint filed by the Election Commission, which is highly condemnable,” Mann said in a post on X.

“Is the job of the Delhi Police and the Election Commission to target only the AAP? People associated with the BJP are openly distributing liquor, money and goods, violating the model code of conduct, is it not visible to them,” he further said. In response, BJP leader Bidhuri said Atishi was in panic over her “imminent defeat” and suggested that she should not “shred the dignity of” the constitutional post held by her.

AFTER KEJRIWAL ALLEGES USE OF INTIMIDATION TACTICS

Any partisan conduct disturbing level playing field will be unpardonable, EC tells officers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

THE ELECTION Commission on Tuesday warned its poll machinery in the city that any partisan conduct disturbing a level playing field would be held “unpardonable”. The poll body’s fresh directions to its officials came after Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal approached the EC with concerns regarding alleged intimidation tactics being used in the city ahead of polling for the Assembly elections on Wednesday.

Following the meeting, Kejriwal stated that the EC pledged strict enforcement of the poll code of conduct to prevent any violations, ensuring free and fair election.

“We have just returned from a meeting with the Election Commission. They informed us that, normally, they do not meet anyone during the silent period, but they made an exception today. We appreciate the Election Commission for this,” he said.

“During the meeting, we highlighted several incidents of violence and *gundagardi* in various parts of Delhi. We explained how the Delhi Police is being

misused to facilitate hooliganism. We provided multiple examples of such incidents. The Election Commission has assured us that strict action will be taken, and they will take all necessary steps to ensure free and fair elections,” he added.

The former Delhi Chief Minister said the AAP delegation had also raised concerns about “large-scale voter suppression” which may affect voters’ decision to step out and exercise their franchise.

“The Election Commission assured us that they will ensure voters feel safe and can step out to vote without fear... There is a

strong apprehension that people might be bribed, threatened, or forcibly marked with black ink on their fingers to prevent them from voting tomorrow. The Election Commission has assured us that they will take appropriate action to prevent such malpractices,” he stated.

The EC said after the meeting it has reiterated its directions to its officials.

“After meeting the AAP delegation, ECI reiterates that all election officials should continue to work impartially and any partisan conduct disturbing a level playing field will be unpardonable,” it said in a post on X.

“Mark of Responsibility”

Vote with Pride to
Celebrate the Great Festival of Democracy



Voting Day - Wednesday, 05 February 2025
Time 07 AM to 06 PM

Dear Voters
Greetings

05 February 2025 is the voting day for the Delhi Assembly Election, I hope that all of you will be ready to cast your vote. In a democratic system, any mandate is healthy and complete only when people from every section and community of the society exercise their franchise in maximum numbers.

Please give top priority to voting, encourage all the people in your family and neighbourhood to vote. Especially the youth who are going to vote for the first time are requested to participate enthusiastically in this festival of democracy. To ensure that senior citizens voters above 80 years of age and PwD voters do not remain deprived of voting, arrangements have been made to ‘pick and drop’ such voters to the polling station by ‘pick and drop’ facility. We have introduced Queue Management System for ease of voting, so that you can get real time information about the status of queues at the polling station, estimated waiting time at the polling stations and turn-by-turn navigation. Apart from this, you can identify your polling booth in the polling station by the color code given on the voter information slip. Further, the poll day has been declared as public holiday.

The Commission has made all arrangements to ensure that the voting is free, fair and peaceful. All the voters are appealed to exercise their valuable right to vote with discretion and without any fear, pressure or inducement. Please carry your voter information slip and voter identity card (or any identity document allowed by the Commission) with you to the polling booth. Mobile or other electronic gadgets are prohibited inside the polling booth. Let us all come together and vote for our Delhi.

“No voter to be left behind”

My heartiest congratulations and best wishes to
all of you on this festival of democracy.

R. Alice Vaz
Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi



Cross-border digital arrest fraud busted, 3 arrested: ‘Over 2L calls made pan-India’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

FOR MONTHS, thousands of unsuspecting victims across India received calls from what appeared to be government agencies — threatening arrest, legal action, and financial ruin. The only way out? A digital payment. But each victim would eventually realise that these calls weren't from government officials, after all.

Three key players revealing international links to cybercriminals operating from Cambodia, Thailand, and Canada have been arrested as a sophisticated cross-border fraudulent network was busted, said Delhi Police. The fraudsters used Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), an advanced technology that allows users to make phone calls and other communication over the internet, to mask their real identities. The arrested individuals had diverse backgrounds. Ajaydeep, a 32-year-old B.Tech and MBA graduate, previously worked for an NGO. Abhishek Srivastava, 34, has

experience in computer and CCTV hardware repairs. Ashutosh Bora, 30, is a graduate pursuing a law degree. Police seized over 1,000 SIP numbers and calling terminals from the accused. SIP is a signalling protocol used in VoIP communications, allowing the initiation, management, and termination of voice and video calls over the Internet.

The investigation revealed that SIP trunk services had been fraudulently acquired from Indian telecom providers Jio and Tata Tele Services. That would generate Indian landline numbers which would create an illusion of legitimacy for victims, said police. The police eventually tracked down the IPs of these calls to Cambodia, Thailand and Canada, which were routed to India through the SIP trunking services.

Investigators traced the fraud back to a complaint received on December 19 through the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP). The victim reported losing Rs 94,000 after receiving a call from a number that appeared to belong to a government agency.

The fraudsters, posing as officials from the CBI and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), claimed that her mobile number was involved in illegal activities. They threatened her with arrest unless she transferred money to accounts that were later found to be linked to cybercriminals. Following this complaint, an FIR was registered and a specialised police team was launched to look into the matter. "The operation used over 5,000 SIP numbers to make more than 2 lakh calls pan-India... The accused utilised the SIP to facilitate illegal VoIP call termination, enabling cybercriminals to impersonate government officials," said Outer North DCP Nidhin Valsan.

On January 29, police conducted raids at multiple locations in Lucknow, arresting Ajaydeep and Abhishek Srivastava. A subsequent raid on February 2 in Kamal led to the arrest of Ashutosh Bora. "Ajaydeep acquired SIP service from various providers and rented co-working offices to set up the system with Abhishek Srivastava. After setting up the SIP calling system,

access was provided to Ashutosh... Ashutosh facilitated SIP service for cyber crooks abroad, involved in digital arrest, investment fraud, and other criminal conspiracy modules. During questioning, he disclosed his association with Mohammad Ali, the mastermind behind the digital arrest racket... The key accused, Ashutosh Bora, facilitated SIP services for several international cyber gangs," explained DCP Valsan.

During the raids, police seized multiple electronic devices, including a MacBook, iPhones, Android smartphones, a desktop system, media gateway SIP trunking equipment, routers, auto-dialers, and cloud PBX soft switches.

According to the police, authorities are now working with the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) to identify additional victims and track down other members of the international cybercrime syndicate. The investigation is ongoing, and officials are focusing on plugging the technological loopholes that allowed this large-scale scam to operate undetected for so long.

High Court orders status quo on Rohit Bal's assets

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

THE DELHI High Court on Tuesday ordered status quo on immovable and movable assets of fashion designer Rohit Bal, who died in November 2024, in a plea by his friend Lalit Tehan.

The court also directed the State to take steps to place a valuation report for Bal's property and that the report be published in two newspapers.

Tehan, a friend who lived with Bal with their relationship extending to around two decades, has staked a claim to Bal's assets, relying on an October 30, 2023 will, as per which, Bal bequeathed all his assets, including Bal's shareholding in Rohit Bal Designs, Private Limited, to Tehan.

He has claimed his right as successor to the brand and assets, which include two floors in Defence Colony, a factory in Noida, some land, artworks and artefacts.



Rohit Bal died in November 2024.

Tehan has alleged that Bal's step-siblings are trying to usurp the properties, including changing the locks on Bal's Defence Colony property and stationing security guards at the property.

Justice Anish Dayal on Tuesday ordered, "To avoid dissipation of the estate, there will remain a status quo on the movable assets or any property or asset of the testator, even the ones not listed or known."

5 wanted for robbery held

New Delhi: Delhi Police said they arrested five persons wanted for a robbery following an encounter in the Capital's Bhalswa Dairy area early on Tuesday. According to the police, three robbers attacked a hardware shop in Rani Bagh and stole Rs 85,000 on January 30.

"While investigating the case, a building was zeroed in on, and in the early morning hours of February 4, a team led by SHO Prabhanshu Kumar of the Rani Bagh police station, comprising five other personnel, raided the building in the Bhalswa Dairy police station area," police said in a statement. The SHO and two other personnel were injured in the encounter. **ENS**

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FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024
(₹ in Crores except EPS)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated		
		Quarter ended (3 Months)	Year to date Figures (9 Months)	Corresponding 3 Months ended in the previous year	Quarter ended (3 Months)	Year to date Figures (9 Months)	Corresponding 3 Months ended in the previous year
		(31/12/2024) Reviewed	(31/12/2024) Reviewed	(31/12/2023) Reviewed	(31/12/2024) Reviewed	(31/12/2024) Reviewed	(31/12/2023) Reviewed
1	Total income from operations\$	9967.71	30786.87	8778.26	10105.73	31209.25	9014.70
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items#)	2168.69	5842.98	1923.82	2183.79	5960.84	1820.22
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items#)	2168.69	5842.98	1923.82	2183.79	5960.84	1820.22
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items#)	1621.35	4518.47	1517.96	1676.62	4932.99	1438.84
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	-
6	Equity Share Capital	877.20	877.20	877.20	877.20	877.20	877.20
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year. (in ₹)	40968.33	40968.33	34667.24	44384.60	44384.60	37446.50
8	Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 5/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)						
1.	Basic:	9.24	25.76	8.65	9.56	28.12	8.20
2.	Diluted	9.24	25.76	8.65	9.56	28.12	8.20

Note
a. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly and year to date Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly and year to date Financial Results along with the Auditor's Report, are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s) (www.bseindia.com) and (www.nseindia.com) and have been posted on the Corporation's website at (<https://www.gicre.in/en/investors-public-disclosures/investors-en/intimation-to-stock-exchanges/board-meeting>) and can be accessed by scanning the QR Code.
b. \$Total Income from Operations is gross written premium, gross of reinsurance and net of applicable taxes.
c. #The Indian Accounting Standards (IND AS) are currently not applicable to insurance companies in India.

For and on behalf of General Insurance Corporation of India
Sd/-
Ramaswamy Narayanan
Chairman-cum-Managing Director
DIN: 10337640

Place: Mumbai
Date: 3rd February 2025

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6 DECISION 2025

DELHI ASSEMBLY ELECTION



STAGE SET

App to monitor footfall at booths, colour-coded polling stations: Delhi gears up to vote today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

THE STAGE is set for the high-stakes Assembly elections in Delhi, with over 1.56 crore voters eligible to cast their ballots from 7 am on Wednesday. Voting will take place across 13,766 polling stations in all the 70 Assembly constituencies to decide the fates of 699 candidates.

Urging eligible voters to vote in large numbers, Delhi Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) R Alice Vaz said on Tuesday, “To ensure a smooth and comfortable voting experience, comprehensive arrangements have been made at all polling stations under the Assured Minimum Facility Policy. Proper arrangements for drinking water, toilets, wheel-chairs, and ramps for the disabled are in place. We aim to provide all necessary facilities so that voters face no inconvenience at any polling station.”

The CEO added that 13,766 polling stations have been set up across Delhi, all of which will be

closely monitored by the office of the CEO and district election officers through webcasting. Also, each constituency will have one polling station each managed by only women and persons with disabilities. Besides, 70 polling stations will be specially set up to encourage youth participation and engagement in the electoral process.

Further, to control the crowd outside every polling station, the Delhi CEO, for the first, has developed an AI-based Queue Management System app ‘Delhi Election – 2025 QMS’, through which voters can monitor real-time footfall at polling stations and plan their visit accordingly to avoid long queues. The app is available on Google Play store.

To ensure a smooth voting experience, medical teams will be deployed at every polling station for emergencies. Colour-coded polling stations will help voters easily locate their designated booth, with the assigned colour mentioned in the Voter Information Slip, reducing confusion on election day, said officials.



(From left) New mothers Kalpana Kumari, Nidhi Massey and Rashmi Bhadoria at hospitals. Ankita Upadhyay

Mother’s Manifesto

Five first-time mothers spell out what they want for their newborn from the government the city will vote for today — clean air, more parks, a Delhi kind, gentle and safe

ANKITA UPADHYAY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

THESE DELHI women embraced motherhood for the very first time this month, days after the high-stakes Assembly polls were announced on January 7. By 2030, when the next election rolls around, their children will be in school.

These new mothers are equal parts ecstatic and worried. They will soon be up against the challenges that come with raising a child in the city — finding a good school, a bigger home, and managing mounting living expenses.

But Delhi has its own issues that they are helpless against — the pollution crisis and the crime rate weigh heavily on their minds. For them, this election is more than just a welfare sops vs double-engine *sarkaar* narrative but how the winning party — AAP, BJP or Congress — can transform Delhi into an ideal home where their newborns take their first steps.

As the national capital votes on February 5, *The Indian Express* speaks to these new mothers — all Delhi voters — about what they expect the incoming government to work on to make the city livable for their children.

NIDHI MASSEY, 35

Nidhi is half asleep but wakes up as soon as a nurse passes by to enquire about her newborns, who are in the NICU of Holy Family Hospital’s postnatal ward. They are premature twins born on January 12 through the IVF procedure. Her husband Vipin Prakash (37) asks her to lie down, but she wants to talk.

Among her primary concerns is raising her children in Delhi’s polluted environment. “I didn’t step out when I was pregnant and walked inside my house. We even got an air purifier for our home,” says Nidhi.

“There is one more reason why I didn’t go out a lot during my pregnancy — the poor roads. There are so many potholes on the NFC road that goes towards Holy Family Hospital. A gas line was laid recently and the ditches were filled very unevenly. So now the whole road is uneven.”

However, she believes the AAP government is doing a good job but the Congress was better. Her husband interrupts, saying



New mothers Tamanna Abdul Rehman and Priti Vishwakarma. Ankita Upadhyay

the BJP will be the best option for Delhi as the central government is also ruled by the party. “*Sarkar BJP ki banegi* (The BJP will form the government),” says Vipin.

Nidhi shoots back that she is too busy to keep track of who is winning. “By the time my children are in school, there will be another government.”

Their next challenge is saving up so they can send the children to a good nursery school.

Before her pregnancy, Nidhi was working with the Delhi Minorities Commission; she landed the job following a diploma course after school. While she studied in a private school, Vipin is a product of a Delhi government school.

Vipin says Delhi government schools are no good and is adamant about never sending his children to one. “I studied in a government senior secondary school in Kilokari. We will put our child in a private school from the start.”

RASHMI BHADORIA, 25

Sitting in the postnatal ward of Lok Nayak Hospital, Rashmi is thinking about the imminent shift to a bigger house. She and her husband now live in a 1-BHK flat in Yamuna Vihar’s Bhajanpura. “Now that we have a new family member, we need a bigger space,” she says.

Rashmi has been married for six years and became the mother of a baby boy on January 10. Her husband, an EMI collector, is waiting outside the postnatal ward for the lunch break so he can come in and feed her.

Rashmi’s baby was premature, born at eight months: “*Time se pehle hi aa gaya* (he came early)”. She came to Lok Nayak because she was told by her doctor at the private hospital where she gave birth that the baby would require NICU care. “Since NICU services were very expensive there, we came to Lok Nayak.”

Rashmi, however, complains of the poor facilities. Alleging that there is no drinking water, she says, “They won’t let us keep an electric kettle or give us warm water.”

After her wedding, Rashmi says she came to Delhi from Chambal where “everything is purer”. “The vegetables we eat, the water we drink, the milk we get in Delhi... It’s very impure...”

She also complains about the pollution. “The doctor suggested not going out in the pollution season during my pregnancy,” she says. “But there are no parks or playgrounds in our areas so we would either go to the terrace or walk in the street. There should be parks and playgrounds so our children can play safely.”

“*Beti hoti toh shayad mujhe or dar lagta kyunki chhote chhote bachhe safe nahi hai yahan* (If I had a daughter, I would be even more scared... little children are not safe here),” she says.

But her biggest concern is her child’s education. “We want enough money to put him in a good nursery school and then a good private school,” she says.

“I could not finish my graduation but I would want my child to study as much as he wants to.”

TAMANNA ABDUL REHMAN, 23

At the maternity ward of Kasturba Hospital, where Tamanna gave birth to her son on January 9, her mother-in-law excitedly calls her grandson “Taimur” after actor Kareena Kapoor Khan’s son. The young mother smiles; they are yet to decide on a name.

Tamanna has no complaints about the hospital services, except for the crowding. “Breakfast, lunch, dinner, and milk — they gave everything on time.”

Her mother-in-law gives her a vitamin D tablet as prescribed by the doctor and says she needs a good dose of it as there is no sunshine in their area: “*Pehle khula hua tha par ab flats ban gaye hain isliye dhoop nahi aati*. (Earlier, the area around was empty but now flats have come up so we don’t get any sunshine in the house),” she says.

At the family home in Bhajanpura, the newborn’s education is the latest topic of discussion. “My husband has a shop that sells aluminium vessels... we want our child to become a doctor,” says Tamanna.

She also wants to enroll her child in a private school. “*Koshish toh main private ki hi karungi*. (I will try for a private school),”

Her mother-in-law chimes in: “*Ab toh sarkari bhi theek ho gaye hain*. (Now even government schools are good).”

She adds: “*Kejriwal ne kiya toh hai bahut par school teachers or achhe honey chahiye* (Kejriwal has improved things but teachers need to be better).”

Tamanna has one grouse with the state government though — the quality of water. “Often, the water smells really bad and is not fit to drink. So we get water cans... we have now bought a water purifier as well,” she says.

Tamanna also says it would be good if the government improves the condition of parks and drains. “I did not go anywhere during my pregnancy despite the doctor asking me to take walks. I would walk in my house in the evening,” she adds.

KALPANA KUMARI, 26

On January 19, Kalpana gave birth to a girl at Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital. “I didn’t want to go to a private hospital because doctors were forcing me to opt for a cesarean delivery. Here at RML, doctors encouraged me to go through a normal delivery,” she says.

Hailing from Madhubani in Bihar, she has been living in Delhi’s Pandav Nagar for the last five years since her wedding. As Kalpana settles down to feed her child, her sister-in-law Vandana brings more pillows so she can sit comfortably. “We brought these pillows from home,” she adds.

Vandana says while the hospital is good, the hygiene standards aren’t up to mark. “Cockroaches are everywhere in the maternity ward but nobody seems to bother despite the cleaning staff doing their job,” she says.

For Kalpana, the biggest concern is the safety and security of her child: “Delhi is not safe for women. It’s a huge responsibility now to ensure the safety of my daughter. It’s not easy being the mother of a girl.”

She says the environment in her village is better but since her husband’s job — he is a chartered accountant — is in Delhi, she cannot go back.

“*Beti ko har tarah se mazboot karna hai* (We have to make our girls strong). My sister-in-law’s daughter is just 12 years old but we talk to her daily about how to be safe when she goes to school or to play or even for her coaching classes. I will do the same when my daughter grows up,” says Kalpana.

She says in the first few months, her daughter will be in Madhubani and Delhi for better care. “Here, we have to rely on ourselves... we can’t trust anyone

to look after our child,” she says.

Kalpana, who did her BA from Bihar, says she will ensure she gives the best education to her daughter. “Education will always remain the focus,” she says.

Her own career ambitions of becoming a teacher have taken a backseat for now. She says she wants to work but will not till her daughter is older.

PRITI VISHWAKARMA, 27

In a corner of the maternity ward of Lady Hardinge Medical College, a dazed Priti sits quietly. Her son, who she gave birth to on January 19, is in the NICU unit after developing Meconium Aspiration Syndrome.

She complains that the nurses are very rude. “Yesterday, there was no one with me and I needed water. I had to go buy a bottle from a nearby shop,” she says.

She wants to be discharged as soon as possible so she can go back to her village in Amethi. There is nothing in Delhi — the air is bad while the residential areas are congested with no sunlight — she says.

She’s been living in the city for nearly three years. Her husband, Nitin, is a food delivery executive in Inderpuri where the couple stays. He has been living in the city for 21 years now and plans to buy a house soon.

However, Priti says she has not been able to accept Delhi as her home: “It’s good for the rich. The government doesn’t care about the happiness of poor people.”

She adds, “There is no sunlight in the area. My landlord doesn’t open the terrace door or allow us to keep the main door open... how can a child grow up in such conditions? We often go to the park to get some sunlight but it is far away... it’s not even clean... *Itna toh gaon me gandagi nahi hai jitni yahan hai... Delhi sheher bus naam ka hai*. (There isn’t as much filth in my village as there is here. Delhi is a city only in name).”

Priti, who has done her graduation in Sociology from Amethi, says for the next two years, she can’t go anywhere or do anything but take care of her child. “My husband is away all day... How can I also go to work?” she says, adding that her mental health has taken a beating.

“The fear of becoming a new mother is sinking in. I don’t know how I will manage this on my own,” she says.

POLLING IN NUMBERS

TOTAL ELECTORS
1,56,14,000

Male **83.76lakh** Female **72.37lakh**

Third gender: 1,267

71.86%
Elector to Population ratio

Gender ratio: **864**

18-19 yrs **2,39,905**

85+ yrs **1,09,368**

100+ years **783**

Persons with Disabilities **79,885**

Overseas electors **695**

Service electors **12,736**

2020 Assembly polls

Turnout: **62.59%**

Male: **62.66%**

Female: **62.52%**

Others: **38.55%**

Voting commences: **7 am**

Voting ends: **6 am**

Polling personnel

Personnel **97,955** Volunteers **8,715**

Security personnel

Central Armed Police Forces: **220 companies**

Home Guards: **19,000**

Delhi Police: **35,626**

2015 Assembly polls

Turnout: **67.13%**

Male: **67.64%**

Female: **66.5%**

Others: **19.26%**

Voting commences: **7 am**

Voting ends: **6 am**



Flags of parties are removed from city roads. Abhinav Saha

OF BORDERS & BRIGHT FUTURES

Why children from UP villages along Delhi borders throng its govt schools

SOPHIYAMATHEW
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

IN A neighbourhood located at the foothills of a garbage mountain in Delhi’s Ghazipur, its residents keep hoping for a better life. But for hundreds of people, especially mothers, living in Uttar Pradesh (UP) villages alongside Delhi’s border, their children’s future looks brighter across the invisible divide between the two states.

Accompanied by their mothers, school bags flung on their shoulders, these little residents of Ghaziabad and Noida villages troop into Delhi government-run schools day after day in the hope of “quality education”.

Most of these Delhi government schools are located in border areas like Khichripur, New Kondli, Mayur Vihar Phase III, Vasundhara Enclave, Dallupura,

Indraprastha Extension and Anand Vihar.

An hour before the bell signals the end of school in Delhi’s Khichripur village, located in the shadows of the Ghazipur landfill, the wide road transforms into an informal waiting area.

Squatting on the gravelly road with other waiting parents, a mother who lives in Ghaziabad’s Khoda village, 5 km away, complains, “It is so tiring — cooking, then coming here (to drop the child) and then going back...”

Preeti Singal, a Noida-based homemaker, says, “I was lucky to be able to enrol my elder son (a student of Class 6) in this school. My younger son, who is in Class 2, could not get admission here. Since we cannot afford to send him to a private school in Noida, he stays at home,” she says.

Seema Khurana, former head, Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya (SKV),

JJ Colony, Khichripur village, says the number of students from UP is much higher in five-six (Delhi government) schools closer to the border than local students.

“The (Delhi government) schools in Anand Vihar get students from Ghaziabad. In New Kondli, Dallupura and New Ashok Nagar (schools), they mostly come from Noida,” she says.

Dhanisha, a teacher at school, says they have more students from UP than the neighbourhood at present. “Of nearly 2,000 students in the school, over half live in Ghaziabad’s Khoda Colony.”

Nazrin (53) is a homemaker who moved to Khoda colony from Delhi a few years ago. She says her four children study at a government school in East Delhi’s New Kondli, located around 4 km away.

“This area has very few schooling options after Class 5. So we enrolled all our four children in Delhi



Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya in Khichripur. Gajendra Yadav

government schools. They are both affordable and good.”

Around 8 km away, 400 students are packed tightly in eight small rooms in a government school in Ghaziabad. A girl who studies in Class 8 at the school laments, “I wish I could study in a Delhi government school.”

A primary school teacher says,

“There aren’t many good options in the area after Class 8. Most boys from our school get admission in Delhi government schools after Class 8.”

Besides the lopsided student-teacher ratio in UP government schools along the Delhi border, the teacher says most of these schools have a dearth of subject-specific teachers and limited in-

frastructure. “Also, parents prefer CBSE to UP board. Delhi government schools follow the CBSE syllabus and have much better facilities,” he adds.

Kanchan (15), a student of Class 8 at a government school in Ghaziabad, is “worried” about her admission to a Delhi government school in Class 9. “The quality of education in Delhi (government schools) is much better.”

She says her father wants to get her admitted to a Delhi government school but is worried about her chances due to their Ghaziabad village address. “I need a Delhi address for a better chance at admission there.”

Former SKV, Khichripur head Khurana says though not everything is great in Delhi government schools, “they are far better” than those run by the UP government.

“While Delhi government schools lack quality teachers, their

educational standards are higher than those in UP government schools. Even the infrastructure is better in Delhi,” she says.

Over the last five years, according to Khurana, infrastructure in Delhi government schools has improved, though issues like teacher vacancies and quality remain. “Many new teachers are not well-trained. When students come to government schools having poor teaching practices and teacher quality, that leads to a huge gap in learning,” she says.

Komal Kumari (22), a former student of a co-ed Delhi government school in Dwarka who now takes tuition classes for children in Class 6 and 8 in her locality, agrees with Khurana.

“Despite efforts, there is a significant gap in foundational learning in Delhi government schools. I have seen Class 9 students struggle with basic reading and writing

skills,” she says.

Meanwhile, not all parents living along Delhi’s borders are keen to send their children to government schools in the Capital.

Rajarani (49), an anganwadi worker and a Khoda resident, says, “There is so much crime in Delhi... we did not send our elder daughter to a regular school. She finished her Class 10 from the School of Open Learning instead.”

“The law and order situation in UP is better than Delhi’s. We feel much safer here. In Delhi, people are used to freebies (a reference to free water and electricity for Delhi residents), which makes them reckless,” she claims.

Adding that nobody from her neighbourhood would send their children to Delhi if they had a choice, she says, “People are forced to admit their children to Delhi government schools out of sheer helplessness.”



Police personnel leave a polling booth after a security check on Tuesday; security personnel outside the office of the Delhi Chief Election Commissioner on the eve of polling. PTI & Praveen Khanna



In race to the finish against AAP, a look back at BJP’s hits and misses

Party toed AAP narrative where needed, shifting focus to middle class, deploying Modi as its face

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

AS DELHI votes Wednesday, the BJP is widely seen as having closed the gap with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) after 10 years of overwhelming dominance of the Capital’s political landscape by the Arvind Kejriwal-led outfit.

Not one to take any contest lightly, the BJP put in its all into the Delhi fight – whose import goes far beyond the Capital as the AAP remains virtually the only party making the BJP sweat in the North.



Delhi BJP leaders at a press conference on Monday, the last day of campaign. Praveen Khanna

the BJP was close behind. Though traditionally seen as a party backed by the middle class, the BJP has in recent years branched out to woo the backward classes to spread its umbrella. After the AAP changed tack, the BJP turned to its middle class base as well, with Modi pointedly saying that the tax relief in this year’s Union Budget made it “the most middle class friendly Budget in India’s history”.



budgetary proposals have gone down well with the businesses in Delhi that are mostly medium and small and micro enterprises. BJP leaders also point to the Udyam or Micro Enterprise credit card introduced in the Budget.

The other significant group in Delhi for which the Budget holds promise is the salaried class, also largely falling in the mid-income group.

dle-class voters over the AAP governance record on issues such as quality of life, air and water pollution, and infrastructure development, could draw more middle-class voters out to vote.

And that the mix of its track record on “development” at the Centre, its inherent support base in the Capital, its new welfare promises and the belief in “Modi’s guarantee” will draw the BJP enough support across the board to finish ahead of the AAP.

However, not everyone in the party is so sure.

“The segment which benefits the most from the tax rebate does not decide elections. Delhi voting may remain dominated by the very poor and those dependent on the welfare schemes of the government,” a party leader said, adding that this holds true for even the New Delhi seat from where Kejriwal is contesting. “The *basti* (slum) votes decide who wins the constituency... The middle class has never been a deciding factor in Delhi elections,” he said.

party, a senior leader said. “Every party in India, be it Leftist, Rightist, centrist or capitalist, now agrees with welfare politics. There is no contradiction in it. The *revdi* talk is over.”

If the BJP game plan faltered anywhere, it was its campaign against Kejriwal on corruption charges.

Despite the AAP supremo’s initial rise as an anti-corruption crusader, it didn’t appear to matter to voters that he had spent time in jail on excise policy scam charges – not proved – or that he had given himself a so-called “Sheesh Mahal” at the CM’s residence.

According to leaders, another aspect where the BJP may find itself falling short of the AAP is in “a face for Delhi”. While the Capital retains faith in Modi’s leadership and his guarantees, as reflected in the BJP’s clean sweep of Delhi again in the Lok Sabha polls last year, it has simultaneously reposed trust in Kejriwal for the state.

In failing to offer an alternative to Kejriwal, with Modi seeking votes in his own name from Delhi’s voters, could the BJP have failed to bridge this gap?

HC notice to Atishi on BJP leader’s plea in defamation case

SOHINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

THE DELHI High Court on Tuesday issued notice to Atishi in a petition filed by BJP leader Praveen Shankar Kapoor challenging the setting aside of a magistrate court’s summons to the Chief Minister in his defamation complaint.

On January 28, a special court set aside the magistrate court’s order of May 2024 issuing summons to Atishi in the defamation case filed by Kapoor. He also dismissed the complaint.

In his plea before the Delhi High Court, Kapoor sought that the special judge’s order be set aside. “In order to divert serious corruption issues and to project themselves as victims of political vendetta,” he said. Aam Aadmi Party leaders levelled baseless allegations against the BJP of offering bribes to AAP leaders to switch sides.

The allegations were initially posted on X by AAP convenor and former CM Arvind Kejriwal on January 27 last year. The claims were then reposted by Atishi the same day.

Subsequently, in a press conference held the same day, Atishi reiterated similar allegations, and the contents of the press conference were then reposted by her.

Days later, Atishi held another press conference on February 2, making similar

allegations. Kapoor, in his petition, has submitted that the special judge “ventured into political adventurism akin to a political discourse by attempting to determine who is a bigger/smaller political entity, which was not at all and never be the scope of adjudication in revision proceedings”.

“The Special Judge did not even permit the complainant to have a trial in order to make good his allegations... He intermingled the allegations against accused no.1, namely, Arvind Kejriwal and accused no.2, namely, Atishi Marlena.”

“It is respectfully submitted that the role of the accused no.2 is greater in comparison to that of the accused no.1. So, not challenging the summoning order whereby Sh. Arvind Kejriwal is not summoned, cannot be of any advantage to the Accused no.2,” said Kapoor.

Kapoor has also pointed out that the special judge “failed to appreciate that in the press conference, the respondent deliberately did not disclose the identity of the person who approached her”.

“Moreover, the details are not even disclosed to the Enquiry Officer of the Crime Branch – who had sent a notice along with a questionnaire to both the accused persons to give their following information,” he said.

Justice Vikas Mahajan posted the matter for further consideration on April 30.

19-yr-old man who posed as CBI officer arrested for sextortion

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

POSING AS a CBI officer, a 19-year-old labourer, who was arrested on Monday, extorted over Rs 4 lakh from a Dwarka-based man after blackmailing him over a nude video call, police said on Tuesday.

The police identified the accused as Amit Kumar.

On August 8, 2024, the victim allegedly received a WhatsApp video call from a woman, during which she started removing her clothes, followed by him doing the same. “After five or six seconds, the complainant said, the call was cut abruptly,” Ankit Singh, DCP (Dwarka), said.

The next day, the complainant received a call from a man claiming to be a CBI special officer.

“The man said that the woman, who had last spoken to the complainant over phone, had died by suicide. He also sent the recording of the video call, in which the complainant was nude, along with pictures of an ambulance,” Singh said.

According to the police, the complainant was told that the woman’s family would not file a police complaint if he paid Rs 4,84,500. Following this, the complainant transferred the amount into two accounts, they added.

A team tracked down Kumar to Chamba in Himachal Pradesh by following the money trail and using his call detail records.

AAP to launch portal to upload poll data from all booths

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

THE AAP will launch a web portal on Wednesday where it will upload polling data from all booths in the city, in an attempt to thwart “tampering”, the party said on Tuesday.

that the leadership wanted to ensure there is no discrepancy in the number of votes polled during the day.

“We want to make sure that a Maharashtra-like situation is not seen in Delhi. If there is a discrepancy in the number of votes polled as per the documents given to the party observers and agents, we will flag it immediately,” he added.

The party has formed a team to verify booth set-ups, and monitor the Control Unit ID

The party has formed a team

of volunteers to verify polling booth set-ups, cross-check presiding officer details, and monitor the Control Unit ID on polling day.

The volunteers have been asked to verify booth details and keep track of the total votes cast.

The volunteers have also been told to monitor the Control Unit ID and battery percentage

of electronic voting machines at the end of polling to detect any anomalies.

The presence of party polling agents also has to be recorded to ensure no booth is left unmanned, party officials said.

There are over 13,000 polling booths in Delhi. The Delhi election result will be declared on Saturday.

Police seize ‘freebies’ worth Rs 36,270 distributed among voters by candidates

SAKSHI CHAND
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

SAREES, SCARVES, T-shirts, caps, shawls, patkas and blankets – these are some of the items or freebies that have been distributed by candidates in the fray.

According to Delhi Police data, while maximum number of such items were seized from the high-profile New Delhi Assembly constituency, from where AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal is facing BJP’s Parvesh Sahib Singh and Congress’s Sandeep Dikshit,

Timarpur constituency topped the list in terms of the money spent on such freebies. While the Delhi Police had not reported any such seizure in the 2020 Assembly elections, this time, items worth Rs 36,270 have been recovered.

According to the data, while seven sarees worth Rs 10,000 have been seized from Shahdara; nine calendars (Rs 100), 127 ‘saving cards’ and six cut-outs, among others, have been seized from Parliament Street.

Moreover, 23 T-shirts, 40 caps, three diaries and 200 pamphlets, among others, were

seized from from Tilak Marg; 90 scarfs, three flags, nine T-shirts, 1,000 pamphlets (worth Rs 2,150) were seized from Nangloi and 68 shawls, 22 blankets and 22 patkas (worth Rs 21,200) recovered from Timarpur.

“These seizures are only made by the police but also by enforcement agencies, including the flying squad. After the elections, if anyone wants their goods back, they will have to take permission of the court. Else, after a certain period of time, the items would be destroyed by the police,” a police officer said.

MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS

491 Arrested for possessing illegal firearms

469 Unlicensed weapons and 513 cartridges recovered

Drug seizure cases 177 arrested

196 KG of illegal drugs seized, worth ₹77.9 cr; 1,200 injections recovered

Possession of 1,10,093 litres of illegal liquor: 1,381 arrested

OTHER SEIZURES

Cash ₹11.36 cr

Gold 0.850 kg

Silver 37.39 kg

Source: Delhi Police

SOCIAL MEDIA

Meta ads for polls: BJP outspends rivals by 3 times

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

THE BJP outspent its opponents by at least three times for advertising on Meta platforms for one month in the run-up to Assembly polls in Delhi. While the BJP, its candidates, and affiliates that ran ads in its favour collectively spent Rs. 4.15 crore on advertising in Delhi, the AAP was a distant second, spending Rs

1.38 crore. The Congress spent Rs. 66.62 lakh.

The Indian Express looked at advertisements on Meta platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Audience Networks, WhatsApp and Threads) between January 3 and February 1, which cost more than Rs 1 lakh.

Of Rs. 4.15 crore, 91.8% was spent by BJP Delhi’s official handle. In contrast to this, AAP spent just 63.3% through its official handle with the rest being spent

Kejriwal rival Parvesh Sahib Singh among top spenders

by candidates and affiliates. The Congress Delhi handle also did the heavy lifting for the party,

spending 88.7% or Rs. 59.13 lakh out of a total Rs 66 lakh.

Parvesh Sahib Singh, BJP’s New Delhi candidate against AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal, spent the most on advertising on Meta, spending Rs 5.13 lakh.

Kulwant Rana, two-time MLA and BJP candidate from Rithala was next with a spending of Rs 4.91 lakh. From the AAP, Shiv Charan Goel, Moti Nagar MLA and party candidate, has the highest expenditure of Rs.

4.17 lakh in these 30 days and from the Congress, Garvit Singhvi, Congress candidate from Greater Kailash, spent the most at Rs. 3.21 lakh.

‘Phir Layenge Kejriwal’ and ‘Bhasht Jumla Party’ – advertisers who ran ads in support of AAP were the highest unofficial spenders at Rs. 12.62 lakh and Rs. 8.98 lakh, respectively. ‘Main Hoon Dilli’, which paid Meta Rs. 2.78 lakh, ran the ad campaign against AAP or in favour of BJP.

FORM 7A [See rule 10(1)] LIST OF CONTESTING CANDIDATES Election to the Delhi Legislative Assembly from 27-Rajouri Garden Assembly Constituency				
Sl. No.	Name of candidate	Address of candidate	Party affiliation	Symbol allotted
1	2	3	4	5
(i) Candidates of Recognised National and State Political Parties.				
1	 A DHANWATI CHANDEL A	WZ-40/1, WZ-BLOCK, KHYALA VILLAGE, NEW DELHI-110018	AAM AADMI PARTY	BROOM
2	 DHARAM PAL CHANDEL A	WZ-96, KHYALA VILLAGE, NEW DELHI-110018	INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS	HAND
3	 MANJINDER SINGH SIRSA	7/77, ROAD NO. 77, PUNJABI BAGH WEST DELHI-110026	BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY	LOTUS
4	 SHASHI PABHA	W46/37A, SHYAM NAGAR, SUBHASH NAGAR CROSSING, DELHI-110018	BAHUJAN SAMAJ PARTY	ELEPHANT
(ii) Candidates of registered political parties (other than recognised National and State Political Parties).				
5	 KAMLA DEVI	HOUSE NO. 140/37A, SIKRI BHATTA, SHYAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110018	AAPKI APNI PARTY (PEOPLES)	KETTLE
6	 KARAN TALWAR	WZ-A-5, BLOCK A, SHAM NAGAR, KHYALA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110018	AAM AADMI PARIVARTAN PARTY	BATTERY TORCH
7	 JAYA RAMAN	DOOR NO. 229-230, TC CAMP, 1ST FLOOR, RAGHUBIR NAGAR, TAGORE GARDEN, RAJOURI MARKET, RAJOURI GARDEN, DELHI-110027	SANJHI VIRASAT PARTY	WATER MELON
8	 VISHAL SANGWAN	A-453/454, CHOUKHANDI, TILAK NAGAR, DELHI-110018	RIGHT TO RECALL PARTY	PRESSURE COOKER
(iii) Other Candidates				
NIL				
Place : Delhi Date: 20.01.2025			Returning Officer 27-Rajouri Garden Assembly Constituency DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0528/24-25	

epaper.indianexpress.com

FROM THE HOUSE

22 lakh dog bite cases in 2024: Minister in LS

New Delhi: About 22 lakh dog bite cases were reported in the country during 2024 (January-December), Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh informed Lok Sabha Tuesday. In a written reply to an unstarred question, Singh said 21,95,122 dog bite cases and 37 deaths were reported in 2024. Besides, 5,04,728 cases and 11 deaths due to attacks from other animals, including monkey bites, were reported last year, Singh said, citing data reported by states and Union Territories. Of the total dog bite cases, over 5 lakh were children less than 15 years of age, the minister said. **ENS**

68 lakh NREGA names deleted in FY24: MoS

New Delhi: Over 68 lakh active workers were deleted/cancelled under Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in 2023-2024, Union Minister of State for Rural Development Kamlesh Paswan informed Lok Sabha on Tuesday. In a written reply to an unstarred question, Paswan said, "A total of 86,17,887 and 68,86,532 active workers have been deleted/cancelled during the Financial Year 2022-23 and 2023-24 respectively, for reasons such as fake/duplicate/incorrect job card, family shifted out of gram panchayat permanently, village becomes classified as urban etc." Of the total active MG-NREGS workers deleted/cancelled, a maximum 16.27 lakh were in Madhya Pradesh, followed by Uttar Pradesh (8 lakh), Rajasthan (7.27 lakh) and Odisha (4.36 lakh). **ENS**

2,936 died due to natural disasters last yr

New Delhi: The Centre informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday that 2,936 people lost their lives due to hydro-meteorological disasters in the country last year, with Himachal Pradesh reporting the highest casualties. Among the 2,936, 408 died in Himachal Pradesh, 373 in Madhya Pradesh, 355 in Kerala, 230 in Gujarat and 206 in Maharashtra, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said. "Apart from five top states, 185 people lost their lives in Karnataka, 131 in Rajasthan, 128 in Assam and 125 in Chhattisgarh," he added. Rai cited information received from state governments and UTs in connection with the details of damages caused. **ENS**

Opp flags range of issues in RS: Maha Kumbh to Manipur

ANONNA DUTT & NIKHIL GHANEKAR
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

DURING THE discussion on Motion of Thanks to the President's address, Opposition parties Tuesday attacked the government over the Maha Kumbh stampede. They also raised issues ranging from unemployment to Manipur's civil unrest and said several issues were missing from the President's address, such as inflation and the implementation of welfare schemes.

RJD's Manoj Jha and CPI(M)'s John Brittas led the Opposition charge. From the BJP, Ashok Chavan and Nabam Rebia defended the government's implementation of its schemes and programmes.

Jha equated the situation at Maha Kumbh to that of the Covid-19 pandemic. He said several bodies were left unattended at the time as well. "Nehruji was brought into the discussion with members talking of the deaths during the 1954 Kumbh. People must be feeling so hurt by this discussion on numbers," he said.

On unemployment, Jha said: "There is no instant solution... but what is the plan? The government has to first acknowledge that there is a problem." He said the new University Grants Commission (UGC) draft regulations were anti-student, anti-teacher, and anti-federal.

CPI(M)'s Brittas echoed Jha's views on the UGC's draft regulations. He said they took power away from states. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan responded that it was only a draft and states could send their suggestions. "In a few states, VC posts are given to personal aide's wife and personal assistants. Such a practice should



RS Chairman Jagdeep Thakhar on Tuesday. PTI

stop," Pradhan said.

TMC member Sagarika Ghose accused the government of hiding the number of deaths at the Maha Kumbh stampede.

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi said a large number of new voters were added to the rolls in Maharashtra in the recent elections. While she did not level any accusation against the Election Commission, she said: "72 lakh registered voters were there — new voters in five months who perhaps did not vote in Lok Sabha — they came out and voted in Assembly election; 47 lakh voters were newly registered and, between 2019 to 2024, nearly 47 lakh voters were added. In 5 years, 47 lakh voters and in 5 months, 48 lakh voter addition happened. This is a serious issue for discussion."

AAP's Sanjay Singh too raised voter deletions ahead of the Delhi elections. BJP's Ashok Chavan said that everyone was sad about the stampede during Maha Kumbh but urged fellow members to also take note of the "good arrangements". He said the government was working on all fronts for the welfare of the people.

Sandosh Kumar P of the CPI said that out of 5,839 words in the President's speech, not one was on Manipur.



SIDE BY SIDE: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla with Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh at Parliament on Tuesday. PTI

What's the book PM brought up to counter Rahul

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

DURING HIS response to the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday mentioned how former PM Jawaharlal Nehru sought US assistance during the 1962 Chinese aggression. "If someone is really interested in foreign policy, I would recommend the book *JFK's Forgotten Crisis*," the PM said.

"This book mentions correspondence between India's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru and then US President John F Kennedy and also decisions taken at the time. The book brings out the games being played in the name of foreign policy at a time the country was facing a lot of challenges,"

Modi said, without directly mentioning the 1962 India-China War, which the book talks about.

He took a swipe at Rahul Gandhi for his statements on foreign policy, saying: "Some people believe that they won't look mature unless they talk about foreign policy, even if it harms the country."

The 2015 book that Modi mentioned was written by former CIA official Bruce Riedel, and is called *JFK's Forgotten Crisis: Tibet, the CIA and the Sino-Indian War*. Citing letters written by Nehru to Kennedy in November 1962, the book says the Indian leadership was ill-prepared and taken aback, and sought fighter jets to stem the Chinese aggression in 1962.

As India was fast losing its territory to China and suffering



SP's Akhilesh Yadav with wife and party leader Dimple Yadav and other MPs in Lok Sabha. PTI

Govt must present Kumbh toll in House, says Akhilesh

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

DEMANDING AN all-party meeting on the Maha Kumbh stampede, Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav Tuesday hit out at the Centre and Uttar Pradesh government and sought strong action against those responsible.

Participating in the discussion on Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, Akhilesh said: "I demand that an all-party meeting should be called to give a clarification regarding the arrangements for the Maha Kumbh... The responsibility of management of the disaster and the lost-and-found Centre at the mela should be given to the Army. The figures of people who died in the Maha Kumbh tragedy, treatment of injured, and availability of food, water and transport should be presented in Parliament."

The SP chief alleged that the government is taking help from the media to hide the truth. He alleged that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed his condolences only after the President and Prime Minister did so, waiting for several hours.

Shah: ₹2,025 cr released to Sahara depositors till Jan 28

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

AN AMOUNT of ₹2,025.75 crore has been released to 11,61,077 depositors of the Sahara Group of Cooperative Societies till January 28, 2025, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah informed Lok Sabha Tuesday.

Shah said the disbursement is taking place through a website. "The entire process of disbursement is digital... carried out under the supervision... of Justice R. Subhash Reddy, Former Judge of Hon'ble Supreme Court with the assistance of Shri Gaurav Agrawal,



Union Minister Amit Shah

Amicus Curiae," he said.

He said, "Applications... are being processed in transparent manner, on proper identification and on submitting proof of their identity and deposits. Presently, payment only upto ₹50,000 is being disbursed to each genuine depositor of the Sahara Group of Cooperative Societies against verified claims through Aadhaar seeded Bank account."

Referring to China, Akhilesh: "The Congress has views regarding China, BJP leaders also have some views. This House and the country know the truth. Once upon a time, we had lost lakhs of acres of land and now, the BJP is following the same path... the BJP is not accepting that China has occupied our land... China is snatching our land as well as the market."

Trinamool Congress member Sougata Roy, too, raised the stampede deaths.

"It is one of the worst tragedies in Independent India and the responsibility for this failure is entirely of the state and the Union government. All we want to know is the number of people who died in the Kumbh. They should come out with the facts. That is my demand," Roy said.

Roy also raised the Manipur violence. "The President's speech does not mention Manipur, which has seen ethnic clashes for more than a year," he said.

Next round of talks with farmers on Feb 14: Govt

New Delhi: The Centre on Tuesday informed Parliament that the sixth round of discussions with agitating farmers in Punjab and Haryana will be held on February 14.

In the previous round last month, the government had proposed a five-year plan for the procurement of certain crops at MSP, but did not reach a consensus on the farmers' broader demands, including a legal guarantee for MSP.

Minister of State for Agriculture Ram Nath Thakur, in his written reply to Lok Sabha, said: "Next round of discussion with the farmers is scheduled on 14th February." **PTI**

BJP's Dubey seeks privilege proceedings against Rahul



BJP leader Nishikant Dubey (standing, right) and other party MPs in Lok Sabha on Tuesday. ANI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

A DAY after Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi gave his reply to the President's address in the Lok Sabha, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey on Tuesday wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla seeking privilege proceedings against him for "shamelessly distorting the historical and substantive facts" and "an attempt to ridicule our country and lowering the prestige of our Republic".

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh too hit out at Gandhi saying the Congress leader "made false allegations about the statement of the Army Chief on the situation on the India-China border".

The minister in a post on X said, "If at all there is Indian Territory into which China has come, this is 38,000 sq km in Aksai Chin as a result of the 1962 conflict and 5,180 sq km illegally ceded by Pakistan to China in 1963. Shri Rahul Gandhi may consider introspecting about this phase of our history."

Gandhi drew the Treasury Benches' ire on Monday when, while talking about the foreign policy an INDIA government would follow, he said: "When we talk to the US, we would not send our Foreign Minister to invite our Prime Minister to his (US President's) coronation. We will not send him three or four times... please invite our prime minister". Because if we had a production system and if we were working on these technologies, the American President would come here and invite the Prime Minister." **PTI**

External Affairs Minister S

Jaishankar described Gandhi's claim as "falsehood".

"Rahul Gandhi, in his speech on the floor of the House, has inter alia raised six issues, viz. the mobile phones are not made in India but only assembled in India; forcibly capturing of vast land on the Eastern Regions of our Country by China; our Country was not invited by the United States of America during the swearing-in ceremony of H.E. Mr. Donald Trump as the President; recent election to the Maharashtra Assembly; appointment of Chief Election Commissioner/ Election Commissioners in the Election Commission of India; and the caste-based census," said Dubey in his letter to Birla.

Dubey said that during Gandhi's speech, he had "reminded him (Gandhi) that whatever he is speaking on the floor of the House has to be authenticated by him". "However, to the best of my knowledge, this 'erudite' person has neither authenticated his gibberish canards nor apologized for using the pious forum of Parliament to defame our Country and the elected Government," said Dubey in his letter.

On China, Gandhi in his speech had said, "We talk about defence and today, we have the Chinese. And the PM has denied it, and the Army has contradicted the PM... That China is sitting on 4,000 km of our land."

To this, Rajnath said, "The Army Chief's remarks referred only to the disturbance of traditional patrolling by both sides... He also mentioned that these practices have been restored to their traditional pattern as part of the recent disengagement. Government has shared these details in Parliament."



PM MEETS PRIESTS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets priests from Uttarakhand at Parliament House on Tuesday. State BJP MP Anil Baluni (right) was also present. ANI

Proposed HECI could lead to closure of institutions in rural areas: House panel

New Delhi: The proposed Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) which seeks to replace different regulators including UGC and AICTE could lead to closure of institutions in rural areas that suffer from infrastructure or faculty shortages and indirectly fuel privatization, a parliamentary panel has flagged.

The committee, headed by Rajya Sabha MP Digvijay Singh, has recommended that a simplified hierarchy of regulatory bodies would be more effective. The panel also suggested that the Education Ministry should ensure that any such unified regulatory body must have adequate representation for all states and there should not be excess centralization.

The Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports presented its report in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday. **PTI**

Global Business summit to begin in Kolkata today, delegates from over 40 nations expected

ATRIMITRA
KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 4

KOLKATA IS set to host the two-day Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) 2025 on February 5 and 6 as the TMC government in West Bengal goes all out to attract investment to the state.

Sources said this is also being seen as a chance to show the business-friendly and employment-generating face of the state government ahead of Assembly elections in 2026.

A tentative list of prominent



CM Mamata Banerjee with delegates of the summit in Kolkata on Tuesday. Express

guests at the summit includes Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, Jharkhand

Chief Minister Hemant Soren, and business leaders like Mukesh Ambani (Reliance Industries), Sajjan Jindal (Jindal Group), Sanjeev Puri (ITC), and Jyotsna Suri (Lalit Suri Hospitality Group), among others. Delegates from more than 40 countries are also expected to attend the summit, which will be held at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre (BGCS).

On Tuesday, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee went to the BGCS venue to participate in a high tea event with delegates and foreign representatives. "More than 200 foreign delegates will

participate in the summit," she told journalists at the venue.

State government officials said that no specific sector is being highlighted and that all important issues pertaining to industry and trade will be discussed. Some crucial policies may also be announced at the summit, a senior official of the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC) said.

At a Cabinet meeting on Monday, CM Banerjee instructed bureaucrats of all departments to look into last-minute preparations for BGBS.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
Office of the Additional Chief Engineer
Upper Kolab Project, At/Po: Bariniput, Dist: Koraput, ODISHA-764006
email id: aceukp2022@gmail.com
e-Procurement Notice No. ACE-UKP-03/2024-25
Bid Identification No. ACE-UKP-03/2024-25(I) to ACE-UKP-03/2024-25(XII)

1 Nature of the work	Civil Works.
2 No. of Works	12 Nos.
3 Approximate Estimated Cost	Ranging from Rs.234.47 Lakhs to 252.87 Lakhs
4 Period of completion	Six calendar months each.
5 Type of Contract	Percentage Rate (Double cover).
6 Date & Time of Bidding / Availability of Bid documents in the portal	From 10.00 A.M. of 06.02.2025. Up to 05.00 P.M. of 23.02.2025.
6 Last date & time for receipt of bids in portal	23.02.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.
7 Time and date of opening of Technical Bid	11.00 A.M. of 24.02.2025.
8 Place of opening of Bid	O/o The Additional Chief Engineer, Upper Kolab Project, Bariniput.

Further details can be seen from the website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.
Addendum/corrigendum/Cancellation required, If any will be published in Govt. Website only.

Sd/-
**Additional Chief Engineer,
Upper Kolab Project, Bariniput
OIPR-32197/11/0003/2425**



भारत निर्वाचन आयोग Election Commission of India

स्वागत है

05 February 2025

General Election to Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi

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- Driving License
- PAN Card
- MNREGA Job Card
- Indian Passport
- Smart Card issued by RGI under NPR
- Pension document with photograph
- Health Insurance Smart Card issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour
- Official identity cards issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs
- Passbooks with photograph issued by Bank/Post Office
- Unique Disability ID (UDID) Card, M/o Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India
- Service Identity Cards with photograph issued to employees by Central/State Govt./PSUs/Public Limited Companies

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DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



SOUTH CONNECT

ANDHRA PRADESH Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's campaigning in Delhi has excited the BJP cadre as it appeared to have created traction among Telugu-speaking voters. While BJP leaders Tarun Chugh and Rajeev Chandrasekhar have been coordinating meetings to ensure a direct connection with regional groups, Naidu's meeting was the biggest hit. Sources said both Chugh and Chandrasekhar organised several several meetings to connect the South Indian voters in the run up to the polls. This time, the BJP relied more on small groups rather than organising large rallies, which only PM Modi and other top leaders addressed.

EMBLEM WITH MOTTO

THE HOME Ministry has asked all ministries and government departments not to omit the motto — Satyameva Jayate — whenever they use the State Emblem of India. In a communication to the ministries, the MHA said that the emblem is “incomplete” without the motto. The communication also asked the ministries to convey the same to all the agencies concerned and that strict action will be taken against officials for violating the directions.

POETIC SNIPE

BJP CHIEF whip in the Lok Sabha Sanjay Jaiswal on Tuesday trained his guns on Feroze Gandhi, grandfather of Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi. In his speech during the debate on motion of thanks, Jaiswal pointed out that Feroze Gandhi, a former Lok Sabha MP, was originally Feroze Jehangir Ghandy and changed his surname to Gandhi. But “*dhamush uthane se koi Sri Ram nahi banta, bansuri bajane se koi Ghanshyam nahi banta, baal badhane se koi Kalam nahi banta, aur Gandhi sur-name rakhne se koi mahan nahi banta*”. The Paschim Champaran MP's lines have earned him appreciation from the senior leaders of the party, sources said.

Enrol kids working at construction sites, brick kilns in school: Bihar govt to all DMs

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, FEBRUARY 4

THE BIHAR government's Education Department has asked district magistrates of all 38 districts in the state to look for children between the ages of six and 14 at brick kilns, construction sites and other locations where they may be working and enrol them at the nearest government or private school. This comes after the department undertook a door-to-door campaign in an attempt to find and enrol children of that age who are out of school. Apart from looking for children working at specific locations, the magistrates have also been asked to be on the lookout for children who are sent to graze cattle and ensure they also enrolled in school. Such children can be enrolled throughout the year and their admission will not be denied due to them not applying at the beginning of the academic year,

officials said. However, the children will need Aadhaar card numbers to secure admission. Bihar Education Department Additional Chief Secretary S Siddharth sent out the direction to all DMs through a letter on February 3. “We have observed that several children working at brick kilns, construction sites or with any big government or non-government project, would often sleep at workplaces, away from their homes. We need to enrol such children in schools to comply with the Right to Education (Act) to grant mandatory education to every child,” the letter said. The ACS directed the DMs to start a sustained campaign to enrol children between the ages of six and 14 in government or private schools. “Once we identify out-of-school children who may or may not be working, or are engaged in domestic chores or in grazing cattle, we will convince their parents to get their Aadhaar cards made and enrol them in school,” an official said.

As Delhi votes today, why BJP has a lot riding on capital contest

Delhi, understandably, is a make-or-break battle for Kejriwal and AAP. But why are the stakes so high for BJP, which has already won polls in Haryana & Maharashtra?



THE NEERJA CHOWDHURY COLUMN

Weekly insight into what's changing in national politics — and why

BEFORE UNION Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the unprecedented tax relief for the middle class, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal, by invoking their “pain,” had tried to reach out to those who had voted for him in the last two elections but are showing signs of disaffection this time around.

Clearly, the BJP government has gone all out to win back the allegiance of the middle class

who will vote in the capital Wednesday to defeat Kejriwal or at least to bring down his 2020 tally of 62 seats (out of 70), which could make the AAP government vulnerable. Delhi, understandably, is a make-or-break battle for Kejriwal's AAP. But for the BJP, now on a surer footing after its victories in Haryana and Maharashtra, it is hardly so pivotal as Delhi, at the end of the day, is only half a state. As it is, the Lieutenant-Governor calls the shots in the capital and his powers relate to police, law and order, and land. Then, why are the stakes so high for the BJP in Delhi, for it to pull out all stops?

What is at stake

Some answers are obvious.

‘7,000 new voters, one Shirdi building’: Was Rahul right?

Collector says number exaggerated, new voters hostel students, hence shared address

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 4

REPEATING THE Congress allegation of manipulation of voter lists in the Maharashtra Assembly elections, Rahul Gandhi said in Parliament Monday that 7,000 voters had been registered from “one building” in the Shirdi constituency, in a period of five months following the Lok Sabha polls last year. The district authorities told *The Indian Express* that the explanation was simple. The number was closer to 3,000, they said, and involved students residing in hostels of an educational institution in Loni town, which falls under the Shirdi seat. In their forms, the educational institution is the registered address, and hence the common address across students. “When we first received the complaint from a political party, we informed the Election Commission about the reality. The increase of voters from a centre in question was about 3,000 voters. There are educational institutions

in the Loni area and the new voters are students from hostels of one of those institutions,” Ahilyanagar District Collector Siddharam Salimath said. The verification process for these electors was thorough, he said, adding, “If a person is above 18 years of age, he or she can choose where to vote from with the necessary documents. Since the students are residing in hostels, the college admission papers are taken as residence proof.” The official said that before the electoral rolls were published, political parties had been called to submit objections or suggestions if any. “We also cross-checked whether there were any cases of voters being registered twice, and didn't find any,” Salimath said. In the Assembly polls held in November last year, Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil of the BJP had won from the Shirdi seat, defeating the Congress's Prabhavati Ghogre. A former Congress leader with Shirdi as his bastion, Vikhe-Patil quit the party to join the BJP in 2019, and is now Irrigation Minister in the

Maharashtra government. During the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address in the Lok Sabha Monday, Gandhi talked about “threat” to constitutional institutions and went on to mention “the increase of 70 lakh voters” in the five months between the 2024 Lok Sabha and 2024 Assembly polls in Maharashtra. Gandhi then gave the specific example of the Shirdi Assembly constituency. “On the address of one building in Shirdi, about 7,000 new voters were added after the Lok Sabha polls,” he said. Earlier, on November 29, six days after the Maharashtra Assembly election results were announced, the Congress had written to the EC and a delegation had also met the commission to raise what it called a “shocking” 13% increase in the number of voters in the state since the Lok Sabha polls held five months earlier. The Congress had sought “raw data” from the EC on the 39 lakh voters added to the rolls. In its response on December 24, the EC had said 48,81,620 voters had been added to elec-

toral rolls and 8,00,391 deleted, leading to a net addition of 40,81,229 voters between the two elections. The EC noted that since those who are 18 years or above as on January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1 of each year are eligible to enrol, 8,72,094 electors of the 18-19 age group and 17,74,514 electors of the 20-29 years age group were added. “Thus, 26,46,608 young electors falling in the age group of 18-29 were added out of the total addition of 40,81,229 electors during the period... Thus, the additions made during the period in a large state like Maharashtra have no visible abnormal trend,” the EC had said. Gandhi's allegation about 7,000 voters being registered from one building address aligns with a complaint filed by the local Congress committee in August 2024, before the finalisation of the electoral roll. But, at that time, Pankaj Londhe, the president of the Rahata tehsil Congress committee, had complained about “bogus voters” being registered from “specific areas of Shirdi” and not one building address.



BATTLE READY

Trishakti Corps of the Army Tuesday conducts a live fire exercise, validating its battle readiness, rapid deployment and precision strike capabilities. *PTI*

Ladki Bahin crackdown: Govt starts tracing 4-wheeler owners

MANOJ MORE
PUNE, FEBRUARY 4

THE MAHARASHTRA government on Tuesday started the process to trace women four-wheeler owners who are availing the benefits of Ladki Bahin Yojana, contrary to the norms. Though such women will be disqualified from taking the benefits of the scheme, there will be no probe conducted against them, district officials have said. The violators will be listed from the data provided by RTOs, they said. The populist Ladki Bahin scheme that was launched by the Mahayuti-led state government in August last year offers Rs 1,500 per month to every woman in the age bracket of 21 to 65 with an annual family income of less than Rs 2.5 lakh. The scheme excludes women owning a four-wheeler, those having a government employee in their family, and

women getting a monthly assistance under any other scheme. “We will be tracking down the women four-wheeler owners who have availed the benefit of the scheme and will be made ineligible. That is the only action we propose to take. There will be no further investigation nor would they be levied any fine,” Jamsinh Girase, deputy chief executive officer, Pune Zilla Parishad told *The Indian Express*. Girase said they would also not be doing house-to-house inspection to check whether the women own a four-wheeler. “We have asked the RTO to submit us the list of such women. The exact count of women beneficiaries owning a four-wheeler will be known only after a month,” he said. However, the move has not gone down well with the public, with many women complaining about the practicality of the ‘four-wheeler’ norm in the scheme. A woman beneficiary from Indrayani Nagar area of Pimpri-

Chinchwad said though she owns a four-wheeler that was bought 10 years ago and subsequently she has no job. “I lost my job more than three years ago. I don't get any salary. But I have a four-wheeler which was bought when I was working 10 years ago. What do I do?” she asked. Pune city Congress spokesperson Gopal Tiwari described the government action as inhuman and one which was aimed at “insulting” the womenfolk. “Some women might be owning a four-wheeler. Many bought them before the Covid epidemic. During the Covid, several Puneites lost their jobs. They were not in a position to pay their EMIs as well. Some are still struggling to find jobs... This will only reflect the inhuman and insulting attitude of the government towards the women,” he said. NCP (S-P) spokesperson Mahesh Tapase said that such an action would be cheating the women of Maharashtra.

Revanth tables caste survey report: ‘Will be basis for reforms’

NIKHILA HENRY
HYDERABAD, FEBRUARY 4

ASSERTING THAT the Congress's poll promise has been fulfilled within a year, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy tabled a statement on caste survey in the state Assembly on Tuesday. In the discussion that followed, Reddy said that Telangana Congress will reserve 42% seats for Backward Classes in the upcoming local body polls. Speaking in the Assembly, Reddy said there was a demand from historically marginalised Backward Classes that “they should be enumerated”. “For any policy to come into effect, there should be data to support it. The data from the caste survey will be used to bring socio-political changes in the state,” Reddy said. “This is a historical moment in Telangana.” Reddy said that the data can be used for giving benefits to the Backward Classes in politics, education and employment. The last caste census across India was conducted in 1931, he said. “75 years of Indian independence, no one had tried to enumerate the Backward Classes. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi promised during his Bharat Jodo Yatra that that caste census will be conducted in Telangana state. We have fulfilled that promise.” Backward Classes Welfare Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar said the survey would work “as a roadmap for the development of Backward Classes.” Meanwhile, the Opposition BRS and BJP demanded a “recount” of the Backward Classes (BC) stating the community's number has “reduced” in the Congress census. The two parties further asked the government to implement 42% political reservation for BCs in local body polls. Ever since the caste survey report came out, a key contention of



Telangana CM Revanth Reddy

the opposition in Telangana — BRS and BJP — has been that the Backward Class population is “undercounted”. The two parties have been claiming that the BC population, including Muslim BCs, should have been over 60% in the state. Telangana's BC rights activist R Krishnaiah raised the same objection to the survey. “The percentage of BCs alone, excluding Muslims, should have been over 50%,” Krishnaiah told *The Indian Express*. Krishnaiah and other BC activists have asked the Congress to reserve 42% of the seats for BCs in the local body polls. BRS leader Talasani Srinivas Yadav said that the BCs have been “undercounted if you go by the comparative figures of the census 2011”. “According to their survey, the population of BCs has reduced and the population of OCs (Other Castes) has increased, going by the 2011 Census,” Yadav said. BJP MLA Payal Sankar said, “The Congress government has wronged the BCs in the state by reducing the numbers of Hindu BCs.” BRS working president KT Rama Rao said as per the calculations made during the BRS government, the percentage of Backward Classes including Muslim Backward Classes was 61%. Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, who headed the Cabinet sub-committee on caste survey, condemned the opposition statements saying, “No BJP ruled state has enumerated the Backward Classes”. “There is no reduction in the numbers. We have done the exercise in a scientific way,” Reddy said.

Sub-categorisation of SCs adopted by House

NIKHILA HENRY
HYDERABAD, FEBRUARY 4

ALONG WITH tabling the caste survey report in the special Assembly Session on Tuesday, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy moved a proposal for sub-categorisation of Scheduled Castes, also suggesting a formula for the contentious move. The percentage of reservation within the SC quota for the 59 sub-castes will be based on the population of each, the CM said. The House adopted both the caste survey report and the sub-categorisation move, with the Opposition BRS as well as BJP supporting it. Calling himself “extremely proud” of the move, Reddy said the 59 sub-castes among SCs would be divided into three groups — Group I, which will get 1% reservation within the 15% quota for SCs; Group II, to be given 9%; and Group III that will have 5%. There will be no creamy layer exclusion within the SC quota, he said. The move by the Congress government though is set to attract opposition from the dominant SC Mala group, which has

been fighting legally against sub-categorisation. Given their dominance, the Malas generally corner the SC quota in educational institutions and government jobs, which could change with sub-categorisation. On the other side are the Madigas, who have been demanding quotas within SC reservation to ensure the benefits are spread evenly. In the absence of sub-categorisation, Manda Krishna Madiga had told *The Indian Express* in a recent interview, “Madigas were relegated to the margins.” On Tuesday, several Congress leaders, including Kadiyamm Srihari, demanded that the overall quota for SCs be increased to 18%, to increase the overall basket. The sub-categorisation move by the Reddy government could also queer the pitch for the Congress nationally as the party has chosen to remain mostly silent on the issue. In 2024, soon after the Supreme Court cleared sub-categorisation within SCs, the Congress had held consultations in states ruled by it on the issue. There was not much clarity barring that all were agreed that there be no creamy layer exclusion among SCs.

engine” government enabling a greater allocation of funds than under an AAP government? The AAP then may be denied money for its programmes, though by that logic no non-BJP government should rule in the states as long as the BJP is in power at the Centre. This, it goes without saying, raises serious questions about the federal principles undergirding our democratic setup. Or will this formulation create sympathy for Kejriwal? This may depend on where you live in Delhi — a jhuggi-jhopri slum or a gated colony. *Neerja Chowdhury, Contributing Editor, The Indian Express, has covered the last 11 Lok Sabha elections. She is the author of How Prime Ministers Decide*

PM to visit
Maha Kumbh,
take dip at
Sangam today



PM's visit
coincides
with Delhi
polls

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will visit Maha Kumbh and take a dip at the Sangam in Prayagraj on Wednesday, the PMO said on Tuesday.

In a statement, the PMO said, "Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will visit Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 in Prayagraj on 5th February. At around 11 am, he will take a holy dip at the Sangam and offer prayers to Maa Ganga."

"Mahakumbh 2025... is the world's largest spiritual and cultural gathering, attracting devotees from across the globe. The Maha Kumbh will continue until Mahashivratri on 26th February," it said.

"In line with his commitment to promote and preserve India's spiritual and cultural heritage, the PM has consistently taken proactive steps to enhance infrastructure and facilities at pilgrimage sites. Earlier, during his visit to Prayagraj on 13th December, 2024, Prime Minister inaugurated 167 development projects worth ₹5,500 crore, improving connectivity, amenities and services for the general public," it said.

The Prime Minister's Kumbh visit coincides with the polling day in Delhi.



Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and UP CM Yogi Adityanath at Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, Tuesday. Express

Maha Kumbh stampede a conspiracy,
culprits will face sternest action: Yogi

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 4

UTTAR PRADESH Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath claimed on Tuesday that the January 29 stampede during the Mauni Amawasya Amrit Snan at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj was a conspiracy and those behind it will face the strictest possible action once they are identified in investigation by the government-constituted inquiry commission and police.

The CM, who visited the Maha Kumbh along with Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, also termed the statements of Congress presi-

dent Mallikarjun Kharge and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav in Parliament "false and anti-Sanatan".

Speaking to reporters, CM Yogi said, "While the country and the world take pride in witnessing the grand celebration of the Sanatan Dharma, those who have got 'supari' to defame Sanatan are planting new stories of deceit about the Maha Kumbh..."

Referring to Kharge's claim about the death toll in the stampede, Adityanath said it was not only unfortunate and misleading but also "shameful and condemnable".

"As leader of the country's oldest party, Khargeji is expected to make responsible statements

in Parliament. The fact is he and Akhilesh Yadav are competing with each other to make the most anti-Sanatan statements," he said.

Dismissing the allegations that no data was provided on the Mauni Amawasya incident, the CM stated that both he and the administration publicly shared the figures. "It was a tragic and everyone is deeply saddened by it."

"Anti-Sanatan elements and Opposition parties were hoping for a disaster to happen. Despite the government's best efforts to maintain a 'zero-incident' event, the unfortunate incident occurred. Crores of devotees were present in Prayagraj that day. The administration acted quickly,

providing immediate medical attention," the CM said.

All the injured, he claimed, received proper treatment, with some recovering at the Prayagraj Medical College and Hospital while others returned home.

The CM dismissed claims by the Opposition parties that lakhs of devotees could not take a holy dip and that Amrit and Shahi Snan did not take place.

These allegations are misleading to defame Sanatan Dharma, he said, clarifying that no tradition was disrupted. Following the incident, akharas postponed their snan but he talked to them, and they participated in the snan in the traditional way, Adityanath said.

DELHI TO MEXICO IN 4 MONTHS

Surviving on mother's *panjiri*,
man's harrowing journey via
Darién Gap ends in deportation

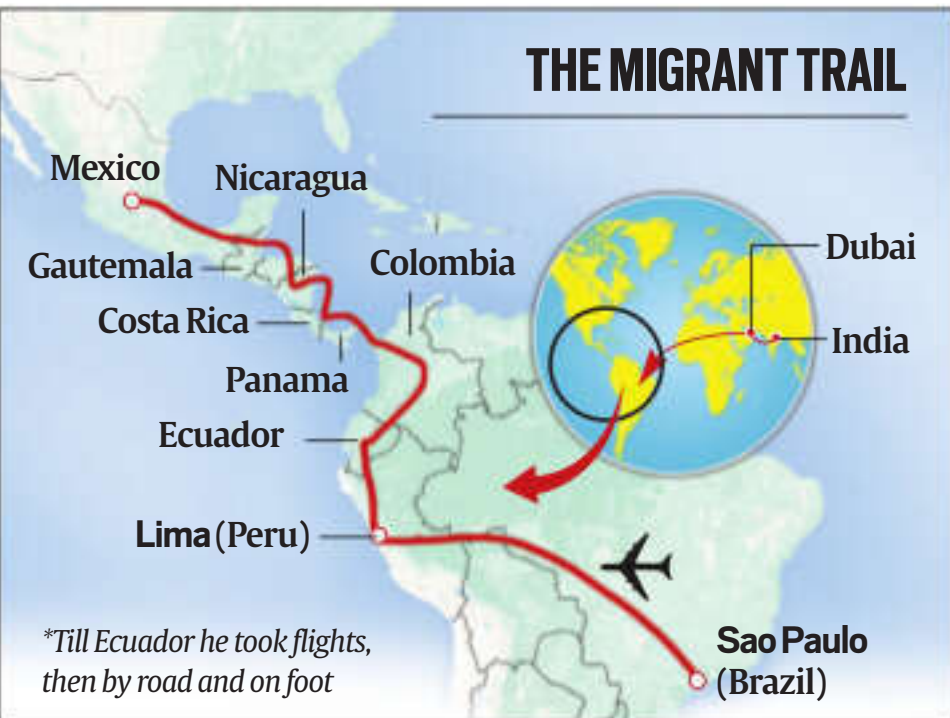
ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA
JALANDHAR, FEBRUARY 4

"IT'S DARK, the stretch is swampy and half eaten bodies are lying on the mud. Their shoes torn but the faces of 20 year olds still have the innocence left. With prayers on their lips and hissing of snakes hitting their eardrums, a group of 20 keeps walking on a 106-km stretch of Panama jungle. A few minutes away my feet gets stuck in the swamp and I wake up sweating..."

Harjinder Singh, 35, still gets nightmares of what had happened five years ago. Belonging to Jalandhar's Mundi Chohlian, he lived the foreign dream till June 26, 2019 when he boarded a flight to Dubai on the promise of a safe entry to the USA and a job. He paid ₹17 lakh (\$20,000) to a travel agent.

With three boxes of *panjiri* (sweet dish) made by his mother, packed in his bag Harjinder, then 30, set out for the new journey. Reality hit hard when a middle man asked him for \$2000 to take him through a donkey trail.

"The next day a new agent asked for more money for Mexico...we had no legal entry," he said. "We were then plonked on horses for crossing a mountain and a stream." The group later received a temporary document that allowed them to stay in the country for up to a month. "From Colombia, we reached Cali after an 8-hour bus ride...we went to-



wards the coastal town of Turbo before taking a boat into the heart of the Panama jungle, where we were joined by a group of 15 African immigrants," he said.

Crossing Darién Gap

Harjinder and the group spent over 10 days to cross the 105 km stretch of the Panama jungle. "We crossed at least 40 bodies, some half eaten and some skeletons... It's been five years but I still get nightmares of crossing that stretch. After days...we saw soldiers. It was relief and fear. They shoved us in a camp where I slept after days," he said.

Bus, trucks to Mexico

"At one camp, we were made to wait for 13 days until we were allowed to travel to...Costa Rica. After...we were allowed to board

a bus to Nicaragua...We moved from Nicaragua to Guatemala and to Tapachula in Mexico in trucks," he said.

Deportation

In Tapachula, the group stayed for 20 days and waited for their papers to get processed. "We were then taken to a camp in Veracruz... we were made to talk to US border officials through video conferencing... We thought we will go to the USA but we were...deported to India," he said.

Reality check

"For months I had locked myself in my room out of fear. With the passing years, I have gained back a little confidence...grow garlic, wheat and paddy in 14 acres, including 10 acres on lease. I earn around ₹9 lakh per annum but the loan is still going on," he said.

Cybercrimes see
sharp rise since 2021,
over 17 lakh cases
last year: Govt data

MAHENDER SINGH
MANRANL
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

A MASSIVE surge in cybercrime incidents was reported in India with fraudsters cheating people of ₹33,165 crore in the last four years, including ₹22,812 crore in 2024, with several Tier 2 and 3 cities identified as cybercrime hotspots, shows government data.

Data compiled by the National Cyber Reporting Platform (NCRP), under the Ministry of Home Affairs, shows fraudsters cheated people of ₹551 crore in 2021, ₹2,306 crore in 2022 and ₹7,496 crore in 2023. Data also shows that 1,37,254 complaints were received in 2021, 5,15,083 in 2022, 11,31,649 in 2023, and 17,10,505 complaints were received last year.

"Domestic hotspots have been identified as Deoghar in Jharkhand, Deeg, Alwar, Jaipur, and Jodhpur in Rajasthan, Nuh in Haryana, Mathura and Gautam Buddha Nagar in Uttar Pradesh, Kolkata in West Bengal, Surat in Gujarat, Nalanda and Nawada in Bihar, Bengaluru urban in Karnataka, and Kozhikode in Kerala," a source said.

Amid the rise in cybercrime cases, Union Home Minister Amit Shah is learnt to have asked the Home Ministry to develop an e-FIR system, in which a citizen can file their complaint via NCRP. As per an MHA source, a

meeting was held in North Block in December last week, which was chaired by Shah and attended by senior ministry officials. "Several issues, trends and measures related to cyber fraud were discussed... Shah is learnt to have asked (officials) to develop an e-FIR system, so that they can provide a hassle-free system to the cyber fraud victim, who lost ₹10 lakh or above in cyber fraud."

Multiple teams, including the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), are currently working on it and discussing it with state police. "In this system, they are trying to make a nationalised cyber-police station of e-FIR in the NCRP portal where apart from lodging a complaint, they can also file their e-FIR. Later, the e-FIR will be transferred to their concerned jurisdiction police station for probe. As of now, Delhi Police has an e-FIR system of theft and motor vehicle theft," the source said.

In the meeting, Shah was also informed about the working online 'suspect registry' and in almost three months since the launch, the Centre has declined six lakh fraudulent transactions and saved ₹1,800 crore. The registry contains data of 1.4 million cyber-criminals linked to financial fraud and other cybercrimes. It was launched by Shah on September 10, and can be accessed by states and Union Territories as well as Central investigation and intelligence agencies.

Day after killing of retired soldier,
J&K police detain over 500 people

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 4

A DAY after suspected militants killed a retired soldier and wounded his wife and niece in south Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir Police detained over 500 people from across the Kashmir Valley.

A large number of those detained were relatives of Kashmiri militants based in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

"There have been massive detentions across the Kashmir Valley and the number is well

above 500," a senior police officer told *The Indian Express*.

"I don't remember detentions on this scale in the recent past following a militant attack," the officer said.

The officer said the detentions were made to send a message to militants "operating from across the border that such attacks won't be tolerated", and that in the past, "sending such messages have had the desired results".

Unidentified gunmen on Monday opened fire at a retired soldier, Manzoor Ahmad Wagay, his wife and her niece in Behlbagh village of south Kashmir's

Kulgam. While Wagay (45), who was hit in the abdomen, was killed in the attack, the two women were hit in the leg and are undergoing treatment.

"They (militants) have crossed the red line this time by targeting the family members of the soldier," a police officer said.

While police have, over the last few years, targeted Pakistan-based Kashmiri militants by seizing their houses and properties in the Valley, this is for the first time that their family members and relatives are being detained simultaneously in such large numbers.

NPCL Noida Power Company Limited
Electric Sub Station, Knowledge Park-IV, Greater Noida-201310
(CIN: U31200UP1992PLC014506)

TENDER NOTICE Date: 05.02.2025

Sealed tender under two Bid System (Commercial & Technical) are invited for following job from all interested bidders

NIT No.	Tender Description	EMD ₹	Start & Due Date & Time of Submission
NPCL/FY24-25 /meters/024	Annual Rate Contract for the Supply of Energy Meters.	7.5 Lacs	05.02.2025 & 28.02.2025 (up to 15:00 hours)
NPCL/FY24-25 /COND/026	2 Year Rate Contract for Supply of Conductor ACSR Dog.	1.50 Lac	05.02.2025 & 28.02.2025 (up to 15:30 hours)

Cost of Individual Tender Document (Incl. GST) Rs. 1180/-
For other tender details and further amendment/corrigendum, please visit our website: www.noidapower.com -> Procurement -> Tenders

DGM (CMM)

भारत सरकार/ GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
डॉ राम मनोहर लोहिया अस्पताल, एंव
अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, नई दिल्ली
DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIA HOSPITAL.
ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, NEW DELHI-110001

NURSING SECTION
Email: Nursing.section@rmlh.nic.in Dated 14-12-2024
No. NS/36/2023-Nursing section-Dr.RMLH/2171

NOTICE
Ms. Chanchal Sharma, Nursing officer of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi is continuously on unauthorised absence since 20/05/2021. She did not join duty despite OMs issued to her on 02.08.2021, 18.09.2021 and 21.06.2024 and show cause notice on 05.09.2024. Through this advertisement she is once again informed that extraordinary leave cannot be sanctioned to her neither her post can be kept vacant in the interest of patient care and she is once again directed to join duty within 15 days from the advertisement date of this notice failing which disciplinary proceedings under CCS (CCA) rules 1965 will be initiated against her.

Sd/-
(Vijay Prakash Nodiya)
Dy Director (Admn)
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital
New Delhi-110001

भारत सरकार/ GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
डॉ राम मनोहर लोहिया अस्पताल, एंव
अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, नई दिल्ली
DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIA HOSPITAL.
ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, NEW DELHI-110001

NURSING SECTION
No. NS-11 1001/2022-Nursing Section-Dr. RMLH/2196 Dated 26-12-2024

NOTICE
Mrs. Kalsang Lhamo, Nursing officer of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi is continuously on unauthorized absence since 17.02.2022. She did not join duty despite three OMs issued to her on 22.04.2022, 14.07.2022, and 22.08.2022 and show cause notice on 17.02.2023. Through this advertisement she is once again informed that extraordinary leave cannot be sanctioned to her neither her post can be kept vacant in the interest of patient care and she is once again directed to join duty within 15 days from the advertisement date of this notice failing which disciplinary proceedings under CCS (CCA) rules 1965 will be initiated against her.

Sd/-
(Vijay Prakash Nodiya)
Dy Director (Admn)
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital
New Delhi-110001

Celebrate the
Power of Ink

Delhi Get inked
on 5 Feb

and
Return to the
New Delhi WORLD BOOK FAIR
on 6 Feb!

New Delhi World Book Fair will take a break today, 5 Feb. The Book Fair will resume on 6 Feb and continue until 9 Feb with extended operational hours 10 am to 9 pm.

New Delhi WORLD BOOK FAIR
1-4 Feb 6-9 Feb 2025

CNS INTERACTION WITH RETIRED NAVAL OFFICERS 'SAMMAN'-09 FEB 25

Dear Esteemed Retired Naval Officers and Ladies,
The Chief of the Naval Staff and President NWWA request the pleasure of your company along with spouse for interaction and lunch from 1120h onwards on Sunday, 09 Feb 2025 at NOM Varuna.

RSVP - desa@navy.gov.in Dress - Informal/ Open Collar
WhatsApp-7428464442 (Message Only)

Note. Officers are requested to confirm their attendance on E-mail/ WhatsApp, along with mode of conveyance (Self-Driven Vehicle or Service Bus & Pickup Point).

CBC 10702/11/0077/2425



The Indian EXPRESS
FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA
BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

RBI's NEXT MOVE

Central bank should allow the rupee to adjust, ease policy rates to support growth

IN RECENT DAYS, the rupee has come under increased pressure, but the Indian currency is no exception. US President Donald Trump's executive orders imposing additional tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China have roiled markets. On Monday, investor sentiment soured in most markets across the world and major currencies were strained. The Sensex ended the day down 0.4 per cent while the rupee fell to an all-time low of 87.29 against the dollar during the day, closing at 87.19. On Tuesday, some of the lost ground was regained. The Sensex rose 1.8 per cent, while the rupee ended the day around 87.07. Investors are, however, bracing themselves for a period of uncertainty. It is difficult to see how this trade war will play out. Trump has now decided to delay the imposition of tariffs on both Mexico and Canada for one month after speaking with the leaders of the two countries and extracting concessions. However, on Tuesday, China announced tariffs on select imports from the US beginning February 10. Trump has now indicated that the EU could be the next target. During this period of unpredictability, preference for a safe haven, the dollar, will only increase. Uncertainty over Trump's policies may also force the US Federal Reserve to keep rates unchanged in the near term. This will only strengthen the dollar. On Monday, the dollar index — which measures the value of the greenback against euro, yen, pound, Swiss franc, Swedish krona and the Canadian dollar — rose to 109.84, up 1.24 per cent, even as on Tuesday, it was hovering around 108.5. In January, foreign investors withdrew more than \$9 billion from Indian markets. In fact, February 3 was the 23rd consecutive day of FII outflows — the longest stretch at least in the past decade, as per a report by Axis Capital. Last year, the RBI had intervened heavily in currency markets to stem the rupee's decline. Between September 27 and December 6, foreign exchange reserves fell by around \$50 billion. While part of the decline could be on account of revaluation losses, this fall provides some indication of the extent of the central bank's intervention. However, in recent weeks, the rupee has been allowed to adjust. With the pressure on the currency unlikely to abate, the RBI should allow the rupee to adjust, and intervene only to smoothen out excess volatility. There are concerns that a sharp depreciation of the currency will have an impact on inflation — as per some estimates, a 5 per cent depreciation could push up headline inflation by 35 basis points over some quarters. The central bank will have to be careful as it navigates an increasingly uncertain global and domestic environment. Considering the slowdown in the economic growth momentum, and with the government delivering on fiscal consolidation — budgeting to bring down its fiscal deficit from 4.8 per cent of GDP in 2024-25 to 4.4 per cent in 2025-26 — the RBI must move to ease policy rates.

SEIZE THE LULL

Centre must expedite efforts to bring back social harmony, Manipur cannot afford to slide back into conflict

IT HAS BEEN 21 months since ethnic violence erupted in Manipur, straining its social fabric. In the past few weeks, an uneasy calm has been maintained in the northeastern state, where faultlines have deepened between the Meiteis and the Kukis. The most severe episode of violence in recent months occurred in November 2024, when 22 people were killed over 11 days, the majority in Jiribam district — reassuringly, no casualties have been reported since then. The last major face-off was a shootout in the Kadangband area of Imphal West district, just hours after Chief Minister N Biren Singh's New Year eve apology for the ongoing crisis. A day earlier, on December 31, a group of protesting Kuki women clashed with the CRPF, followed by a mob attack on the SP's office in Kangpokpi district. Since then, Manipur has seen a lull in ethnic violence. Meanwhile, an escalation of conflict in Myanmar's Sagaing region, not far from Manipur's Kamjong district, has sparked concerns about a potential spillover. Manipur shares a 400-km-long border with Myanmar to its south and east. The military and community ties between insurgents in both regions sharpen these fears. Amid airstrikes by the Burmese military and retaliation from rebel forces, more than 200 refugees from Myanmar have reportedly taken shelter near the Moreh border in Manipur's Tengnoupal district since January 27. There have also been reports of deaths of Meiteis and Kukis fighting in Myanmar, with the former groups fighting alongside the junta, the latter with the rebels. As security forces combat the border threat, both the central and state governments should seize the lull as an opportunity to initiate meaningful reconciliation efforts. Peace is not merely the absence of war; Manipur remains a deeply divided state. The valley has been emptied of its last Kuki residents, just as the Kuki-dominated hills have seen the exodus of the Meiteis. The trust deficit between the two communities remains unaddressed, making the prospect of either group returning to their homes seem distant. Efforts towards normalcy must begin at the highest levels of leadership. The absence of any mention of Manipur in the President's Address in the Lok Sabha this week signals a troubling lack of urgency. The Prime Minister is yet to visit Manipur since the ethnic conflict started on May 3, 2023. The Supreme Court is awaiting a forensic analysis of the audio tapes regarding Chief Minister Biren Singh's alleged role in exacerbating the violence. None of this bodes well for trust-building. The Centre must expedite its efforts to bring back social harmony, Manipur cannot be allowed to slide back into the vicious circle of conflict.

PLAYING LIKE HER

India's U19 World Cup triumph may tell a larger story — women's cricket is seeing aspiration meet a nurturing system

INDIA'S U19 WORLD Cup cricket triumph brings a dash of optimism to women's cricket. By drubbing South Africa in the finals, the Indian team displayed an infectious ambition, dominating the tournament. It augurs well for the future of women's cricket in India. Though Australia, England and New Zealand barely take juniors cricket seriously, the Indian U19 triumph will ignite hopes of a seniors trophy. It can safely be said that India has unearthed a superstar talent in Gongadi Trisha, an all-rounder and prolific batter from the World Cup. Trisha set the batting charts on fire, scoring the only century of the tournament and notching consistent scores, four of the highest innings from the Top 15. But cricket triumphs are always team efforts and India can be said to have located other stars like batter and compulsive boundary-hitter Kamalini, and bowlers Vaishnavi Sharma and Aayushi Shukla. Trisha, though, remains the story of the tournament. The youngster from Hyderabad was given a plastic bat at age two by her father and raised to become a formidable cricketer, skilling her to hit sixes, score mountains of runs and take crucial wickets. Women's cricket in India has earned its rightful privileges — equal match fee, a cash-rich franchise league, and a broad-based, even if rudimentary, domestic set-up, where new names are cropping up who could become India's future post Harmanpreet Kaur and Smriti Mandhana, who have carried the burden for the last few years after Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami. The spot belonging to Shafali Verma, part of a project of regeneration of women's cricket, has many more contenders now like Pratika Rawal, and Trisha will begin pushing for the opening position soon. Women's cricket is seeing aspiration meet a nurturing system. With franchise facilities and local academies mushrooming for girls, the future can only be bright. Beating Australia to a seniors crown remains the final frontier for Indian women. Trisha & Co showed that that too can be done.

Trump is not transactional



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

His objective, for himself and America, is to show who the boss is. We ignore this at our peril

DONALD TRUMP IS often described as transactional. He is a deal maker. The fiery bluster is really exercising the art of leverage. This combination makes him effective. The bluster also satiates his core constituency. Learn to make deals with him, play the leverage game, and you can do business with him. Just see the most recent episode. No sooner had Trump announced tariffs on Mexico and Canada, they struck a provisional deal: Leverage and deal-making in action. But to think of Trump as "transactional" is a serious mistake. Instead, this is a world view made of elements that are the contrary of transactional, an uncompromising commitment to American supremacy we ignore at our peril. Trump's personal political style is one that demands domination and submission. It is a governing philosophy that demands total loyalty. It is, as Russell Muirhead and Nancy Rosenblum recently pointed out in an article in *Foreign Affairs*, unmaking institutions and un-governing in the name of loyalty. This does not mean that he cannot achieve a few important things. But the essence of this world remains the exercise of personal power, and governing through its logic. Trump's ambition for America is similar. He is touted as an anti-imperialist president, not interested in starting the wars that liberal internationalism dragged America into. He is anti-globalisation. He wants to return to a world of relatively higher tariffs and bring manufacturing to America. He has none of the universalist pretensions of liberals, using human rights as a pretext, or thinking that a single neo-liberal order of free exchange and interdependence is desirable. He also realises the limits of American power. This might make for a different world with more room for manoeuvre: More uncertain but also transactional. But this superficially appealing narrative underestimates the supremacism behind Trump's world view. Trump's diagnosis of why America got into wars or let Russia-Ukraine-type wars happen is because America did not act strongly enough. Liberal internationalism was the worst possible combination of expansive aims with power badly used. The premise of the "reluctance to war" ideology is overwhelming strength. But this is premised on preserving unchallenged American supremacy. No one dare be disloyal or not submissive to it. The precondition for securing peace is the acknowledgement of unchallenged American power. American power may aspire to be non-imperial. But it still has to be the big boss. Liberal internationalism was imperial power without America exercising its full power to be big boss. Now it will be big boss without the imperial pretension. But this does not necessarily make for a more stable world. For one thing, it induces everyone else to amass power as well, creating a potentially risky cycle of escalation. But being boss, making supremacy manifest, like being imperial, also require demonstrations of power. The power will have to be made visible, so this is not necessarily an eschewing of war. America just ordered airstrikes in Somalia. The real test will be Gaza, where the question is what follows the temporary ceasefire. America will remain aligned with Benjamin Netanyahu and Israel, perhaps even going as far as endorsing the cleansing of Gaza. The logic of supremacy will be as confrontational, perhaps even more, than previous imperial logic. The second presumption is that what is loosely called the neo-liberal order constrained the rest of the world, particularly in its ideological propensity to impose relatively uniform rules. It curtailed independent space for different models of development. Activists railed against the WTO. Would not a more autarkic world create more opportunities for each country to chart its own industrial policy? But here again you see the duality of Trump: He wants onshoring for America, but he also wants to open the world for American products. The claim is that America has been taken advantage of; neoliberalism, like liberalism, was an example of America not exercising leverage. Now America will demand the strictest reciprocity. It is a quest to open up the world, not through negotiated rules, but individual bilateral bargains. The advantage of such bargains is that in that negotiating context, America has more leverage. There are no possible coalitions arrayed against it. So, if you think the WTO was an exercise in American hegemony, bilateral negotiations will be harder for countries like India. Trump's industrial policy is preventing India from having one, by preemptively asking for lower tariffs, promising to buy defence products from the US and so forth. Trump's tariffs are not in the aid of a more di-

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AMEETA MULLA WATTAL

THE OVERARCHING THEME at the recently concluded World Economic Forum in Davos was "Collaboration for the Intelligent Age". What does this mean in the context of educating children? The idea of humanity, nature, and AI in harmony at a platform like Davos can create transformative opportunities when we apply them to schools. The challenges that confront societies today are existential. Are the learning systems in schools nurturing students to find their highest potential, which will help resolve these challenges? Schools need to embrace equity, ecosystemic understanding, and AI awareness and enablement. This goes beyond future readiness and even literacy. Eckhart Tolle has written of the flowering of human consciousness through a shift in education, where we should combine intelligence and consciousness. Intelligence is the ability that helps us apply knowledge, solve problems, and adapt to new situations. It also enhances reasoning, decision-making, and memory; in fact, it is a blend of artificial and biological (human) intelligence systems. Consciousness brings in metacognition, introspection, imagination, emotions, and sensory perceptions, which are tied to humans. Schools have to ensure that human consciousness becomes integral to the connections between intelligence and learning. Only then will we be able to develop a shared un-

LEARNING WITH AI

Schools must find ways to use it to assist, not replace, natural learning

Educators have anticipated the importance of AI for over a decade, but the impact in schools was felt only with the launch of ChatGPT. Students showed great enthusiasm for the opportunities the tool offered. The response of educators to this has been slow and hesitant because the technology carries immense implications in the space of learning.

derstanding of citizenship, interdependence, and mutual interest. This will build cohesive societies, bring in social and economic institutions, and integrate universal values and processes, which can only be learnt in a school. AI has forced itself into the education agenda as never before, and the responses are still emergent and unclear. What is clear is that every child, irrespective of place or status, must have access to adaptive learning and AI. Educators have anticipated the importance of AI for over a decade, but the actual impact in schools was felt only with the launch of ChatGPT. Students showed great enthusiasm for the opportunities the tool offered — using it to support homework, research papers, projects, case studies, and other academic tasks. They were able to make submissions without any effort or understanding. The response of educators has been slow and hesitant because the technology carries immense implications in the space of learning. Teachers are particularly nervous about AI hallucinations. It is clear from UNESCO's reviews that very little work has been done to reassess the competencies needed by teachers to understand and use AI for teaching and learning, personalising data for their professional growth, determining how students are learning, and identifying content that excites or disengages them. We need to create learning ecosystems by fostering collaborative relationships with

the surrounding community, especially parents and other government agencies. For this we must unlock the learning assets of communities and engage with stakeholders beyond the education sector. In order to prepare for a brittle, anxious, nonlinear, and incomprehensible (BANI) future — as formulated by anthropologist and futurist Jamais Cascio — schools will have to do scenario planning without making a commitment to any particular prediction. We must imagine several futures simultaneously. All will be plausible. Let us equip ourselves to make decisions that will be robust no matter what future comes to pass. The real hope for enduring change in schools lies with students. They are connected to the future in ways that no adult is, for in the words of Khalil Gibran, "Their thoughts dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams." As we move forward as educators, let us continue to refine our vision and get a clearer awareness of a constantly changing reality. We have to evolve institutions and practices that assist, not replace, the natural learning process through collaborative intelligence.

The writer is chairperson and executive director, Education, Innovations, and Training, DLF Foundation Schools and scholarship programmes

FEBRUARY 5, 1985, FORTY YEARS AGO

CM SHAH'S CONDITIONS

J&KCM GM Shah, offered to reunite with the Farooq faction of the National Conference and patch up with his brother-in-law if the latter accepted five conditions including "total and permanent friendship with the Congress-I". The other conditions are: No confrontation with the Centre, nobody from the Sheikh family to be the CM or minister in the state cabinet; ditto for the Shah family; and retention of the present ministers.

REAGAN'S BUDGET

US PRESIDENT RONALD Reagan asked

Congress to exhibit political courage and adopt a low-growth \$973.7 billion budget that calls for big domestic cuts and increased military spending. The budget proposes a \$30 billion increase in defence spending — guaranteed to provoke congressional criticism — including more than doubling spending on Reagan's controversial "star wars" programme and hikes in nuclear weapons spending.

MHATRE KILLERS

TWO KASHMIRI SEPARATISTS were convicted of kidnapping and killing Ravindra Mhatre, an Indian diplomat in Britain, in February 1984. Abdul Raja, 28, and Mohammed Riaz, 23, were

found guilty at Birmingham Crown court of the unlawful imprisonment and murder of Mhatre, 47, an assistant commissioner at the Indian consulate in Birmingham.

COOMAR, THE SPY

COOMAR NARAIN, THE alleged kingpin of the espionage ring busted by intelligence agencies last month, named France, Poland and the German Democratic Republic as the countries to which he had been passing top secrets. Narain also confessed to the metropolitan magistrate in a 15-page statement that he had been in the business for the past 25 years.



A nuclear recharge

Budget decision to amend the laws governing atomic energy was overdue. It is an opportunity to open up the sector and exploit its potential



IN HER BUDGET speech on Saturday, Finance Minister (FM) Nirmala Sitharaman announced the decision to amend the two atomic Acts that have paralysed the prospects of nuclear power in India. The long-overdue decision has not come a day too soon, as the world moves towards reviving the nuclear energy industry.

The story of India's atomic slide is a tragic one. It is impossible to believe that India was the second Asian nation to build a nuclear power plant in 1969 at Tarapur — just after Japan and long before China. It also built up an impressive nuclear research and development programme in the 1950s and 1960s with significant assistance from its Western partners. At the peak of nuclear optimism in 1970, India hoped to generate 10,000 MW of atomic power by 2000. Twenty-five years after that deadline, India's nuclear power sector is limping along at about 8,200 MW. China's installed nuclear capacity today is about 58,000 MW. South Korea has 32,000 MW. China and South Korea are now major exporters of nuclear reactors. The UAE, which launched its nuclear power programme less than a decade ago, has 5,200 GW of nuclear capacity, centred around South Korean reactors.

Through the last decade, Delhi has repeatedly revised the targets for nuclear capacity but could not realise them. The FM has now set a new target of 1,00,000 MW by 2047. She was realistic enough to recognise that this is not possible without rewriting the two atomic Acts that provide the legal framework for nuclear energy in India: The Atomic Energy Act (1962) and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA) of 2010.

If early policy moves in the late 1940s and 1950s laid the foundation for the development of nuclear energy in India, unfortunate developments — external and internal — as well as major political bumbles have helped create the current nuclear impasse.

The private funding from the Tatas, at the request of Homi Bhabha, set the stage for nuclear research in the early 1940s even before the atomic age dawned formally with the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The policy of creating internal capacities through foreign collaboration gave India a head start in atomic energy development in the 1950s. From the turn of the 1970s, India's atomic problems began to multiply.

One part of the problem was the change in the global order on nuclear energy cooperation when the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty came into force in 1970. The NPT froze the number of nuclear-weapon states at five (those who had already tested atomic weapons before 1967) and began to impose restrictions on the transfer of nuclear technologies to the rest of the world. If India's nuclear adventure flourished in the era of atomic internationalism, it began to wilt under external pressures from the 1970s. If India had done a nuclear test before January 1967, it would have been on the right side of



CR Sasikumar

the nuclear divide. But the inability or unwillingness to become a nuclear-weapon power put it on the wrong side. (There are reports that US President John F Kennedy had offered to help India conduct a nuclear weapon test in 1963, but Nehru had turned him down.)

When India did conduct a nuclear test in 1974, it made matters worse for itself. Delhi's too-clever-by-half claim that its nuclear test was for peaceful purposes did not impress its hostile neighbours — Pakistan and China. The latter intensified its atomic collaboration with the former. The result: Pakistan's nuclear arsenal built with Chinese cooperation. The rest of the world tightened nuclear sanctions against India, which was seen as a major threat for nuclear proliferation.

India's ideological and policy confusions put it in the worst of all worlds — it was neither a "nuclear" fish nor a "non-nuclear" fowl. It took another quarter of a century for India to break out of this nowhere land.

India finally conducted five nuclear tests in May 1998 and declared itself a nuclear-weapon power. Although they brought a new set of sanctions, the tests opened the door for a reconciliation with the US and the global nuclear order. After initial anger, Washington began to explore the prospects for nuclear accommodation with Delhi. During 2005-08, the George W Bush administration helped craft a framework in which India could keep its nuclear weapons and resume civilian nuclear cooperation, which it had been denied since 1970. The US had to do some heavy lifting to change the domestic non-proliferation law and international norms to facilitate India's release from the nuclear jailhouse. But before India could celebrate, its political class, in a spectacular act of collective self-harm, shot itself in the foot by passing the CLNDA in 2010. If the civil nuclear initiative created conditions for rapid renewal of nuclear power generation, the liability act made it impossible for domestic private investment and foreign collaborations.

The global norms mandate that all liability in the event of an accident should be channelled to the plant operator to ensure swift compensation to the victims. The CLNDA, in contrast, enshrined the operator's right to legal recourse against component and equipment suppliers in the event of an accident. The Modi government, which came to power in 2014, sought to provide some solution to finesse the problem, but it has not attracted foreign and domestic capital to participate in India's nuclear power programme. Over the last decade, it has become increasingly clear that without amendments to the CLNDA, there is little prospect for an expanded contribution of nuclear power to India's energy needs and a smooth green transition.

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Beyond the civil liability act, there is a deeper structural problem ailing the Indian atomic energy programme. It is the fact that atomic energy activity is a government monopoly under the Atomic Energy Act of 1962. Total government control of atomic energy development might have made sense in 1962, but it does not anymore. The monopoly makes it impossible to generate the necessary capital for a massive expansion of nuclear power generation in India. Today, the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) relies entirely on government funding.

It also prevents the creation of a nuclear ecosystem that can drive innovation, create economies of scale and develop networks of global collaboration to accelerate atomic power generation in India. Over the last seven decades, private- and public-sector companies like Tata, Godrej, L&T, Walchandnagar and BHEL have contributed by supplying critical equipment for atomic power plants. Today, they are in a position to take charge of building power plants on their own while relying on the DAE to provide some of the technologies.

The lessons from the recent reform of the space sector are instructive. Even a limited liberalisation of the regulations has seen a massive outburst of private-sector activity in the space domain. Something similar could take place in the atomic energy sector if private players are allowed to enter it.

Amendments to the Atomic Energy Act should create a broad new template for India's technological evolution. Government agencies like the DAE, ISRO and DRDO should focus on research and cede the production of equipment and related industrial activity to the private sector. These science-and-technology monopolies have outlived their utility and have become a drag on the prospects for India's technological transformation.

The writer is a contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Trump would be better off trying to extract symbolic concessions from the other countries, declaring victory and ending the tariffs before they really hurt." —THE WASHINGTON POST

Art fair, outside the frame

The art biennales of the world are also famous for the tangibles they leave behind. India must catch up



RAJEEV SETHI

AFTER FIVE DECADES of struggle serving creative and cultural industries, I find that the best patrons for the arts in the subcontinent are the artists themselves. Patronage requires becoming one with a creative spirit. Culture can't be owned. Museums are hothouses collecting trophies. Corporates celebrating heritage create branded properties — not people or communities. The commerce of art mostly needs the artist as a part of its sales talk. The government subsidises culture to exercise control without ensuring quality. Very few appreciate that the art survives as long as the artist does. Otherwise, artworks are simply commodities and the rarer they become — the better for those who treat them like high-priced merchandise — much in demand, less in supply.

That is why living craft traditions that are prolific have a more difficult future. Survival means more than financial exigency. If handicraft production becomes easily replicable and skills are conserved for mere nostalgia, new-age machines will soon replace all that the hands can make. To remain authentic, each brush stroke, each chisel, each stitch, each pattern, each form has to reflect that fine moment when the "eye-hand" and spirit conjoin to celebrate variation.

Economic indices may position India as poor, but it's very rich in its heritage of legacy enterprises represented by the informal sector. Our education remains indifferent to skills that have made India famous but have left its protagonists very poor. Few applaud traditional knowledge systems in this age of hyper-AL. Yet, skills manifested by our fine artists cannot be the only future of work. India Art Fairs now include designs and crafts to make art sexier. But a seamless celebration of transdisciplinary interface is the key to India's new creative edge.

India must also recognise its pivotal position concerning peace in the beleaguered neighbourhood of South Asia. How about a South Asian art fair? What art can do, politics can't. Bade Ghulam Ali Khan often used to say that one musician in each family would be the end of war and violence. Likewise, the meditative quality of hand-spinning remains more critical than Khadi's commercial logistics. Our tragedy is that in the name of modernity and economic viability, we have chosen to marginalise the indigenous and belittle the tenacity of the self-organised as unorganised. As "home-

made" becomes more impractical and "handmade" more expensive, they cannot become a panacea for unemployment.

Instead, for slow growth to nurture more livelihoods, we would need a huge investment in fostering a learning environment. Art education is a big, growing business — like healing arts — that requires a complete commitment to becoming self-sustaining and answerable to some standards. Recognition of artistic heirlooms, separating them from the industry of "fakes", will also require rigorous and inclusive schooling at all levels of pedagogy. Art fairs may offer only a glamorous tip of what is visible but can go a long way to break a jaded perception of what is unique to South Asia. The business of art requires its own evolving ecosystem — but not everything in it leaves me comfortable right now.

Art galleries are essential mediators and must empower themselves to carve a niche. They will jostle style and taste to dictate the needs of an emerging market. However, their primary task is to find and support the creative urge of unknown artists amplifying our creative vocabularies. As important stakeholders, they must reposition artworks that will lead to sensitising the young new patrons. Extra care must be taken not to sideline the empowerment of the protagonist. While the top doesn't erode easily, it's the base of the pyramid that requires rigorous enhancement. This means taking art out of strongrooms and repositioning and commissioning them for the public domain.

Content must not be compromised with what sells to match rich interiors. One goes to the art fair to see how artists and their galleries have catalysed new issues, skills and materials with dynamic scenography, redefining public engagement. Social media dominates the experience of Rasa. Culture today is consumed — no doubt collectively — through a palm device. What is made palatable becomes the trend, and the biggest truth can become the biggest lie. An art fair does not measure either the width or the depth of the talent struggling to be noticed.

Despite the algorithms of reels and their autonomous, unbribed innovation, the grassroots with phones in hand are thirstier and more powerful than the thousands that throng a few hangers with hundred booths inside and state-of-the-art Audis parked outside. The art biennales of the world are also famous for the tangibles they leave behind once the manifestation is over. Be it urban renewal, the revival of languishing assets or the conservation of derelict neighbourhoods and monuments, the publicity and goodwill art fairs carry can also end up being more than just putting up a bazaar of the few, by the fewer and for the fewest.

The writer is the founder-trustee and chairman of Asian Heritage Foundation

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EGG POLITICS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Not without egg' (IE, February 4). The Maharashtra government's decision to withdraw eggs from schools' midday meal menu is without rhyme or reason. NFHS-V revealed large-scale undernutrition, particularly among children from marginalised groups. The positive impact of eggs as a source of protein to counter nutritional deficiencies is scientifically documented. Withdrawing this crucial intervention will adversely impact children's health in many dimensions. The excuse that there is a lack of funds is untenable when the government is spending so much on "freebies" for political dividends. Those exerting pressure based on caste-linked dietary habits mustn't be placated at the cost of the nation's future.

L R Murmu, New Delhi

PROTECTED SPEECH

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Un-American' (IE, February 4). Trump's executive order paved the way for the deportation of foreign students in the name of combating antisemitism on campus. The legal questions are complicated. But the ethical question is clear: Does the US want deportation to be a consequence for expressing political views disfavoured by the White House? Trump's order violates the First Amendment to the US Constitution, which protects free speech and the right to assembly. Deporting non-citizens on the basis of their political speech would be unconstitutional. If Trump were serious about combating antisemitism, he would distance himself from groups like the far-right Proud Boys.

SS Paul, Nadi

SKewed SYSTEM

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'A shadow as legacy' (IE, February 4). The Election Commission's credibility as an independent and unbiased institution can only be guaranteed if election commissioners are appointed in a free and fair manner. By having two members from the government and one from the Opposition, the system remains heavily skewed in favour of the ruling dispensation, allowing it to impose its choices. Such election commissioners will fail to inspire confidence in the electorate. Thus, the panel must consist of the PM, the Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Justice of India, ending the doubts and suspicions of both the treasury and opposition benches.

Gurnoor Grewal, Chandigarh.

POLICY SILOS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Stopping short of the farm' (IE, February 3). The budget heavily tilts towards a numbers game, increasing allocations for various agriculture-related sectors. However, it fails to consider them in real terms rather than nominal valuations, ignoring Y-o-Y inflation. Agriculture has huge potential in terms of employment, manufacturing, exports and the overall economy. However, since independence, governments have failed to take a holistic approach, and instead addressed different areas — production, pricing, processing, supply chain management — in silos. The Union and state governments must address the pending issues of pricing and credit availability so as to boost rural consumption and ensure food security and farmers' welfare.

Sagar Borade, Jagdalpur



ABHINAV CHANDRACHUD

Ours to keep

Why India's Constitution thrives after 75 years of scrutiny

ON NOVEMBER 17, 1949, the draft Constitution was taken up for its third and final reading in the Constituent Assembly of India. Over the next few days, members of the Assembly harshly criticised the document. Three arguments were particularly striking: That the new Constitution was far too long, that it contained nothing original and that it was not Indian enough. Seth Govind Das, a Congressman who had been imprisoned during the freedom movement and who would serve as an MP for nearly five decades (between 1923 and 1970), highlighted how some felt that the Constitution contained "too many articles as also many details which could well have been left out". Perhaps the most trenchant criticism came from K Hanumanthaiya, a lawyer who later became chief minister of Mysore state and Union minister of law and railways. Hanumanthaiya said that many members of the drafting committee had never been a part of the freedom movement, and their draft Constitution lacked a certain Indianness. "It is something like this," he said, "we wanted the music of veena or sitar, but here we have the music of an English band".

Many of these criticisms were not entirely unjustified. With 395 articles and eight schedules, the original Constitution was perhaps the longest in the world. By November 1949, it had been debated over 165 days and 7,635 amendments had been suggested to it. In places, it contained seemingly banal details. Large chunks of the Constitution heavily bor-

rowed from the Government of India Act, 1935, the last constitution of colonial India. Parts of the Constitution had also been inspired by constitutions across the globe. In 1946, the constitutional adviser to the Constituent Assembly, B N Rau, prepared a 115-page dossier containing extracts from the constitutions of Lithuania, Hungary, Peru, Syria, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Canada and soon. It proved to be quite useful. The words "equal protection of the laws" in Article 14 were copied from the 14th amendment to the US constitution. In Article 19(2), the framers of India's Constitution decided to adopt the Irish example of setting out the exceptions to the freedom of speech and expression in the text of the Constitution itself. The phrase "procedure established by law" in Article 21 was borrowed from Article 31 of the Japanese constitution.

Perhaps the best answer to these criticisms came from two speeches delivered by BR Ambedkar, chairman of the drafting committee, in the Constituent Assembly. In the first, in November 1948, Ambedkar addressed the argument that the Constitution was unoriginal. "I make no apologies", he said, because "[t]here is nothing to be ashamed of in borrowing. It involves no plagiarism. Nobody holds any patent rights in the fundamental ideas of a constitution." India's culture has never been shy of borrowed wisdom either. *Roses in December* (1973), the autobiography of Chief Justice M C Chagla of the

Bombay High Court, begins with a quotation from the Rig Veda, "Let noble thoughts come to us from every side".

Ambedkar agreed that the Constitution contained far too many administrative details, but felt that it had been necessitated by the fact that India lacked a culture of constitutionalism, which he called "constitutional morality". Ambedkar, who had taken a course called "History 121" at Columbia University in the US in 1914-15, quoted a 19th-century British historian called George Grote. In his 12-volume history of Greece, which he had prepared without ever visiting that country, Grote wrote that "constitutional morality" was "the indispensable condition of government at once free and peaceable". Ambedkar explained that it was only once India had internalised a culture of constitutionalism that banal details could be left out of the Constitution — at the time, however, constitutional morality in India was "not a natural sentiment", it had to be "cultivated", because democracy was "only a top-dressing on an Indian soil, which is essentially undemocratic".

Though the Constitution borrowed a phrase here and a word there, it was certainly not an unthinking reproduction. In Article 21, for example, the framers avoided the American phrase "due process of law" because they did not want to give courts the power to strike down social welfare legislation like the US Supreme Court had done during the Great Depression. The exceptions to free speech in

Article 19(2), though modelled on the Irish constitution, were drawn from India's unique history and circumstances. For instance, Syama Prasad Mookerjee's demands for the forcible reunification of India and Pakistan gave rise to the words "friendly relations with foreign states" in the Constitution — an exception to free speech. The provisions in India's Constitution for quota-based reservations in legislative bodies, government jobs and educational institutions are also uniquely Indian.

But it was perhaps in his next speech, on November 25, 1949, that Ambedkar made the most important point. "[H]owever good a Constitution may be," he said, "it is sure to turn out bad because those who are called to work it, happen to be a bad lot". Equally, he added, "[h]owever bad a Constitution may be, it may turn out to be good if those who are called to work it, happen to be a good lot." This speech is reminiscent of Benjamin Franklin's famous words, uttered on the last day of the Philadelphia convention at which the US constitution was drafted. On September 17, 1787, a woman by the name of Elizabeth Willing Powel asked Franklin, "Well, doctor, what have we got — a republic or a monarchy?" Franklin replied, "A republic — if you can keep it." The draftsmen of our Constituent Assembly gave us the Constitution. It is for us to keep it.

The writer is an advocate at the Bombay High Court

As Assam faces SC heat, why deporting 63 ‘foreigners’ is easier said than done

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, FEBRUARY 4

AS THE Supreme Court questions the status of individuals deemed foreigners and currently placed in a detention camp in Assam, state officials, lawyers working on citizenship cases, and experts in the field told *The Indian Express* that deporting such persons is easier said than done.

The hearing in the apex court on Tuesday focused on the status of 63 of the 270 inmates of the Matia “transit camp” — the designated detention camp for “illegal foreigners” in Assam. In December, the court had granted the state government time to file an affidavit explaining the reasons for detaining the 270 individuals there and the steps taken for their deportation.

On Tuesday, the court rapped the state for not initiating the process of deporting 63 individuals who have been declared foreigners by Foreigners Tribunals on the ground that their ad-

resses are unknown.

Who is at the camp?

A break-up of individuals at the camp accessed by The Indian Express shows two categories of “foreigners” among the 270 inmates. There are 103 Rohingya people, 32 Chin people and an individual from Senegal who had been referred to sessions courts where they were sentenced and convicted for violations of the Foreigners Act, the Citizenship Act and the Passports Act. These individuals are citizens of other countries, and after completing their sentences in prisons, they have been placed in the “transit camp” while awaiting deportation.

The rest of the 133 inmates have been declared “foreigners” by Foreigners Tribunals in Assam — quasi-judicial bodies that determine whether or not a person presented before them is an Indian citizen. The tribunals receive two kinds of cases — those referred to them by the border police when they suspect someone of being a foreigner and those

related to people listed as “doubtful” voters in electoral rolls.

According to a senior Assam government official, 70 of these 133 declared foreigners have “admitted to being Bangladeshi nationals” and have shared addresses in Bangladesh. Another individual has been released on bail. However, the 63 people who the Supreme Court referred to have not shared an address.

The challenges

“The process of deportation is a diplomatic issue and a central government matter. The role of the state government is limited to referring matter to the Ministry of External Affairs,” said an official.

“In all these cases, we have to fill a nationality verification status report and send it to the MEA, which sends it to the embassy or high commission of the other country. Once the embassy tells us that the individual is indeed a national of that country and the address is correct, we hand them

to the BSF, which takes it up with the paramilitary force of the other country... In all other cases, we have sent the reports to the MEA, but these 63 people have not divulged an address in Bangladesh, where we believe they are from,” said the official.

Following the SC’s reprimand, the state government is now looking to refer the list of these individuals to the MEA this week by simply filling in “Bangladesh” as the address, said the official.

Taking note of the ambiguity of the situation, the Supreme Court had on Tuesday directed the Union government to inform how it plans to deal with cases wherein the individuals are neither Indian nationals nor is their citizenship status known.

A lawyer working on citizenship cases in Assam pointed to the Foreigners Tribunal process and said, “The only thing a tribunal declares is that the individual is not an Indian. But there is no confir-

mation from any statutory body or the person themselves that they are from Bangladesh. They do not have confirmed addresses or know where they are from. Which raises the question of how they can be deported or to where, and why the Bangladesh government would accept to receive them,” said the lawyer.

Lawyers also pointed out that many of the 63 individuals in question still have the option to appeal against the tribunals’ decisions in the High Court and the SC, which could overturn them.

For instance, last year, the Indian citizenship of Rahim Ali had been upheld by the Supreme Court — 12 years after he had been declared a foreigner by a Foreigners’ Tribunal and two years after he had died.

The 63

Three of the 63 people in question in the Matia camp have been under detention for over six years, including two for nearly a decade. The rest have been detained in the last two years. Another 750 “de-

clared foreigners” have been released from detention over the last five years after the SC in 2020 issued directions to release on bail individuals who had been in detention for over two years.

However, these three individuals have continued to remain in detention because they have not been able to secure the required bond of Rs 5,000 and two sureties.

State records show, in these cases, either their relatives could not be reached or, in one case, the wife of a detainee told police that she had cut ties with him.

Another lawyer working on citizenship cases in Assam, Sauradeep Dey, said, “The question referred to a Foreigners Tribunal is whether a person is an Indian citizen and they respond with a yes or no. But they (the tribunals) don’t have the bandwidth to find out which country’s citizens they are. You want to deport them, but Bangladesh has to accept them; you can’t just send them. In the case of the Rohingya individuals, Myanmar does not accept them as their citizens.”

CHHATTISGARH

3 security men injured in IED blast, day after Maoists kill 2 civilians

JAYPRAKASH SNAIDU
RAIPUR, FEBRUARY 4

THREE SECURITY personnel were injured during anti-Maoist operations under the jurisdiction of Gangalur police station in Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh on Tuesday.

This came a day after Maoists allegedly murdered two residents of Budgicheru village in the district branding them as “Mukhbir” (informers). One of the victims had quit Naxalism, while the second victim’s brother was also killed few years ago suspecting him to be an informer too.

Personnel of District Reserve Guard (DRG) from three districts and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) undertook the operation after getting information about the presence of Maoists in the area.

During the operation, one of the personnel stepped on an improvised explosive device, triggering an explosion in which he and another jawan were injured. The two personnel Madkam Bhima from DRG Sukma district and Pramod Kumar from Dantewada. Separately, a jawan Vijay Kashyap from the Dantewada DRG stepped on a spike hole trap and suffered injuries.

“All three jawans were evacuated and sent to a higher medical facility for better treatment. They are out of danger,” said Inspector General of Police for Bastar Range, Sundarraj P.

In January this year, as many as 36 IEDs have either been detected and defused or exploded and injured jawans in Bijapur, a senior official said.

In a separate incident, Maoists murdered two village residents after branding them police informers. This is the fifth murder of a villager in Bijapur this year by Maoists over the same reason.

The incident took place in Budgicheru, which is approximately 75 km away from Bijapur district headquarters and comes under the jurisdiction of Tarrem police station.

The dead were identified as Karam Raju Bare, 32, from Talab Para and Madvi Munna, 27, from Nayapara. Karam had left Naxalism and had returned to his village. Madvi was previously beaten up by Naxals suspecting him to be an informer and few years ago his brother was murdered over the same reason. Their bodies were found on Tuesday with their throats slit. On Monday night Jagargunda area committee Maoists dragged the victims out of their house and attacked them on their necks and left chits branding them, “Mukhbir”.

According to a police source, Bijapur has thousands of militia cadre, making it the most Maoist-affected district among the seven such districts in Chhattisgarh’s Bastar region. A majority of Maoist violence and arrests take place in Bijapur.

UK INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION ATTACK

Delhi court grants bail to UK man: ‘Could not show links with plot’

NIRBHAY THAKUR
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

A DELHI Court recently granted bail to a UK national allegedly involved in an attack on the Indian High Commission in the United Kingdom in March 2023, noting that the National Investigation Agency (NIA) could not establish his link with the incident.

While granting bail to Inderpal Singh Gaba, it asked him to surrender his passport and not leave the country without its permission.

“However, the NIA is unable to establish any link of the applicant (Gaba) with the incident of 19.03.2023. He was neither present at the spot nor was associated with arranging anything for the demonstration and for that matter, nothing could be shown that he was part of the conspiracy to organize the demonstration on 19.03.2023 or for that matter on 22.03.2023,” said Principal District and Sessions Judge Vimal Kumar



Inderpal Singh Gaba. File

Yadav of Patiala House Court in his order dated January 29.

Gaba was arrested by NIA in April 2024 for his alleged involvement with the violence by alleged Khalistani supporters at the Indian High Commission in London during a protest on March 22, 2023. The agency filed a chargesheet against Gaba on September 5, 2024, under IPC sections 109 (abetment), 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting with a deadly weapon), 149 (being part of an unlawful assembly), 120B (criminal conspiracy), and UAPA sections, among others.

As per NIA, Gaba, a Sikh of Afghan origin, went to London in 1995, and started a grocery store there. He ran three stores called Strawberry Local Group in Greater London, the agency claimed.



GOODS TRAINS COLLIDE IN U.P.

A freight train rammmed a stationary goods train in UP’s Fatehpur district early Tuesday, leaving a loco pilot injured. PTI

UP: Father kills teen over ‘affair’, consumes poison

MEERUT: A man allegedly bludgeoned to death his 19-year-old daughter as he was opposed to her relationship with a man from a “different caste” in a Sambhal village on Tuesday, police said.

Police said Rajpal Singh, 42, killed his daughter using a piece of heavy farm equipment and allegedly later consumed a poisonous substance. He was taken to a hospital by a police team that reached the spot after neighbours alerted them. Singh was later referred to the Meerut medical college and is critical, sources said.

“The woman died instantly. The body has been sent for the post-mortem exam. Rajpal Singh found out about his daughter’s relationship on Tuesday and he confronted her as the man is from a different caste. She, however, didn’t agree to sever ties with him,” Rukampal Singh, SHO of Aichora Kambh station, said.

“This appears to be a case of honour killing. We will take legal action against the father once he recovers,” said Kuldeep Singh, DSP, Asmoli, in Sambhal. **ENS**

Tension prevails in Tamil Nadu hill temple area amid protests

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 4

TENSION PREVAILED outside the Lord Murugan Temple in Thiruparankundram, near Madurai, on Tuesday after members of a group called the Hindu Munnani staged a protest in the area even as prohibitory orders were imposed by the Madurai district administration.

The tension was triggered by allegations that some people consumed meat at the hillock on which the temple is located. The hillock, considered one of the abodes of Lord Murugan, is also home to a dargah and had long been a symbol of religious harmony. However, the meat-eating allegations have led to the resurfacing of old claims that some members of the minority community want to rename the hill Sikkandhar Malai. Malai in Tamil translates to hill.

The prevailing situation prompted the district administration to impose prohibitory or-

ders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNSS), a move aimed at preventing gatherings that could escalate the tension.

The Hindu Munnani subsequently sought legal intervention to hold its protest and the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court granted it permission to hold a demonstration at Palanganatham junction, five kilometres from the temple premises, Justices G Jayachandran and R Poornima also ordered that no provocative slogans be raised.

In anticipation of the protests, security was ramped up across Thiruparankundram, with nearly 4,000 police personnel deployed. Officials conducted thorough checks at various entry points, while key religious sites, including the Kasi Viswanathan Temple at the top of the hill, were placed under restricted access. Only the Murugan Temple remained open to devotees, with the dargah also being cordoned off.

District Collector M S Sangeetha enforced Section 163

of BNSS (formerly Section 144 of CrPc) from Monday morning until Tuesday noon, banning all public gatherings. The order was reinforced after the Hindu Munnani announced its intent to move forward with the protest.

Police detained members of several groups from neighbouring districts, including Theni, Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, and Sivagangai, as a preventive measure to avoid potential violence.

Meanwhile, Muslim organisations and local community groups, including a forum promoting religious harmony, petitioned Chief Minister M K Stalin seeking his intervention. They urged authorities to invoke the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the National Security Act (NSA) against individuals allegedly provoking communal discord.

The controversy erupted two weeks ago when photographs purportedly showing people consuming meat at the hill surfaced online.



The two cubs at Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary on Tuesday

area. During its time outside the park, it attacked a herd of goats, killing three in front of a sheep-

herd. Wildlife officials, closely tracking Veera’s movements, intervened and successfully relo-

Jaishankar bats for India-EU FTA: Ties a ‘stabilising factor’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

WITH THE European Commission of 27 commissioners, led by President Ursula von der Leyen, set to visit India later this month, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday said it is “really time” that India and the European Union (EU) begin taking the next step on a free trade agreement (FTA).

His positive signal came on a day President von der Leyen said in Brussels: “Later this month, we will travel for the first ever College visit to India to deepen our partnership right across the board.” The College she was referring to is the “College of Commissioners” — 27 commissioners from all 27 member states of the EU, each assigned a specific area. Such visits by the full European Commission are not routine.

On the same day, Jaishankar said at the ILC-Bruegel seminar in New Delhi: “On the FTA, I think it is really time we get along with it.” The India-EU FTA talks have been going on for the last 15 years or so.

The EAM said in recent years, there has been a “more intensive engagement” with the European Commission and “we expect that to be even more in the coming days, in fact very soon”.

Underlining that a stronger India-EU relationship can be an “important stabilising factor” in a world that promises to be “so volatile and uncertain”, he said the ties between the two sides is more important now than ever before. “Deeper India-EU collaboration is



EAM S Jaishankar File

clearly in our mutual benefit.”

Without naming China, he said: “In our continent, international law has been disregarded with significant consequences.”

“Even on a question like democracy and military rule, different standards have been applied to our neighbours in the East and our neighbour in the West. It is not my case that principles are dispensable or that we must be utterly into realpolitik. But the agenda can no longer be set by some, only to be observed by the rest. This applies to passing judgement on and interfering in the domestic politics of others as well.”

Jaishankar said: “We can all feel intuitively that the world is on the cusp of a big change... Politics is only the tip of the iceberg. Whether it is energy or connectivity, mobility or technology, major shifts await us.”

“The world is witnessing two major conflicts, and these are often presented as matters of principle. We are told that the very future of the world order is at stake. Yet, the record shows how selectively and unevenly these principles have been applied,” Jaishankar said. “We, in India, are yet to see aggression on our territory vacated after so many decades. Equally, terrorism has been overlooked when convenient,” he said, in a broad swipe at China and Pakistan.

Democracy fails if Gov refuses assent to Bill 2nd time, TN tells SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

THE TAMIL Nadu government Tuesday told the Supreme Court that the Governor of a state has no option but to give assent to a Bill which is presented for the second time and that failure to do so will lead to failure of the entire democratic system.

The state conveyed this to a bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan which began hearing its petitions challenging Governor R N Ravi’s decision to refer certain Bills to the President, which were sent for his assent.

During hearing, Justice Pardiwala said, “People are suffering, the state is suffering.”

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi said that “under the law, if the state legislature passes a bill, the Governor can ask for it to be reconsidered withholding assent, (he can) ask for reconsideration. If post reconsideration, the same Bill is re-enacted, or reaffirmed, then under Article 200 of the Constitution the Governor has no option but to grant assent because this is our constitutional framework. If he does not do that, the entire system of democracy fails”.

The senior counsel said that “the legislative assembly knows the demands of the people and passes laws. Those laws have supremacy as far as the legislative assembly is concerned”. Rohatgi submitted that “the constitution is very clear that if the Governor does not grant assent in the first round, he has to and shall grant assent in the second round. There is only one exception which relates to the High Court”.

Justice Pardiwala referred to a situation where the Bill sent to the state legislature is re-enacted but not to the satisfaction of the Governor and sought to know what would happen then.

Rohatgi said “he has no choice. Suppose he says the whole Bill is unconstitutional or parts require a review. He sends it back with this message, then this will be deliberated by the House. The House after that message either accepts his views and amends the Act or goes by its decision. Otherwise, the system of democracy will fail in this country. On one hand, there are crores of people and on the other, there are delegates who are doing their job. The one person, however high its office may be, he has to act according to the Constitution.”

Senior Advocate A M Singhvi appearing for the state government said the option of referring to the President has to be done at the first instance and not as an afterthought. He contended that it was a case of the Governor simply doing “nothing”. Singhvi argued the Governor can withhold his assent and send it back to the legislature as per the first part of Article 200. If he does so, and if the state legislature reconsiders and sends it back, he has “no option but to grant assent”, the senior counsel said, adding after this stage, the Governor no longer can reserve the bill for the President’s assent.

Singhvi further said that it is not constitutional. “He is creating a new Constitution for himself... That is nothing but an illegal argument.”

The hearing remained inconclusive and will resume on Thursday.

Veera, cheetah known for forays outside Kuno, gives birth to 2 cubs

cated it back to Kuno.

This was not Veera’s first excursion beyond protected territory. A month earlier, in April, Veera was rescued from the Jaura, Pahargarh, and Kailaras areas of Morena. During that period, the cheetah demonstrated its hunting prowess by taking down a Nilgai and preying on approximately six goats.

“It is a matter of immense happiness that the cheetah population in our state continues to rise. The birth of these two cubs is a moment of pride, and I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all citizens of the

state,” Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said.

He credited the success to the efforts of conservation officials, veterinarians, and field staff who worked tirelessly to make “Madhya Pradesh known as the land of cheetahs”.

The CM said the growing cheetah population is expected to boost wildlife tourism in the state, open up new employment opportunities, and strengthen the local economy.

“We are committed to the conservation, promotion, and re-establishment of not just cheetahs but all wildlife,” he said.

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Shiv Prasad, Flat No D 640 Tower No 10, River
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Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal
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further enquiry Mr. Amit K. Dar, (Ld.
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Email id : drt1delhi-dfs@nic.in

By Order of this Tribunal

Western Railway - Vadodara



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"APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 6(2)]

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Advt. No.- BCECEB(PGMAC)-2024/19 Dated : 03.02.2025

Revised Round-3 Online Counselling से सम्बन्धित आवश्यक सूचना

विज्ञापन संख्या- BCECEB(PGMAC)-2024/17 एवं 2024/18 दिनांक 29.01.2025 के क्रम में सम्बन्धित सभी अभ्यर्थियों / संस्थानों / सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि PGMAC-2024 के आधार पर दिनांक 02.02.2025 को प्रकाशित की गयी। कुछ अभ्यर्थियों से प्राप्त शिकायत के आधार पर Round-3 Provisional Seat Allotment Result को पुनः जाँच की गयी। जाँचोपरान्त Provisional Seat Allotment Result Round-3 में कुछ त्रुटियाँ पाये जाने के कारण Round-3 Provisional Seat Allotment Result को संशोधित करते हुए Revised Round-3 Provisional Seat Allotment Result पर्यंत के वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध करा दिए गए हैं। सम्बन्धित अभ्यर्थी पर्यंत के वेबसाइट से पुनः **Revised Round-3 Provisional Seat Allotment Order** download कर प्राप्त कर लें।

2. **Revised Round-3 Online Counselling programme of PGMAC-2024 :**

(i) Publication of Revised Provisional Seat Allotment Result for Round-3 : 03.02.2025

(ii) Downloading of Revised Allotment Order (Round-3) : 03.02.2025 to 07.02.2025

(iii) Round-3 Document Verification / Admission Date : 05.02.2025 to 07.02.2025

3. पूर्व प्रकाशित विज्ञापन संख्या-BCECEB(PGMAC)-2024/17 दिनांक 29.01.2025 को अन्य सर्व / नियम यथावत् रहेंगी।

परीक्षा नियंत्रक

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament
Street, New Delhi-110001.
TA 1051/2022
AXIS BANK VS
RAMESH CHAND AND ORS
To, (1) Ramesh Chand And Ors : F 96 Dharam
Kanta gali Jagatpuri Delhi- 110051
Whereas the above named applicant has
instituted a case for recover of Rs. 21,49,376
(Rupees Twenty-One Lakh Forty- Nine
Thousand Three Hundred And Seventy-Six
Only) against you and whereas it has been
shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is
not possible to serve you in ordinary way,
Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement
directing you to make appearance before Ld
Registrar on 17.04.2025 at 10:30 A.M. IST (for
further details kindly visit DRT website
www.tribunal.gov.in Phone Number: 011
23748473. Take notice that in case of your failure
to appear on the above mentioned day before
this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided
in your absence.

Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the
matters will be taken up through Video
Conferencing and for that purpose:-All the
Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco
Webex" application/ Software "Meeting ID" and
"Password" for the next date of hearing qua
cases to be taken by Registrar/Recovery Officer-I
and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one
day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal
i.e. "drt.gov.in" under the Public Notice Head. In
any exigency qua that, the Advocates/Litigants
can contact the concerned official at Ph. No.011-
23748473. Given under my hand and seal of the
Tribunal on this 16th Dec. 2024. Respondent may
contact under mention Phone number for
further enquiry Mr. Amit K. Dar, (Ld.
Registrar, DRT-I), Ph. No. : 011-23748473.
Email id : drt1delhi-dfs@nic.in

By Order of this Tribunal

यूको बैंक
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम) (सं.)



UCO BANK
(A Govt. of India Undertaking) (Banking)

सम्मान आपके विश्वास का

Honours Your Trust

30 DAY AUCTION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public, and the under mentioned persons (referred as 'the borrowers' with details mentioned in the Table given below) in particular that owing to failure of borrower(s) to repay their outstanding dues towards Gold loan availed by them, the undersigned will sell the gold ornaments/jewellery/coins, pledged by them with UCO Bank to secure their loans by public auction. Such auction will be on "As is What is Basis" & "Whatever there is Basis" & "Without recourse Basis" on **24/02/2025 at 4.00 PM** at UCO Bank Bihar Sharif, Kamruddin Ganj, Near Bandana Cinema Hall-803101.

Other 'General Terms and Conditions of Gold Auction', subject to which the auction will be conducted by Bank, are displayed on the Notice Board of respective Branch as shown against name of the Borrower in the table given below. Such 'General Terms and Conditions of Gold Auction' are also displayed on website of the Bank. A person submitting the EMD shall be deemed to have read, understood and accepted the terms contained herein as well as the 'General Terms and Conditions of Gold Auction', as referred above and is required to sign the same.

Bank reserves the right to cancel or postpone the auction sale as it deems fit at any stage without any prior notice by display of Notice on Notice Board of the branch concerned.

Sr. No.	Borrower Name	Account	Branch Name	Reserve Price	EMD Amount (Rs.)	Incremental Bid	Last date for submission of EMD	Branch Concerned
1	Adarsh Kumar	21330610009598	UCO Bank, Bihar Sharif	4.55 Lacs	45,500/-	10,000/-	23.02.2025	Sujeet Kumar bihars@ucobank.co.in 9458069398

For General terms & Condition Visit-www.ucobank.com under Notice & Tender Section.

Branch Head



The Tata Power Company Limited
Bombay House, 24 Homi Mody Street, Mumbai 400 001
CIN : L28920MH1919PLC000567 Tel: (91 22) 6665 8282 e-mail : tatapower@tatapower.com Website: www.tatapower.com

EXTRACT OF CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 2024

Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended			Nine months ended		Year ended
		31-Dec-24 (Audited)	30-Sep-24 (Audited)	31-Dec-23 (Unaudited)	31-Dec-24 (Unaudited)	31-Dec-23 (Unaudited)	
							31-Mar-24 (Audited)
a.	Total Income from Operations	15,391.06	15,697.67	14,651.00	48,382.36	45,802.32	61,448.90
b.	Profit/(Loss) before Exceptional items and tax	1,456.69	1,912.87	1,488.76	4,859.93	3,960.31	5,458.86
c.	Profit/(Loss) before Tax	1,456.69	1,772.87	1,488.76	4,719.93	4,194.99	5,732.02
d.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period / year	1,187.54	1,093.08	1,076.12	3,469.28	3,234.51	4,280.10
e.	Total Comprehensive Income	1,332.73	1,148.25	1,181.12	3,663.26	3,484.15	4,783.97
f.	Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Face Value: ₹ 1/- per share)	319.56	319.56	319.56	319.56	319.56	319.56
g.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	34,274.31	33,132.51	30,652.67	34,274.31	30,652.67	31,808.70
h.	Securities Premium Account	3,107.54	3,107.54	3,107.54	3,107.54	3,107.54	3,107.54
i.	Net worth	36,219.71	35,251.46	32,667.08	36,219.71	32,667.08	33,728.50
j.	Capital Redemption Reserve	514.47	514.47	514.47	514.47	514.47	514.47
k.	Debt Redemption Reserve	199.89	363.81	363.81	199.89	363.81	363.81
l.	Outstanding Debt	59,967.59	58,809.69	52,768.78	59,967.59	52,768.78	54,163.52
m.	Earnings Per Equity Share (of ₹ 1/- each) (₹) (not annualised)						
(i)	Before Net Movement in Regulatory Deferral Balances						
	Basic	3.89	3.68	2.57	11.47	9.00	11.08
	Diluted	3.89	3.68	2.57	11.46	9.00	11.08
(ii)	After Net Movement in Regulatory Deferral Balances						
	Basic	3.22	2.90	2.98	9.16	8.77	11.56
	Diluted	3.22	2.90	2.98	9.15	8.77	11.56
n.	Debt Equity Ratio (in times)	1.46	1.47	1.43	1.46	1.43	1.41
o.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (in times) (not annualised)	1.34	1.59	0.91	1.40	0.88	0.85
p.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (in times)	2.35	2.81	2.47	2.51	2.21	2.26
q.	Current Ratio (in times)	0.73	0.74	0.75	0.73	0.75	0.78
r.	Long Term Debt to Working Capital (in times)	(67.73)	(43.76)	(13.00)	(67.73)	(13.00)	(50.06)
s.	Bad Debts to Account Receivable Ratio (%) (not annualised)	2.05%	1.68%	1.17%	5.69%	2.69%	6.63%
t.	Current Liability Ratio (in times)	0.39	0.40	0.44	0.39	0.44	0.41
u.	Total Debts to Total Assets (in times)	0.40	0.41	0.39	0.40	0.39	0.39
v.	Debtors' Turnover Ratio (in number of days)	73	77	78	71	70	68
w.	Inventory Turnover Ratio (in number of days)	70	88	58	75	66	59
x.	Operating Margin (%)	15%	17%	13%	15%	14%	13%
y.	Net Profit Margin (%) including exceptional item	8%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%

Notes:

1. The above results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 4th February, 2025.

2. Standalone Financial information of the Company, pursuant to Regulation 47(1)(b) of SEBI (LODR):

Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended			Nine months ended		Year ended
		31-Dec-24 (Audited)	30-Sep-24 (Audited)	31-Dec-23 (Audited)	31-Dec-24 (Audited)	31-Dec-23 (Audited)	
							31-Mar-24 (Audited)
a.	Total Income from Operations	5,731.00	4,889.44	4,926.24	16,394.56	15,132.79	20,093.36
b.	Profit/(Loss) before Tax	1,059.29	1,195.33	685.24	3,206.46	1,745.61	2,511.10
c.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period / year	977.92	1,008.61	527.01	2,723.57	1,383.75	2,229.86

3. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Consolidated Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Consolidated and Standalone Financial Results is available on the Stock Exchange websites www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website www.tatapower.com. The same can be accessed by scanning the QR code provided below.



For and on behalf of the Board of THE TATA POWER COMPANY LIMITED
PRAVEER SINHA
CEO & MANAGING DIRECTOR
DIN 01785164

Date: 4th February, 2025
Place: Mumbai

epaper.indianexpress.com

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
AGRA CIRCLE, P.W.D AGRA
Notice inviting E-Tender

Letter No. : 322/14M-A.C/2024 Date : 20.01.2025
1. The Superintending Engineer Agra Circle, U.P.P.W.D. on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids online from the eligible and approved registered Contractors. As The work Comprises of specialized Road Saftey work, hence contractors bidding for this work must be registered in Road Saftey work with UP PWD. 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.

Sl. No	District	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs. in Lac)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Document (in Rs.)	Time of Completion	Address of Executive Engineer executing the work	Address of Superintending Engineer	Address of Chief Engineer	Category of Contractor
1	Mathura	Construction of Crash Barrier on Gotholi Mainur road in Distt. Mathura.	206.00	12.30	Rs.2000.00 STC +300.00TC 60.00GST = 2360.00	06 Months (including Rainy Season)	Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, P.W.D., Mathura	Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	Class A
2	Mathura	Construction of Crash Barrier on Nagaon Audhta road in Distt. Mathura.	70.00	5.50	Rs.2000.00 STC +300.00TC + 60.00GST = 2360.00	03 Months (including Rainy Season)	Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, P.W.D., Mathura	Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra	Chief Engineer, Agra Zone, P.W.D., Agra	Class A

3. Bid document with detailed terms and conditions will be available online on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> and Prahari (<http://wms.upppwd.gov.in/Prahari>) From 06.02.2025 to 12.02.2025. Bids must be submitted online only at e-tendering portal of <http://etender.up.nic.in> and Prahari App with all documents as per GO No 14/2020/879(1)/ 23-7/2020/176(Ik0)/06 Dt 25-08-2020 on or before 12:30 Hours Dt. 12.02.2025. Technical Bid received online will be opened on 12.02.2025 at 1:00 Hours.

4. Original MM-11 forms proof of royalty shall have to be produced at time of every running bill in accordance to Principal Secretary, Directorate of geology & mining utter Pradesh Letter No-2146/86-2019-52(Ik0)/2019 Dt. 30.09.2019, G.O. No- 115(1)/86-2020 dated 15.01.2020 and other relevant Government orders, circulars for all the materials procured from the quarries.

5. The bidders are required to submit Original receipt of Internet Banking of E-tender portal Account as per G.O. No.-742/78-2-2018-42 I.T./2017 T.C., I.T. & Electronics Section-2 Dated-03-12-2018 follows as :

- (1) Online Tender Cost towards the cost of bid document (As per Column 6) by Internet Banking of E-tender portal Account (Non Refundable).
- (2) Online Bid security (As per Column 5) in favour of designation of Column 9 by Internet Banking of E-tender portal Account.

(Ajay Kumar Singh)
Executive Engineer
Provincial Division, P.W.D., Mathura

UPID-227967 Dt. 03/02/2025
www.upidadv.gov.in

(C.P. Singh)
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
AGRA CIRCLE, PWD, AGRA

बिहार सरकार

स्थानिक अभियंता का कार्यालय

मवन प्रमंडल, नई दिल्ली

अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं0:-02 / 2024-25

बिहार मवन एवं बिहार निवास चाणक्यपुरी नई दिल्ली हेतु निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए बिहार राज्य अंतर्गत मवन प्रमंडल में कार्यरत चतुर्थ श्रेणी में निबंधित संवेदक बिहार लोक निर्माण विभाग F2 एकरारनामा में होने वाले कार्यों के लिए मोहर बंद निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

1. विज्ञापनदाता का नाम एवं पता :- स्थानिक अभियंता, मवन प्रमंडल, नई दिल्ली।
2. परिमाण विपत्र के विक्री की तिथि :- 13.02.2025 (अपराह्न 1:00 बजे तक)
3. निविदा प्राप्त करने की तिथि एवं समय :- 17.02.2025 (अपराह्न 3:00 बजे तक)
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- 17.02.2025(अपराह्न 3:30 बजे तक)
5. परिमाण विपत्र विक्री का स्थान : (1) स्थानिक अभियंता कार्यालय बिहार निवास चाणक्यपुरी, नई दिल्ली।

(2) उप स्थानिक अभियंता कार्यालय बिहार सदन, द्वारका नई दिल्ली।

(3) अधीक्षण अभियंता कार्यालय दक्षिण बिहार अंचल, मवन निर्माण विभाग, बिहार पटना। स्थानिक अभियंता कार्यालय बिहार निवास चाणक्यपुरी, नई दिल्ली।

6. निविदा प्राप्ति का स्थान :-

7. कार्य का विवरणी:-

Sl No.	Name Of Work	Amount	Cost of B.O.Q	Time Of Completion
01	Renovation of spiral steel staircase and in and out gate of out house and In Gate and Out Gate of Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25	8,51,600.00	1250.00	15 Days
02	Renovation of Driver room with toilet of Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25	14,49,500	2500.00	15 Days
03	Repair & Painting work of old wing of Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25	9,61,798.00	1250.00	15 Days
04	Renovation of All General bathrooms of Out House Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25	8,50,000.00	1250.00	15 Days
05	Annual repair and Painting of Out House of Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25	1446715.00	2500.00	15 Days
06	Repairing of CM Suite Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25	8,78,914.00	1250.00	15 Days

विस्तृत जानकारी www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

स्थानिक अभियंता

मवन प्रमंडल, नई दिल्ली

PR. No.18690 (BCD) 2024-25

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

बिहार सरकार

स्थानिक अभियंता का कार्यालय

मवन प्रमंडल, नई दिल्ली

अति-अल्पकालीन कोटेशन आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या 06 / 2024-25

बिहार मवन, बिहार निवास, चाणक्यपुरी नई दिल्ली हेतु निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए बिहार राज्य अंतर्गत मवन प्रमंडल में कार्यरत चतुर्थ श्रेणी में निबंधित संवेदक बिहार लोक निर्माण विभाग में होने वाले कार्यों के लिए मुहर बंद कोटेशन आमंत्रित की जाती है।

1. विज्ञापनदाता का नाम एवं पता :- स्थानिक अभियंता, मवन प्रमंडल, नई दिल्ली।
2. परिमाण विपत्र के विक्री की तिथि :- 13-02- 2025 (अपराह्न 1:00 बजे तक)
3. निविदा प्राप्त करने की तिथि एवं समय :- 17-02- 2025 (अपराह्न 3:00 बजे तक)
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- 17-02- 2025 (अपराह्न 3:30 बजे तक)
5. परिमाण विपत्र विक्री का स्थान : (1) स्थानिक अभियंता कार्यालय बिहार निवास चाणक्यपुरी, नई दिल्ली।

(2) उप स्थानिक अभियंता कार्यालय बिहार सदन, द्वारका नई दिल्ली।

(3) अधीक्षण अभियंता कार्यालय दक्षिण बिहार अंचल, मवन निर्माण विभाग बिहार पटना। स्थानिक अभियंता कार्यालय बिहार निवास चाणक्यपुरी, नई दिल्ली।

6. निविदा प्राप्ति का स्थान :-

कार्य का विवरणी:-

Sl. No	Name Of Work
01	M.S Framing for renovation of outer Surface of Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the Year 2024-25
02	Beautification and Paneling work of Outer Surface of Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25
03	C.N.C. Jali work of Outer Surface of Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25
04	Wall Paneling work in Multipurpose hall of Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25
05	Providing audio visual System in multipurpose hall, Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25
06	Providing and fixing work station for the office of CAO office Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the Year 2024-25
07	Renovation of Portico of Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25
08	S/F/F of green wall of Out House Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25
09	Providing and Re-fixing of Outer Unit of Split AC at other place of Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25
10	Supply & Installation of AC at Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25
11	Supply of Furniture for the offices of Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25
12	Renovation of Drainage line and Sewer line of Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25
13	Repairing and Servicing of Kitchen equipment of Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25
14	Renovation of Conference Hall of Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25
15	Supply and repairing of TV. at Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25
16	Repair of Solar water System at Bihar Sadan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25
17	Dismantling of temporary huts of back side of Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25
18	Renovation of Pathway and lawn of Bihar Bhawan, New Delhi for the year 2024-25

अधिक जानकारी हेतु संबंधित उप स्थानिक अभियंता एवं अधोहस्ताक्षरी कार्यालय में संपर्क करने विशेष शर्त, नद एवं मात्र की विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु सूचना पट्ट या आह्वानाक्षरी कार्यालय से संपर्क करें। विस्तृत जानकारी www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

स्थानिक अभियंता

मवन प्रमंडल, नई दिल्ली

PR. No.18700 (BCD) 2024-25

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**

E-Tender No.: JHS-ENGG- C -2025-19**Date:** 31.01.2025

E-Tender Notice

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

Description of Work: Part(A)-Heavy repair of SSP.SP & other buildings at Bijrotha, Jiron, Jhaklaun, Lalipur & Basai Stations Under ADEN/LAR Sub Division.
Part(B)-Heavy repair work of SSP building at Jhansi station.

Approx Cost : ₹ 2664266.65**Earnest Money** : ₹ 53300.00

Date of closing Tender: 28/02/2025 at 15:00 hrs.

Date of Completion/period from issue acceptance letter: 09 Months.

Tender on line can be submitted upto 15:00 hrs on 28.02.2025. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.iimps.gov.in 222/25(DG)

 North central railways @CPRONCR www.nor.indianrailways.gov.in

विशेष शाखा, पुलिस मुख्यालय,

मध्यप्रदेश भोपाल

क्रमांक- विशा/स्टोर/2025-25(36), दिनांक 03/02/2025

निविदा सूचना का शुद्धि पत्र

विशेष शाखा पुलिस मुख्यालय की निविदा सूचना क्रमांक SB/Store/2025-25 (03), Dated 01-01-2025 द्वारा Up Gradation of Data Center के क्रय हेतु ई-निविदा सूचना जारी की गई है। उपरोक्त आमंत्रित निविदा में क्रय किये जाने वाले उपरोक्त उपकरण की समय-सारणी में आंशिक संशोधन के संबंध में "शुद्धिपत्र" (Corrigendum) जारी किया गया है जो website <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> पर विभाग की वेबसाइट www.mppolice.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

हस्ता./-

सहायक पुलिस महानिरीक्षक

विशेष शाखा(जी), म.प्र. भोपाल

दूरभाष क्र:- 0755-2443654

Email: sec25-sb@mppolice.gov.in

G-22575/24

**Urban Development & Housing Department**
Office of the Executive Engineer, Urban Development Division, Patliputra

SBD Based detailed Notice Inviting Tender (through e-procurement mode only-www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

(only e-tendering system through website : www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
Local/ National Competitive Bidding NIT No.- 04/E/Patliputra/2025

1. Designation and Address of the Advertiser : Executive Engineer, Urban Development Division, Patliputra, PMC

2. Date of issue of Notice Inviting E-Tender : 31-01-2025

3. Period for download of Tender Document : 18-02-2025 (10-00AM) to 27-02-2025 (03-00PM)

4. Date, Time & Place of Pre Bid meeting : 18-02-2025 (At office of Chief Municipal Engineer, Patna Nagar Nigam, Patna)

5. Last Date of uploading tender documents by bidder. : 27-02-2025 (Till 03.00 PM)

6. Date, time and place for submission of Original instrument of EMD (in case of BG) : 28-02-2025 (Till 03-00PM)

7. Opening of Technical Bid : Patliputra Division; 28-02-2025 (04.00PM)

8. Details of work:-

Bid No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost/ECV (in Rupees)	Amount of Earnest money Online/Offline mode	Cost of BOQ in Rs. (Non Refundable payment only through online mode)	Bid processing fee in Rs. (Non Refundable payment only Online mode in favor of Beltran)	Time of Completion	EMD Payable at
1	Construction Of RCC Box Drain From Atal Path To Kurji Balupar Road Behind Patliputra Industrial Area Over Kurji Nala	04,95,45,090.00	09,91,000.00	10000.00	5900.00	6 Months	EE, Patliputra Division, PMC

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar Urban Development Division, Patliputra PR-018692 (B & C) 2024-25

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER

TEL BASIN, BHAWANIPATNA

E-mail ID: etelbasinbhp@gmail.com/ Phone No: 06670-230209

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-Procurement Notice No:- CE&BM, TEL - 02/2024-25

Bid Identification No: CETEL-KID-01/2024-25

The Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Tel Basin, Bhawanipatna on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on-line percentage rate tender (P-1) through e-procurement in double cover system for execution of work.

Table 1: Details of Critical Dates, Details of work, Bid Security

Pkg. No.	Name of works	Approx. Tender Cost	Class of Contractor	Bid Security/ EMD (Online /BG) (in INR)	Cost of tender document- (online)- (in INR)	Period of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Protection to scoured left bank of river Hani near village Goudasargiguda to Palas from RD 00 m to 2700 m in Junagadh Block of Kalahandi District.	Rs.8,37,10,013/- (Excluding G.S.T)	'A' Class and Special Class.	Rs.8,37,100/-	Rs. 10,000/-	24 (Twenty four) Calendar Months

Table-2: e-Procurement Details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding From To	Date of Seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid Financial Bid	Place of opening	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Tel Basin, Bhawanipatna	CETEL-BID 01/2024-25	06.02.2025 at 11:00 hours up to 17:30 hours	Dr 06.02.2025 to 27.02.2025 at Office during office hours	Dr 28.02.2025 at 11:00 hours	To be intimated after evaluation of Technical Bid.	Office of Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Tel Basin, Bhawanipatna

Further details can be seen from the Govt. Web site www.tendersodisha.gov.in

* Other Terms & conditions can be seen from the Government website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

* The Corrigendum/ cancellation of Tender, if any, will be uploaded and can be seen from the above website only.

Sd/-

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager
Tel Basin, Bhawanipatna

OIPR-32317/11/0004/2425

**BIHAR STATE ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED**
(A Govt. of Bihar Undertaking)

Regd. Office: RCD Central Mechanical Workshop Campus, Near Patna Airport, Sheikhpura, Patna-800014
Tel: 0612-2226711 Fax: 0612-222672, Email-bssrdcltd@gmail.com, website: <http://bssrdcl.bihar.gov.in>

Letter No.-BSRDC 105-3865/2022-25

NOTICE INVITING RE-TENDER

(SBD based tender through e-procurement made only- www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

1. Designation and Address of the Advertiser: Chief General Manager, Bihar State Road Development Corporation Limited, RCD Mechanical Workshop Campus, Near Patna Airport, Sheikhpura, Patna 800014, Bihar 30.01.2025

2. Date of Issue of Notice Inviting Tender: From 10.02.2025 to 02.03.2025 up to 15:00 hours

3. Period for downloading and uploading of Tender Document by bidder (From Website: <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>):

4. Date, Time & Place of Pre-Bid meeting: 17.02.2025 at 15:00 hours at BSRDCL HQ

5. Last Date & time for uploading Tender Documents by Bidder through E-proc2: 03.03.2025 till 15:00 hours on <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>

6. Last date, time and place for submission of Original Instrument of EMD: 04.03.2025 till 12:30 hours at BSRDCL HQ (address as mentioned in S.No.1)

7. Date, time & Place of opening of Technical Bid: 04.03.2025 at 15:30 hours, at BSRDCL HQ (address as mentioned in S.No.1) through <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>

8. Details of Works:

Bid No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost/ECV* (₹ in Lakh)	Amount of Earnest money (₹ in Lakh)	Cost of BOQ + Bid Processing Fee (Non-refundable) (In ₹)	Time of completion of work
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Construction of ROB and its Approaches in Between Mohammadpur and Kamtaul Railway Station in lieu of LC No-10 on SH-75 (Darbhanga-Kamtaul Road) In Darbhanga District	5452.40	64.53	10,000/- + As applicable/-	24 Months
2	Construction of ROB and its approaches in between Darbhanga & Laheriasarai Railway Station in lieu of LC-25 Spl on SH-56 (Darbhanga-Kusheshwarsthan Road) in Darbhanga District	8010.33	90.11	10,000/- + As applicable/-	24 Months

* Estimated Cost/ECV is inclusive of GST and all other applicable taxes.

Detailed NIT can be seen on web site www.prdbihar.gov.in or www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in or bssrdcl.bihar.gov.in.

Chief General Manager
Bihar State Road Development Corporation Limited, Patna

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar Bihar State Road Development Corporation Limited, Patna PR- 018694 (B & C) 2024-25

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

**KERALA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION**
Transport Bhavan , Fort P.O, Thiruvananthapuram-695023

E-TENDER NOTICE



Name of Item	Qty	Last Date of Bid submission
AC Seater 13.5 Mtr Diesel Propelled Bus	10 Nos.	10.02.2025, 03.00 PM
AC Sleeper 13.5 Mtr Diesel Propelled Bus	8 Nos.	
AC Sleeper cum Seater 13.5 Mtr Diesel Propelled Bus	14 Nos.	
Mild Steel Angle 25x25x30mm	25,000 kg	17.02.2025, 06.00 PM
ERWCR Steel Tube 40x40x2 to 2.6mm	1,12,000 kg	
ERWCR Steel Tube 15mm x1.6mm	20,200 kg	
KSRTC Form No. 476	20,000 Pads	

For the detailed tender document visit: www.etenders.kerala.gov.in, www.keralartc.com/tenders/purchase, e-mail: sr@kerala.gov.in

Sd/-
Chairman & Managing Director
04.02.2025

FORM 7A
[See rule 10(1)]

LIST OF CONTESTING CANDIDATES

Election to the Legislative Assembly from 26-Madipur(SC) Assembly Constituency

Sl. No.	Name of candidate	Address of candidate	Party affiliation	Symbol allotted
1	2	3	4	5
(i) Candidates of Recognised National and State Political Parties.				
1	KAILASH GANGWAL	A 432/433, A-BLOCK, J J COLONY, RAGHUBIR NAGAR, DELHI – 110027	BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY	LOTUS
2	J.P. PANWAR	53 DDA, SFS FLATS PUNJABI BAGH APARTMENT, ROHTAK ROAD MADIPUR, NEW DELHI-110063	INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS	HAND
3	RAKHI BIRLA	112, T-BLOCK, MANGOL PURI, DELHI – 110083	AAM AADMI PARTY	BROOM
4	ROOP SINGH AHIRWAR	F 474, J J COLONY, MADIPUR, NEW DELHI – 110063	BAHUJAN SAMAJ PARTY	ELEPHANT
(ii) Candidates of registered political parties (other than recognised National and State political Parties).				
5	RANDHIR KUMAR	C-119/GF, BLOCK – C, TAGORE GARDEN EXTN., DELHI – 110027	ASANKHYA SAMAJ PARTY	GAS CYLINDER
6	RANDHIR SINGH TANDI	C-69, BLOCK-C, J J COLONY, BINDAPUR, DELHI - 110059	JAI MAHA BHARATH PARTY	FLUTE
7	ROHIT KASHYAP	WZ-435, MADIPUR VILLAGE WEST DELHI-110063	HAMARA SAHI VIKALP PARTY	BINOCULARS
(iii) Other Candidates				
8	DHARAMVEER	A-35, RAGHUBIR NAGAR JJ COLONY DELHI	INDEPENDENT	COAT
9	RAVI	WZ-312, MADIPUR VILLAGE, DELHI – 110063	INDEPENDENT	BUCKET

Place : Delhi
Date: 20.01.2025

Returning Officer
26-Madipur(SC) Assembly Constituency
DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0527/24-25

FORM 7 A
[See rule 10(1)]

LIST OF CONTESTING CANDIDATES

Election to the Legislative Assembly from 28- Hari Nagar Assembly Constituency

Sl. No.	Name of candidate	Address of candidates	Party affiliation	Symbol allotted
1	2	3	4	5
(I) Candidates of recognised National and State Political Parties.				
1	PREM BALLABH	B-225, FF, BLOCK B, HARI NAGAR, DELHI - 110064	INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS	HAND
2	BINDU KUMAR	W-161/233, A-11-12, MAYAPURI INDUSTRIAL AREA, PHASE 1, DELHI - 110064	BAHUJAN SAMAJ PARTY	ELEPHANT
3	SHYAM SHARMA	174, PRATAP NAGAR, HARI NAGAR, DELHI - 110064	BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY	LOTUS
4	SURINDER KUMAR SETIA	9/30, SUBHASH NAGAR, NEW DELHI - 110027	AAM AADMI PARTY	BROOM
(ii) Candidates of registered political parties (other than recognised National and State Political Parties).				
5	PREETAM CHAND	WZ-23, THIRD FLOOR, BACK SIDE NEAR VIJAY SALES, NANGLI ZALIB, B1 JANAKPURI, DELHI - 110058	RASHTRIYA JANSHAKTI PARTY (SECULAR)	CHAKKI
6	MOHAN LAL BHARDWAJ	RZ-31, GALI NO. 22, VASHISTHA PARK, DELHI	BHARATHEEYA JAWAN KISAN PARTY	MATCHBOX
(iii) Other candidates				
7	ASHOK KUMAR	14/145, SUBHASH NAGAR, NEW DELHI - 110027	INDEPENDENT	BASKET CONTAINING FRUITS
8	MAYANK MEHTA	4/162, SUBHASH NAGAR, NEW DEL		

19 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 78,583.81 ▲ 1397.07 (1.81%) NIFTY: 23,739.25 ▲ 378.20 (1.62%) NIKKEI: 38,798.37 ▲ 278.28 HANG SENG: 20,789.96 ▲ 572.70 FTSE: 8,571.80 ▼ 11.76 DAX: 21,471.44 ▲ 43.20



GOLD

₹85,800



USD RATE

₹87.07



OIL

\$78.42



SILVER

₹95,500

Note: Gold, silver rates are at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) per barrel as of February 2

International market data till 1900 IST

US PAUSES TARIFFS ON MEXICO, CANADA

Trump trade war: As China retaliates, global supply chain worries deepen

RAVIDUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Monday delayed his plans to impose 25 per cent tariffs on Mexico and Canada just hours before they were set to take effect. The trade war on North America, which had sent stock and currency markets globally into a tailspin, has now been paused for a month.

However, the tariff war with China escalated as Beijing on Tuesday retaliated against the 10 per cent US tariff by announcing an investigation into Google and imposing tariffs on US products. China stated that it would probe the US tech giant for alleged antitrust violations and slapped 15 per cent levies on coal and liquefied natural gas, as well as 10 per cent on oil and agricultural equipment from the US.

The risk of further trade escalation has also increased, as Trump on Sunday said that tariffs on the European Union (EU) would be imposed "soon" as they "do not take American cars, farm products" and that they "take almost nothing" while the "US buys millions of cars, tremendous amounts of food and farm products." While Trump's tariffs have been paused, businesses have been

‘US-China tariff war: Trade diversion could boost Indian exports’

New Delhi: India was the fourth-largest beneficiary of the trade diversion following the US-China trade war initiated by US President Donald Trump during his first term, and domestic exporters could experience a similar boom as a fresh trade war erupts between the two largest economies, a senior government official said on Tuesday.

"Early indications from ex-

porters suggest that traders in India are receiving higher orders amid fears that tariffs will rise in China. A similar tariff war previously helped India increase exports, as it became the fourth-largest beneficiary of the trade diversion away from China following the tariff war," an official said.

gun strategising ways to counter a tariff war, indicating heightened supply chain uncertainty. The tariff threat against the EU has escalated the risk of a global trade war, as the 27-member bloc is the world's largest Customs union and trader of services and manufactured goods.

The bloc is also India's second-largest export destination after the US, accounting for over \$75 billion worth of Indian exports, including pharmaceuticals, textiles, automotive parts, leather goods, and precious stones.

India advantage: US trade war with China

During his first term, Trump

initiated a tit-for-tat trade war with China, leading to significant trade diversion. However, US tariff threats on China did not work as intended.

"Back then, President Trump initiated a series of tariffs that led to retaliation and counter-retaliation, ultimately culminating in a trade deal with China. He called the 15 January 2020 agreement the 'Phase One Deal,' which included 'many structural changes and massive purchases' by China," said Professor of International Economics at IMD Business School, Richard Baldwin, in a blog released on Sunday. "Subsequent analyses showed that China did not meet the purchase commit-

ments outlined in the agreement, and they certainly didn't reform structurally," he added.

Meanwhile, exporters said that the current 10 per cent tariffs imposed on Chinese goods would create an opportunity for more Indian goods to enter the US market. According to an analysis by Oxford Economics, India was the fourth-largest beneficiary of the trade diversions that occurred between 2017 and 2023 after Trump launched a tariff war with China in his first term.

US-based think tank Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE) said that Trump's tariffs on Canada, Mexico, and China would cost the typical US household over \$1,200 a year.

Notably, high inflation in the US and Europe last year dampened Indian exports of labour-intensive items such as gems and jewellery and textiles.

In its report, PIIE stated that US producers competing with newly tariffed imports will raise their prices in line with import price increases, further burdening US consumers.

"In general, higher prices alongside recessionary impacts

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"In general, higher prices alongside recessionary impacts

‘Govt maintaining fiscal policy balance; need to push growth in non-inflationary way’

THE GOVERNMENT is being fiscally prudent and maintaining balance through its fiscal policy, which is supportive of the monetary policy objective to keep inflation under control, according to Finance Secretary **TUHIN KANTA PANDEY**. In an interview with AANCHAL MAGAZINE and SUKALP SHARMA, he said that growth needs to be pushed in a "non-inflationary way", while keeping fiscal deficit and debt under control. Amid risks emerging for India from global tariff wars, Pandey, who is also the Revenue Secretary, said that import duties have been rationalised and simplified, and the government hopes "to go even further" on that path.

On income tax relief, Pandey said that the government does not want to be "prescriptive" about what taxpayers decide to do with the extra money in hand—spend, invest, or save. Edited excerpts:

Changes in income tax rates are being seen as a boost for consumption. How much consumption growth do you foresee?

Now, this is all taxpayers' money. It was supposed to be given to the government, which would have made a choice on how to deploy it. What we are saying is that we will give the money back to you... This is a structural reform that we have done and it is going to stay for some time, as we can't just keep on changing the slab structure again and again.

You have three choices—you can choose to consume, you can choose to save, or you can choose to directly invest. Because you as a household are also an investor, which is important. We always say that either the corporates can invest or the government can invest. Households also invest and this is something which is not normally highlighted... It (investments by households) could be very significant and dispersed.

When the money comes back to the government, it can gravitate towards only a few sectors or industries... When it goes to the people, it will be deployed in diverse areas. The government doesn't spend money on dining out, for example... So, people can stimulate a lot more sectors than (what would happen) otherwise through government investment.

But suppose you don't choose to spend (or invest)... banks are looking for savers because they have to give credit... and deposits were a concern. In the present state of our economy, either of the three choices will work. Nothing is lost so far as the economy is con-



cerned by transferring this money back to you.

So, the government is not being prescriptive about what people should do with their tax savings?

We're not being prescriptive... we expect it to be a combination of a consumption and investment multiplier. It will be, in my opinion, more broad-based. Autonomously, sometimes, things work much better than when you are trying to control them. So, my take would be that it (tax relief) may be beneficial overall.

Some people are saying that we should have pushed expenditure more, but expenditure has to be grounded. In my opinion, whether you raise expenditure by Rs 1 lakh crore or give it to people as tax relief, the benefits to the economy would be there... And a particular class also had angst that it was paying a lot in taxes but felt that it was not getting much in return. That has also been addressed. The government must respond to (such concerns from taxpayers).

As you said, the income tax relief measures will likely have an impact on various sectors of the economy. Does it also set the stage for a rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India?

Rate cut is an independent decision. All we are doing is bringing the fiscal deficit under control, as we have promised... we are following the (fiscal glide) path and following it very well. We had said that we will bring the deficit to 4.9 per cent (of the GDP in 2024-25), but we have managed 4.8. Then we had said that it would be 4.5

Sensex jumps over 1.8%, Nifty closes above 23,700

Mumbai: Domestic stock markets rose over 1.6 per cent on Tuesday tracking gains in global markets after US President Donald Trump announced to postpone implementation of new tariffs on Canada and Mexico by a month, allaying fears of trade war.

The BSE's 30-share Sensex surged 1.81 per cent, or 1,397.07 points up to end at 78,583.81. The broader Nifty 50 gained 1.62 per cent, or 378.20 points, to close at 23,739.25.

"Yesterday, the Indian market struggled to absorb the optimism generated by the good Union Budget due to heightened geopolitical risks stemming from 'Trump tariff war'. However, India could outperform in a weak global market, and as a rebound has been triggered in the global sentiment ...," said Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services. **ENS**

‘Norms for providing access to PM Gati Shakti to private sector soon’

RAVIDUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

THE DEPARTMENT for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) will issue detailed guidelines on how the data and mapping facilities provided under the PM Gati Shakti portal can be utilised by private sector players to make efficient decisions in infrastructure and other projects, a government official said on Tuesday.

DPIIT Secretary Amardeep Singh Bhatia said that a number of options are under consultation on the manner in which data from the government-owned portal can be shared with the private sector. One of the options includes providing data based on queries raised by the private sector for a project, he said adding this would be the most secure way to share data.

The government on Saturday

announced plans to provide certain data and maps from the PM Gati Shakti portal to the private sector, a decision which could help them optimise last-mile delivery services and develop infrastructure-based applications.

"Let us wait for the detailed guidelines to come out ... Very shortly or quickly ... I am hopeful as this is a Budget announcement," Bhatia told reporters here.

PM Gati Shakti national master plan initiative was launched in October 2021 for integrated and planned development of critical

infrastructure projects to reduce logistics costs.

"For furthering PPPs (public-private partnerships) and assisting the private sector in project planning, access to relevant data and maps from the PM Gati Shakti portal will be provided," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in her Budget speech.

Talking about its advantages, he said for project planning, it will be very helpful for the private sector.

For example, if somebody has received a coal mining license, "so what will be the best optimal route to extract. For the telecom sector, if somebody wants to put towers, planning in setting up towers," he said.

"We have carried out consultations with other departments and they have also indicated what are the things which can be used for this purpose. A lot of technical work has already been done," he added.

Sebi tightens algo trading norms for safer participation of retail investors

Mumbai: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Tuesday released a regulatory framework to ensure safer participation of retail investors in algorithmic trading through brokers.

The framework included use of Application Programming Interface (API) for algo trading, responsibilities of stockbrokers and exchanges. "For the purpose of provision of algo trading through APIs, brokers shall be the principal while any algo provider or fin-tech/vendor shall act as its agent, while using the API provided by the broker," the regulator said.

Also trading refers to orders generated using automated execution logic. Such trading provides significant advantages of timed and programmed order execution. **ENS** **FULL REPORT ON** www.indianexpress.com

India's ambitions to break into the SMR value chain – the 3 big enablers in Budget

ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

INDIA'S AMBITIONS to enter the global manufacturing value chain of Small Modular Reactors is getting the institutional backing needed to catalyse the move, with three key policy enablers flagged by the government in its Budget.

Legislative tangles, private participation

The first step is the creation of a separate vertical within the Department of Atomic Energy with the explicit objective of fostering private participation in what is now an overwhelmingly state-controlled Indian nuclear establishment. This would be on the lines of what was tried out in the space sector, which is now proving to be a resounding success. The exercise would be aimed at tapping the SMR design and fabrication potential, since private players are seen as far better positioned at negotiating the terms of the future tech transfer deals with global companies that are leaders in this area, absorbing technology and manufacturing through these new-age light water reactor-based projects.

The second is a proposed amendment to the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, which currently allows only limited participation for the Indian private sector players in the country's nuclear energy sector and limits this to private companies coming in only as suppliers of equipment. The proposed changes are aimed at opening the door wider for the private sector for an entry into



Rosatom's SMR Akademik Lomonosov.

Source: Rosatom

nuclear power plant operations and enabling them to enter the SMR sector as operators, which is currently allowed under the Act to state-owned Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) and a couple of joint ventures that NPCIL has with state-owned companies such as NTPC Ltd and NALCO.

The third is likely changes being moved to the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010. The original legislation sought to create a mechanism for compensating victims from potential damages caused by a nuclear accident, and allocating liability and specifying procedures for compensation. These provisions have been cited as an impediment by foreign players such as GE-Hitachi, Westinghouse and French nuclear company Areva to investing in India, primarily on the grounds that the legislation channelised operators' liability to equipment suppliers. Foreign vendors have cited this as a disincentive when it comes to investing in India's nuclear

sector amid apprehensions of incurring future liability.

"The entry of private players has been a resounding success in space. The idea of a nuclear vertical essentially involves carving-out a dedicated space within India's nuclear establishment to open the doors wider for private players. There is no question that the private sector players are in a better position to negotiate and execute ventures with foreign companies that are keen to participate in India's atomic energy sector," a senior government official said. Some private players are already learnt to have shown interest in deploying these small reactors at their captive site. Since the talks are sensitive, sources said disclosing names may not be appropriate at this stage.

Triggers for the move

There are two triggers for this policy push that was outlined in Budget 2025-26.

One, amid a scaling down of coal-fired generation as part of the overall energy mix and an increase in re-

newable capacities, a number of countries — including India — are looking at scaling up of nuclear energy to meet the demand for base-load power. While renewables capacity addition in India has sharply surged over the last ten years, there are multiple hurdles that green power poses. Nuclear offers a practical solution, especially since the grid needs new electricity sources for both base load and variable demand peaks. Nuclear generation offers a relatively clean, round-the-clock power source that can tide over the limitations of renewables — not generating power when the sun's not shining or the wind is not blowing. This is important given that there are not enough viable storage options currently to tide over these shortfalls that renewable power faces.

Two, India is hoping to pitch itself as a credible alternative to the incumbents in this niche field of SMR design and manufacturing, riding on its strong track record of having operated small-sized reactors (heavy water based) over an extended period of time and the ability to manufacture nuclear reactors cost-effectively, and at scale. This also comes at a time when China is working on an ambitious plan to seize the opportunity of global leadership in the SMR space, unlike large reactors where that country has been a latecomer. Like India, Beijing is seeing SMRs as a tool of its diplomatic outreach in the Global South and that the country could shake up the SMR industry, just as it has done in the electric vehicle sector.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com



UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking), Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun-248001
Corporate Identity No. UA4018UR2001SGC025867, E-mail ID: -cgmpucl@yahoo.com, Website: www.upcl.org
Telephone No. 0135 - 2762444, Fax No. 0135 - 2763839

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited ("UPCL") (the "Utility") is engaged in the distribution of electricity and as part of this endeavour, the Utility has decided to procure electricity on a long term basis from a New Power Station of 1,320 MW Capacity located anywhere in India, (the "Project") through Public-Private Partnership (the "PPP") on Design, Build, Finance, Own and Operate (the "DBFOO") basis by sourcing fuel from the Allocated Coal Linkage arranged by the Utility as per Para B (iv) of the SHAKTI Policy, and has, therefore decided to carry out the Bidding Process for selection of a corporate entity as the Bidder to whom the contract may be awarded for production of electricity and supply thereof as per the terms and conditions specified in the Bidding Documents against Tender Specification **No. 21/CE(COMM)/UPCL-21/LTTP/2025**.
Partial particulars of the Project are as follows:

Installed Capacity (in MW)	Capacity Required at Grid Interconnection Point (in MW)	Period when supply must commence	Period of Supply
1,320	1,234	Unit 1: 36 Months from Appointed Date Unit 2: 42 Months from Appointed Date	20 years from the Supply Commencement Date

Event description are as under:

S.No.	Event	Date & Time
1.	Last date for receiving queries	03-03-2025 up to 17:00 Hrs
2.	Pre-Application Conference-1	11-03-2025 at 15:00 Hrs
3.	Utility response to queries latest by	22-03-2025 up to 17:00 Hrs
4.	Application due date	08-04-2025 up to 17:00 Hrs
5.	Announcement of Pre-qualified Applications	28-04-2025 up to 17:00 Hrs.
6.	Letter of Award (LOA)	Within 30 days of Bid due date
7.	Validity of Bids	120 days from Bid Due Date
8.	Signing of PSA-DBFOO	Within 30 days of issue of LOA

Hard Copy of B.G/ proof of EMD should reach in the office of SE(Commercial), UPCL on or before the due date of application.
All other terms and conditions shall remain as per bid document of **Tender No. 21/CE (COMM)/UPCL-21/LTTP/2025**.
UPCL reserve the right to unilaterally reject the bid at any stage of the processing of the tender if any declaration submitted by the bidder is found false/incorrect/misrepresented. The documents will be issued to the bidders only through e-tender i.e. (www.mstcecommerce.com). E-tenders will be received and opened on the dates as mentioned above. In case the above date is holiday, the tenders will be received & opened on the next working day at same time. The undersigned reserves the right to refuse to issue the tender documents to any applicant and also to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof and no claim on this account shall be acceptable. The tenders received after the date & time mentioned above shall not be considered. Bid will be submitted on (www.mstcecommerce.com) only and hard copy of technical bid will also be submitted to the office of SE (Commercial), UPCL. All other details and terms & conditions are available in tender document. For any assistance on E- tendering, please contact on telephone number 011-23217850.
No.: 56/1/EE/(CM)/UPCL/A-2 Dt. 03.02.2025 **Superintending Engineer (Commercial)**
"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION", Use L.E.D Bulb to Save Electricity (Toll Free No. 1912)
"Pay Electricity bill online 24 x 7 from www.upcl.org". (For information on Electricity theft, informer may report to Toll free No 1800 180 4185/ Fax: No. 0135-2760911)

TRUCAP FINANCE LIMITED

Registered Office: Register office at 3rd Floor, A Wing, D.J. House, Old Nagardas Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai – 400069, Maharashtra, GST No: 27AAACD9887D1ZC
Corporate Identity Number: L64920MH1994PLC334457

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the Public that Auction of pledged Gold Ornaments will be conducted by TruCap Finance Limited on 20th February 2025 at Pathankot at 11:00 A.M. Branch address: TruCap Finance Limited, Above State bank of India, Sailai Road, Pathankot, Punjab:-145001.
The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Loan Accounts of our various Customers who have failed to pay their dues. Our notices of auction have been duly issued to these borrowers.
The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Overdue Loan Accounts of our various Customers mentioned below with branch name.
Pathankot Branch: GL000000235404, GL0000000246636, GL0000000241694, GL0000000236387, GL0000000285467.
For more details, please contact TruCap Finance Limited.
Contact Person: Satish Kumar
Contact Number(s): 9560735444
TruCap Finance Limited reserves the right to alter the number of accounts to be auctioned & postpone/cancel the auction without any prior notice.

TruCap Finance Limited

TRUCAP FINANCE LIMITED

Registered Office: Register office at 3rd Floor, A Wing, D.J. House, Old Nagardas Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai – 400069, Maharashtra, GST No: 27AAACD9887D1ZC
Corporate Identity Number: L64920MH1994PLC334457

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform our customers and public at large that TruCap Finance Limited, a Non-Banking Financial Company, registered with Reserve Bank of India (RBI), having its registered office at 3rd Floor, A Wing, DJ House, Old Nagardas Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai- 400 069 ("Registered Office"), is closing its Branch office located at TruCap Finance Ltd., Commercial Premises, Property situated at 1st floor, Property No. 658/685, Buta Singh Colony, near Meera Ghati Chowk, Karnal Haryana – 132 001. w.e.f. May 07, 2025.

The Customer who are serviced from the location will be serviced from the Registered Office.
All concerned are requested to take note of same.

For TruCap Finance Ltd.
Place: Haryana
Date: 05th February, 2025
Sd/-
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd.

A Government of India (Ministry of Railways) Enterprise

NOTICE INVITING e-Tender

1. Tender No.: DFCC-JP-EL-REJN-KSGN-T-29 Name of Work: Maintenance of 2x25 kV High Rise Over Head Equipment on New Rewari - Madar section of DFCCIL including the Phulera UP & DN link lines, Kishangarh Balawas, Kathuwas connection to Indian Railways for a period of 24 (Twenty-Four) months under CGM Jaipur Unit. Estimated Cost of Work: Rs. 6,14,93,612.81/- (Rs. Six Crore Fourteen Lakh Ninety-Three Thousand Six Hundred Twelve and Eighty-One Paise only) including GST Earnest Money: Rs. 4,57,50,00/- (Rupees Four Lakh Fifty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Only) to be paid online through payment gateway provided at www.ireps.gov.in. Last date and time of online submission of Tender: 15.00 hrs. on 27.02.2025. Date and time of opening of tender: 15.30 hrs. on 27.02.2025.

2. Tender No.: DFCC-JP-EL-REJN-KSGN-T-30 Name of Work: Maintenance of 2x25kV Power Supply Installation in New Rewari- Madar section of DFCCIL including the Phulera UP & DN link lines, Kishangarh Balawas, Kathuwas connection to Indian Railways for a period of 24 (Twenty-Four) months under CGM Jaipur Unit. Estimated Cost of Work: Rs. 7,42,75,008.70/- (Rs. Seven Crore Forty Two Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Eight and Seventy Paise only) including GST Earnest Money: Rs. 5,21,400/- (Five Lakh Twenty One Thousand Four Hundred Only) to be paid online through payment gateway provided at www.ireps.gov.in. Last date and time of online submission of Tender: 15.00 hrs. on 28.02.2025. Date and time of opening of tender: 15.30 hrs. on 28.02.2025. Tender document can be downloaded from the website www.ireps.gov.in and <https://dfccil.com>. Other terms, conditions and information are available on above mentioned websites. Any further Addendum/Corrigendum for this tender will be posted on above mentioned websites.
General Manager/ Co-ordination
DFCCIL, Jaipur

TRUCAP FINANCE LIMITED

Registered Office: Register office at 3rd Floor, A Wing, D.J. House, Old Nagardas Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai – 400069, Maharashtra, GST No: 27AAACD9887D1ZC
Corporate Identity Number: L64920MH1994PLC334457

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the Public that Auction of pledged Gold Ornaments will be conducted by TruCap Finance Limited on 20th February 2025 at Kurukshetra at 11:00 A.M. Branch address: TruCap Finance Limited, Gumbhar Complex opp H.P.Petrol Pump Pipli Kurukshetra Haryana Pin Code no. 136131.
The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Loan Accounts of our various Customers who have failed to pay their dues. Our notices of auction have been duly issued to these borrowers.
The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Overdue Loan Accounts of our various Customers mentioned below with branch name.

Ambala Branch: GL0000000235001, GL0000000181755, GL0000000242485, GL0000000239728, GL0000000240675, GL0000000286387, GL0000000285597, Kurukshetra Branch: GL0000000271346, GL0000000283233, GL0000000287531, GL0000000270645, GL0000000286221, GL0000000287139, Panipat Branch: GL0000000245448, GL0000000242756, GL0000000234220, GL0000000236323, GL0000000280814, GL0000000279818, GL0000000281867, GL0000000283135, GL0000000287322, GL0000000286095.
For more details, please contact TruCap Finance Limited.
Contact Person: Satish Kumar
Contact Number(s): 9560735444
TruCap Finance Limited reserves the right to alter the number of accounts to be auctioned & postpone/cancel the auction without any prior notice.

TruCap Finance Limited

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF DEFENCE EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS) STATION HEADQUARTERS(ECHS CELL), AGRA Phone: 0562-2411201, E-Mail ID: oicechscella69@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM-EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Advertisement published in Indian Express and Dainik Jagran on 19 January 2025 is amended as under:
1. Station Headquarters, Agra (ECHS Cell) invites applications to engage following ECHS staff on contractual basis in ECHS Polyclinics Agra, Etah, Mainpuri and Firozabad for a period of 11 months/ one year renewable for additional period of one year/ till attaining the maximum age subject to performance of candidates/ other conditions according to the criteria as mentioned on each post:-

Ser No	Category	Age Limit	Basic qualification	Work Experience	ECHS Polyclinics Vac Upcoming Vacancies	Pay Scale (Rs)
					Agra Etah Firozabad Mainpuri Reservation for Ex-Servicemen	
(a)	Medical Specialist	68	70	MDMS in Speciality concerned/DNB	Minimum 05 years in the subject concerned after post graduation	1,00,000/-
(b)	Gynaecologist	68	70	MDMS in Speciality concerned/DNB	Minimum 05 years in the subject concerned after post graduation	1,00,000/-
(c)	Medical Officer	66	68	MBBS	Min 05 years after internship. Preferable add qualification in medicine/surgery	75,000/-
(d)	Dental Officer	63	65	BDS	Minimum 05 years work experience	75,000/-
(e)	Lab Assistant	56	58	DMLT/Class I Lab Tech Course (Armed Forces)	Minimum 05 years work experience in Laboratory	28,100/-
(f)	Lab Technician	56	58	(i) B.Sc.(Med Lab Technology) Or (ii) Matriculation/Higher Secondary/ Senior Secondary (10+2) with Science from Recognized Institution/Board (iii) Diploma in Medical Lab Technology from Recognized Institution.	Minimum 03 years experience as a lab assistant in a medical lab	28,100/-
(g)	Nursing Assistant (General)	56	58	GSM Diploma/Class I nursing assistance course (Armed Forces)	Minimum 05 years experience	28,100/-
(h)	Pharmacist	56	58	(i) B Pharmacy from a recognized Institute. Or (ii) 10+2 with science stream (Physics, Chemistry, Biology) from a recognized Board. And (iii) Approved Diploma in Pharmacy from an Institute recognized by the Pharmacy Council of India and registered as Pharmacist under the Pharmacy Act 1948.	Minimum 03 years experience	28,100/-
(i)	Dental Hygienist	56	58	Diploma holder in Dental Hyg Class I/DH/DORA	Minimum 05 years experience in Dental	28,100/-
(k)	Nursing Assistance (Physiotherapy)	56	58	Diploma/Class I Physiotherapy Course (Armed forces)	Minimum 05 years experience	28,100/-
(l)	Peon	53	55	Education-class 8, GD trade (Armed Forces)	Minimum 05 years service	16,800/-
(m)	Data Entry Operator	53	55	Graduate/Class I Clinical trade (Armed Forces)	Minimum 05 years experience	22,500/-
(n)	Click	53	55	Graduate/Class I Clinical trade (Armed Forces)	Minimum 05 years experience	22,500/-
(o)	Data Entry Operator/ Clerk	53	55	Graduate/Class I Clinical trade (Armed Forces)	Minimum 05 years experience	22,500/-
14 04 07 07						

2. For Terms and Conditions, Application Form & Remuneration. Kindly see our website www.echs.gov.in. For additional details please contact Station Headquarters, Agra (ECHS Cell) at Tele No:0562-2411201 & email ID: oicechscella69@gmail.com. Also approach concerned ECHS Polyclinic for details. Preference will be given to the Ex-servicemen.
3. Last Date of receipt of application as per format given on our website. Application as per requisite format alongwith self attested photocopies of testimonials in support of Education Qualification, work experiences, PAN Card, Aadhar Card and Medical Fitness Certificate should be sent only by Registered Post in sealed envelope depicting the post applied for to OIC ECHS Cell, Station Headquarters, Agra 282001, is extended upto 15 Feb 2025. Any application received after 15 Feb 2025 will not be accepted.
4. Interview Date, Timing & Venue: Short listed candidates will be informed telephonically/SMS and interview now will be held at Station Headquarters, Agra on 27 & 28 Feb 2025 (subject to change) at 0900hrs. Candidates must bring all original certificates/ mark sheet/degree of 10th/ matric, 10+2 & Graduate/ Diploma/course, award certificate, work experience and discharge book, PPO, service records, PAN Card, Aadhar Card, Medical Fitness Certificate and ID PP size photographs at the time of interview. Medical Fitness Certificate is mandatory. No TADA/A is admissible. Only candidate meeting the Qualitative Requirements may apply.
5. On Job Training(OT): OIC polyclinic, Medical Specialist, Gynaecologist, Radiologist, Medical Officers and Dental Officers and Dental Officers will carry out 10 days On Job Training (OT) and obtain a certificate from OIC polyclinic before signing the contract. In case of OIC, Polyclinic, the cert would be rendered by the OIC, ECHS Cell, Station HQ, Agra. The duration of On Job Training(OT) will remain unpaid and as a mandatory requirement before assuming charge as a contractual employee.



UJVN LTD.
H.O.: 'UJJWAL', Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135 - 2763808, Fax 0135-2763508
CIN No.: U40101UR2001SGC025886 Website : www.ujvn.com

Letter No.81
e-Tender Notice
Dated 03.02.2025

Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil-Maintenance), Vyasi Project, Dakpathar, invites sealed tender from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below :
Tender No & Name of work: 16/2024-25/EE(C-M)/Vyasi Project, "Carrying out the Bathymetric Survey of Vyasi Reservoir before the onset of monsoon & after the monsoon".
Estimated cost Rs.43,10,000.00(GST extra)
Date of availability of bid document on website: 05-02-2025 From 17:00 Hrs.
Last date for submission of bids on website: 27-02-2025Upto 17:00 Hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "https://uktenders.gov.in"
Executive Engineer (Civil-Maintenance)
Vyasi Project, Dakpathar

“Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity”



UTTAR PRADESH STATE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
H.O.: A-1/4, LAKHANPUR, KANPUR - 208024

Notice for Public Objection / Suggestion on Layout Plan of Industrial Area Babrala, Distt- Sambhal by which Industrial Plot No. E-28 to E-33 have been amalgamated and created a new Plot E-28/33 (Measuring 10800.00 Sq.m.).
1 (a) The Layout Plan of Industrial Area Babrala, Distt- Sambhal of Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) situated in District Sambhal has been prepared.
(b) A copy thereof will be available for inspection at the Regional Manager Office of the Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority, 1116, Janakpuri, Opposite Ramjanki Mandir Near Shivaji Park, Bareilly between 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on all working days till the date mentioned in Para 3 hereafter as well as Website: www.onlineupsida.com
2. Objections and Suggestions are hereby invited with respect of the Draft Amended Layout Plan.
3. Objections and Suggestions shall be sent in writing to the office of Regional Manager, UPSIDA at 1116, Janakpuri, Opposite Ramjanki Mandir Near Shivaji Park, Bareilly within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice mentioning subject as "Regarding Public Objection / Suggestion on draft partial amendment in Layout Plan of Industrial Area Babrala, Distt- Sambhal". Any person making the Suggestions or Objections should also give his/her full name & address, Email id and contact number.
Regional Manager
U.P. State Industrial Development Authority



TRUCAP FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: Register office at 3rd Floor, A Wing, D.J. House, Old Nagardas Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai – 400069, Maharashtra, GST No: 27AAACD9887D1ZC
Corporate Identity Number: L64920MH1994PLC334457

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the Public that Auction of pledged Gold Ornaments will be conducted by TruCap Finance Limited on 20th February 2025 at Zira at 11:00 A.M. Branch address: TruCap Finance Limited, C/O Malik Singh Talwandi Road Near Clock Tower Zira Distt Firozpur Pin No :- 142047.

The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Loan Accounts of our various Customers who have failed to pay their dues. Our notices of auction have been duly issued to these borrowers.

The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Overdue Loan Accounts of our various Customers mentioned below with branch name.

Faridkot : GL0000000230760, GL0000000236963, GL0000000282328, GL0000000231755, GL0000000235658, GL0000000245800, GL0000000285531, GL0000000286377.

Zira Branch: GL0000000247818, GL0000000234674, GL0000000236969, GL0000000257913, GL0000000287405, GL0000000231267, GL0000000236937, GL0000000240382, GL0000000280158, GL0000000282141, GL0000000160326, GL0000000165686.

For more details, please contact TruCap Finance Limited.

Contact Person: Satish Kumar
Contact Number(s): 9560735444

TruCap Finance Limited reserves the right to alter the number of accounts to be auctioned & postpone/cancel the auction without any prior notice.

TruCap Finance Limited



TRUCAP FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: Register office at 3rd Floor, A Wing, D.J. House, Old Nagardas Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai – 400069, Maharashtra, GST No: 27AAACD9887D1ZC
Corporate Identity Number: L64920MH1994PLC334457

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the Public that Auction of pledged Gold Ornaments will be conducted by TruCap Finance Limited on 20th February 2025 at Ludhiana at 11:00 A.M. Branch address: TruCap Finance Limited, R K Tower Haibowal Road situated at B-1461/1 ram Shamam Chowk Hambra Road Ludhiana Punjab:- 141001.

The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Loan Accounts of our various Customers who have failed to pay their dues. Our notices of auction have been duly issued to these borrowers.

The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Overdue Loan Accounts of our various Customers mentioned below with branch name.

Jalandhar Branch: GL0000000234390, GL0000000245659, GL0000000269473, GL0000000141487, GL0000000136820, GL0000000132301, GL0000000196498, GL0000000234455, GL0000000280983, GL0000000283726, GL0000000234382, GL0000000280323, GL0000000284304, GL0000000284252, GL0000000285761, GL0000000287069, GL0000000169406, GL0000000168334.

Ludhiana Branch: GL0000000207321, GL0000000305330, GL0000000285760.

Sirhind Branch: GL0000000192290, GL0000000212412, GL0000000207599, GL0000000183430, GL0000000178700, GL0000000214791, GL0000000257410, GL0000000238403, GL0000000285144, GL0000000284997, GL0000000284957, GL0000000241589, GL0000000230890, GL0000000239468, GL0000000240039, GL0000000278774, GL0000000285514, GL0000000286270, GL0000000288081, GL0000000288063.

For more details, please contact TruCap Finance Limited.

Contact Person: Satish Kumar
Contact Number(s): 9560735444

TruCap Finance Limited reserves the right to alter the number of accounts to be auctioned & postpone/cancel the auction without any prior notice.

TruCap Finance Limited



NORTHERN RAILWAY
INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH
E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

Tender Notice No. 94 /2024-2025
Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-
S. Tender N. No. Brief Description Qty. Closing Date
01 18241073 CONTINUOUS PAPER COMPUTER STATIONERY 3750 REAM 27.02.25
02 120251053 LOCO SIDE BUFFER (RUBBER SPRING TYPE) 383 NOS 06.03.25
NOTE -1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details.
2. No Manual offer will be entertained.
389/25
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Open Tender through
E-Tendering

CWM/Carriage & Wagon workshop
North western railway Bikaner
acting for and on behalf of the president of India invites E-Tender No.12R2MECH-BKNW-MATERIAL-24 Closing Dated 25/02/2025. Name of work and its location: Collection of material from Store depot and distribute to various shop store & Scrap Transportation in Carriage and Wagon Workshop, NWR, Bikaner. Estimated Cost of work: Rs. 72,26,088.72 (inclusive of GST) Earnest money: Rs. 1,44,500.00 Last Date and time for submission and opening of E-tender 25/02/2025 up to 14:30 Hrs. E-Tender will be opened at 15:00 Hrs. on same day. Website particular where complete details of e-tender can be seen www.ireps.gov.in 150-AR/25
Follow us on <https://www.facebook.com/NWRRailways> <https://www.instagram.com/NWRRailways> <https://www.youtube.com/NWRRailways>



NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ TRD, North Western Railway, Bikaner for & on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work. Tender Notice No.: 19-TRD-BKN-E Tender-2024-25. Name of work: Development of existing tower from tower to smart tower wagon under Bikaner division. Approx Cost of the work: ₹ 29,40,000/- EMD/SD (Rupees): ₹ 58,800/- . Complete details of tenders can be seen on Website No.: <http://www.ireps.gov.in> Date & time of closing of e-tenders: 28.02.2025 at 15.00 hours. Date & time of opening of e-tender: After 15.00 Hrs on 28.02.2025.
145-AR/25
Follow us on <https://www.facebook.com/NWRRailways> <https://www.instagram.com/NWRRailways> <https://www.youtube.com/NWRRailways>



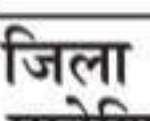
उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड

निम्नलिखित ई-निविदा अधिभूत एवं अनुमोदी कार्यदायी संस्थाओं/ फर्मों से, जो जी.एस.टी. में पंजीकृत हों, ई-टेंडर के माध्यम से आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं। विस्तृत विवरण प्रतिष्ठित समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशन के उपरान्त ई-टेंडर की वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in एवं विभाग की वेबसाइट www.upptcl.org पर उपलब्ध रहेगा।
01. अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा संख्या टी-82 / वि.पा.म.(आ.) / 2024-25-विद्युत 400 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र आगरा के अन्तर्गत 132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र बरहन पर SCADA सम्बन्धी कार्य। 02. ई-निविदा संख्या टी-83/ वि.पा.म.(आ.) / 2024-25- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-फिरोजाबाद के अन्तर्गत 220 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र दुण्डला पर मैं, पारस ग्लास वेयर की 33 के.वी. "बै" के स्काडा इन्टीग्रेशन सम्बन्धी कार्य। अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल आगरा "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाये" पत्रांक: 325 / विपाम(आ.) / ई-निविदा संख्या टी-82 एवं टी-83 / 24-25 / दिनांक:04.02.2025



PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 CrPC
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Mahender S/o Sh. Jetha Ram R/o House of Kailash, Gali No. 14, Vijay Colony, Bawana, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide FIR No. 56/2021, U/S 33 Delhi Ex Act, P.S. Bawana, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Mahender, can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Mahender, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Mahender, of FIR No. 56/2021, U/S 33 Delhi Ex Act, P.S. Bawana, Delhi is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of 18.04.2025.
By Order,
Sh. Sarthak Panwar
Metropolitan Magistrate-05 (North)
Court Room No. 114, First Floor
Rohini Courts, Delhi
DP/1233/ON/2025 (Court Matter)



जिला परिवहन अधिकारी-कम-सचिव, प्रादेशिक परिवहन प्राधिकरण, रोहतक निविदा सूचना

अथैव याहनों की वैकिंग व कार्यालय के प्रयोग हेतु एक वाहन चोलीये नई या जिसका माडल 2024 से पुराना न हो किराये पर ली जानी है। यह गाड़ी प्रारम्भ में एक वर्ष के लिए ली जानी है जिसकी समयवधि 3 वर्ष तक बढ़ाई जा सकती है। इच्छुक निविदा धारक निविदा प्रारूप तथा शर्तें कार्यालय सचिव, प्रादेशिक परिवहन रोहतक से दिनांक 05-02-2025 व 06-02-2025 को ले जा सकते हैं। सोलबंद लिफाफा दिनांक 07-02-2025 को समय प्रात 11.00 बजे तक कार्यालय सचिव, प्रादेशिक परिवहन प्राधिकरण रोहतक में जमा की जायेगी तथा 07-02-2025 को प्रात 11.30 बजे खोली जायेगी। चोलीयादा मोटरवाहन एक्ट के नियमों व प्रावधानों का पालन करना सुनिश्चित करने तथा निविदा स्वीकार/अस्वीकार करने का अन्तिम निर्णय कमेटी/अधिकारी का होगा।
हस्ता/-
जिला परिवहन अधिकारी-सह-सचिव, प्रादेशिक परिवहन प्राधिकरण रोहतक।
No. 32298/HR



SALUTE THE SOLDIER

ASI/EXE BIDHI CHAND
DHEP DULHASTI
06-02-1993
CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of the brave-heart. On this day, he laid down his life at the altar of duty while fighting with militants. His courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to him for this noblest deed.



BORDER SECURITY FORCE
I./NK CHAMAN LAL
19.05.1951 - 05.02.1992
Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Srinagar, J&K.



BORDER SECURITY FORCE
NK RADHE SHYAM DUBEY
12.10.1951 - 05.02.1997
Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Badgam Area, Srinagar, J&K.



BORDER SECURITY FORCE
I./NK DIWAN SINGH
15.07.1964 - 05.02.2000
Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Srinagar, J&K.



BORDER SECURITY FORCE
CT MOHD RASHID
07.05.1955 - 05.02.1991
Bordermen Salute and proudly remember today their brave comrade, who made supreme sacrifice while fighting militants in Sopore, J&K.



CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE
5 February 2020
Shaheed Constable RAMESH RANJAN 73 Bn 2-3-1989 To 5-2-2020
On 5 February 2020, the troops of 73 Battalion set up a NAKA in Srinagar. Around 11 AM, three terrorists on a scooter, concealing weapons under their shrouds, were stopped for checking. As Constable Ramesh Ranjan asked them to dismount for frisking, they opened fire. In a split second, he retaliated, instantly neutralizing one terrorist. Despite severe injuries, he held his ground, pinning the attackers down. His swift action enabled his team to eliminate the remaining terrorists. He was evacuated to the Hospital, where he attained martyrdom, displaying extraordinary courage till his last breath.



CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE
5 February 1979
Shaheed Constable Shaheed Naresh Prasad 36 Bn 20-5-1955 To 5-2-1979
On 5 February 1979, Constable Naresh Prasad and Constable Shiv Poojan Yadav of 36 Battalion, deployed in Poonch, bravely confronted violent riots in the town. Displaying exceptional diligence, loyalty, and commitment to duty, they made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.



CENTRAL RES



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Why the RBI could cut repo rate, for the first time in 5 years

HITESH VYAS
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 4

AFTER KEEPING it unchanged for two years, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is likely to cut the repo rate — the rate at which the RBI lends to other banks — by 25 basis points (bps) in its upcoming meeting, scheduled from February 5 to 7. If the cut does come, it will be the first in nearly five years.

EXPLAINED ECONOMICS

Impending rate cut

A 25 bps reduction in the repo rate, will bring it down to 6.25% from 6.5% — one basis point is one-hundredth of a percentage point. This would be the first monetary policy announcement by the new RBI Governor,

Sanjay Malhotra, who assumed office in December last year.

"We do believe that a repo rate cut is on the cards soon, as the Budget has done well to spur growth. And with expectations of inflation to come down, this could be the right time," said Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda.

The Union Budget 2025-26 announced a cut in personal income tax and also revised the limits of the tax deducted at source (TDS). These measures are meant to provide much-needed stimulus to consumption demand. At the same time, retail inflation or consumer price index (CPI) inflation eased to a four-month low of 5.22% in December from 5.48% in the previous month.

"We expect a 25-basis point rate cut in the February 2025 policy. Cumulative rate

cuts over the cycle could be at least 75 basis points, with two successive rate cuts over February and April 2025," said an economic report by State Bank of India (SBI).

With an intervening gap in June 2025, the second round of rate cuts could start from October 2025, the report said.

Sabnavis said the RBI has already announced liquidity enhancement measures that have improved conditions in the market. This appears to be a prelude for the impending rate cut.

Last week, the RBI had announced three measures — a \$5 billion forex swap, Rs 60,000 crore of open market operations, and Rs 50,000 crore worth of 56-day variable day repo rate — to improve liquidity in the banking system.

Context of global trade wars

The policy will be announced amidst



Sanjay Malhotra became RBI governor on December 11, 2024. *Amit Chakravarty*

global uncertainty, with US President Donald Trump announcing tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China over the past few days. (The tar-

iffs on Canada and Mexico have been 'postponed' for a month).

The tariffs triggered a fear of global trade wars, resulting in a rise in the dollar against major currencies on Monday. The rupee plunged below the 87-level to an all-time low of 87.29 per dollar on Monday.

"The puzzle is to manage rupee movements with liquidity because if dollars are sold, it will draw out liquidity. All eyes are on the RBI now for monetary action," according to Sabnavis.

Potential impact

If RBI reduces the repo rate to 6.25%, all external benchmark lending rates (EBLR) linked to the repo rate will come down by 25 bps, giving relief to borrowers as their equated monthly instalments (EMIs) come down.

Lenders may also reduce interest rates on loans that are linked to the marginal cost of

fund-based lending rate (MCLR), where the full transmission of a 250 bps hike in the repo rate between May 2022 and February 2023 did not take place.

In response to the 250 bps hike in the policy repo rate since May 2022, banks have revised upwards their repo-linked EBLR by a similar magnitude. The one-year median MCLR, however, has increased by 175 bps during May 2022 to December 2024.

Bank of Baroda's Sabnavis also expects some changes in the forecast on growth. The National Statistics Office (NSO) had projected 6.4% for the year. "It would be interesting to see if RBI would provide a forecast for growth in FY26, though this normally is published in the April policy," he said.

In the December 2024 monetary policy, the RBI had slashed the GDP growth estimate to 6.6% for FY2025, from an earlier projection of 7.2%.

EXPLAINED POLICY

Why Centre plans to establish a national cooperative university

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 4

UNION MINISTER of State for Cooperation Krishan Pal Gurjar on Monday introduced in Lok Sabha a bill to establish the Tribhuvan Sahkari University, and declare the new university as an institution of national importance. The cooperative university will be established on the campus of the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA).

The proposal

The proposed university will impart technical and management education, as well as training specific to the co-operative sector. It will promote research and development on cooperatives, and aims to attain global standards of excellence.

The Ministry of Cooperation was established in 2021. Since then, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who also is in-charge of the Cooperation Ministry, has repeatedly spoken about establishing a national cooperative university.

While the Tribhuvan Sahkari University will be the first of its kind in India, this is not an altogether novel concept in the world. Countries like Germany, Kenya, Colombia, and Spain all boast cooperative universities.

IRMA legacy

Spread over a 60-acre campus in Anand, Gujarat, IRMA currently offers specialised courses on rural management and development studies. The premier institute was founded by Dr Verghese Kurien, the Father of India's White Revolution, in 1979, and established with support from National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), the Government of India, Government of Gujarat, and the erstwhile Indian Dairy Corporation.

Once the Tribhuvan Sahkari

University Bill, 2025 is enacted, IRMA will become one of the schools of the new university. According to the proposal, it will be declared as a Centre of Excellence for rural management, and its autonomy and identity shall be preserved within the institutional framework of the university.

"This is a recognition of the IRMA's contributions... It will provide us greater responsibility to serve the cooperative sector and thereby in realising the vision of *sahkar se samridhhi* [prosperity through cooperatives]," IRMA director Umakant Dash said, commenting on the Centre's decision.

Much needed

"The University would be a specialised University, the first of its kind, in the cooperative sector, to impart and promote cooperative education, training, research and development and thereby strengthen the co-operative movement in the country," the Bill's statement of objects and reasons says.

The university will establish sector-specific schools to study dairy, fishery, sugar, banking, rural credit, cooperative finance, cooperative marketing, cooperative accounting, cooperative laws, co-operative auditing, multi-state cooperatives, etc. In time, it shall create a pan-India network of affiliated cooperative education and training institutes.

The cooperative sector plays a significant role in India's economy, accounting for 19% of agricultural credit provision, 35% of fertiliser distribution, 25% of fertiliser production, 31% of sugar production, 10% of the production and procurement of milk, 13% of wheat procurement, 20% of paddy procurement, and 21% of fish production.

The Centre believes that the present education and training infrastructure in the cooperative sector is fragmented, and grossly inadequate to meet the demand for qualified manpower in cooperative societies.



HARISH DAMODARAN

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman has announced the launch of a six-year "Mission for Aatmanirbharta [self-reliance] in Pulses" with a special focus on *tur/arhar* (pigeonpea), *urad* (black gram), and *masoor* (red lentil).

The 2025-26 Union Budget has allocated Rs 1,000 crore towards this scheme, which aims at providing minimum support price (MSP)-based procurement, and post-harvest warehousing solutions for the three pulses crops. The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) and the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF) will be ready to procure these "as much as offered... from farmers who register with these agencies and enter into agreements," said Sitharaman.

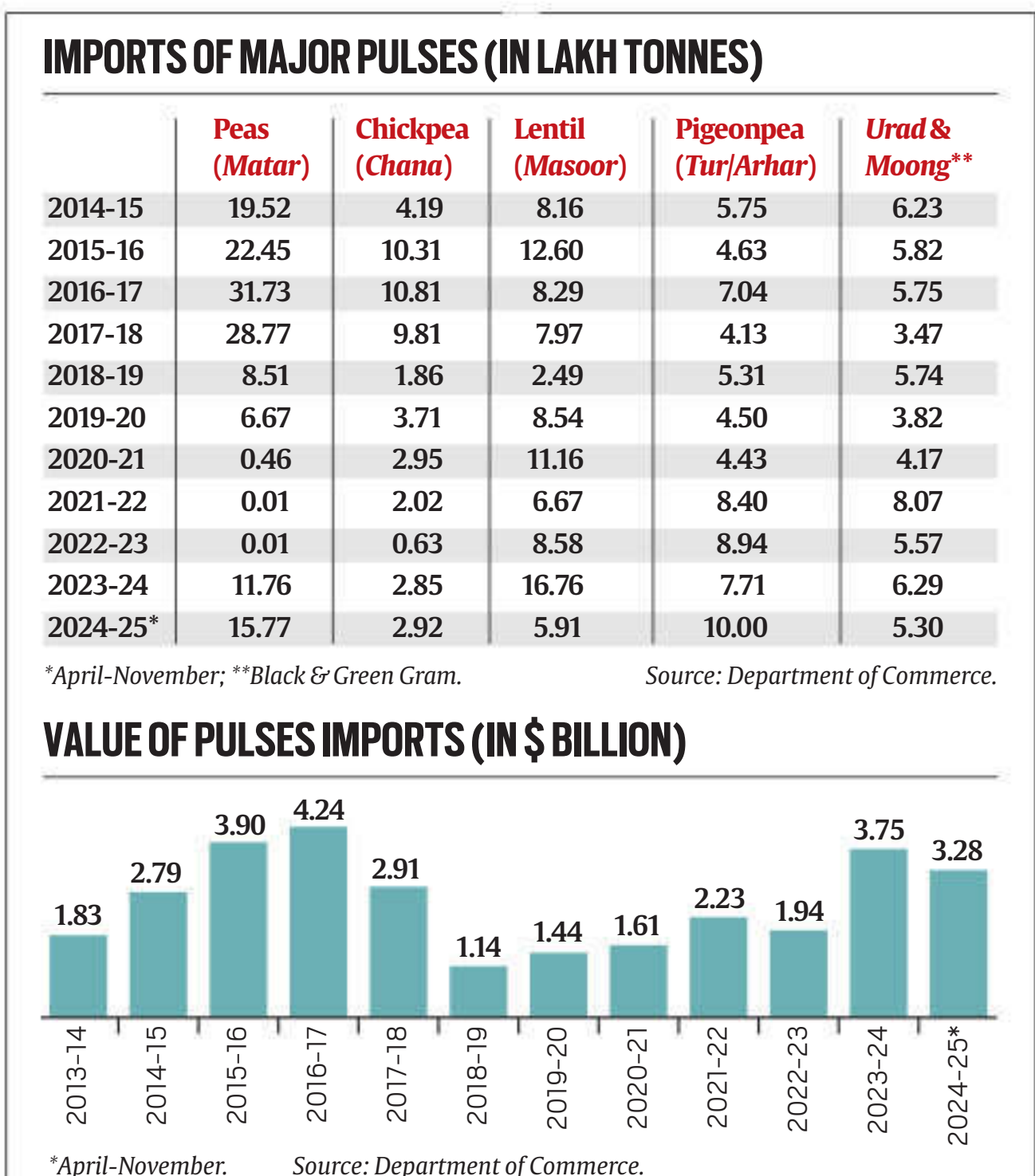
Significantly, this comes even as India's pulses imports during April-November 2024 were valued at \$3.28 billion, 56.6% higher than the \$2.09 billion for the corresponding period of 2023. At this rate, imports for the 2024-25 fiscal year (April-March) could reach \$5.9 billion, surpassing the previous all-time-high of \$4.24 billion in 2016-17. (See Chart).

Reversal of aatmanirbharta

Between 2013-14 and 2016-17, India's pulses imports rose in value (from \$1.83 billion to \$4.24 billion) and quantity (from 31.78 lakh tonnes or 1t to 66.09 1t). Subsequently, they fell to 25.28 1t (\$1.14 billion) in 2018-19, 28.98 1t (\$1.44 billion) in 2019-20, 24.66 1t (\$1.61 billion) in 2020-21, 27 1t (\$2.23 billion) in 2021-22, and 24.96 1t (\$1.94 billion) in 2022-23.

The accompanying Table shows imports of all major pulses declining substantially after 2017-18. The five years from 2018-19 were marked by the country's achieving relative *aatmanirbharta*, and a significant drop in imports, especially of *matar* (yellow/white peas) and *chana* (chickpea).

However, there has been a reversal since. During 2023-24, a drought year, imports surged to 47.38 1t (\$3.75 billion). Masoor shipments hit a record 16.76 1t, alongside a resurgence in that of *matar*. The current fiscal has already seen imports touch 40 1t, with *tur/arhar* crossing 10 1t for the first time, and



matar at a seven-year-high.

In other words, the Centre's proposed new *aatmanirbharta* mission in pulses comes barely two years after India achieved near-*aatmanirbharta*.

Chana & moong success stories

Domestic moong production, as per the Agriculture Ministry's data, increased from 192.55 1t in 2013-14 to 273.02 1t in 2021-22 and 260.58 1t in 2022-23.

This was mainly courtesy of two crops: *chana* and *moong* (green gram). *Chana* output went up from 95.26 1t in 2013-14 to 135.44 1t in 2021-22 and 122.67 1t in 2022-23. For the same years, *moong* output went from 14.56 1t to 31.66 1t and 36.76 1t. That, in turn, was enabled by the development of short-duration varieties.

Traditional *chana* varieties take 140-150 days to grow from seed to grain, while requiring 1-2 irrigations. The newer varieties can be harvested in 100-120 days, with farmers having to give a single irrigation at most.

They can sow from end-September to mid-October, after harvesting of the *khariif* (post-monsoon) crop, and use the residual moisture left by it in the soil.

The breeding breakthroughs have been even greater in moong, where farmers today take as many as four crops. The first one is during *khariif*, with sowing from end-June to mid-July and harvesting after mid-September. The second is during *rabi* (winter), with sowing in November-December. The third is grown in spring (February-March sowing) and the last one over summer (after April 1-20 sowing). The summer and *rabi* moong crops mature in 50-60 days, while the *khariif* and spring varieties take slightly longer (65-75 days).

In *moong*, Indian scientists have bred varieties that are not just short-duration, but also photo-thermo insensitive — being non-sensitive to temperature or photoperiod (the length of time in a 24-hour period that plants are exposed to light), they can practically be grown anytime and anywhere.

Story of Mumbai's humble 'ladi pav', and why its price may soon go up

HEENA KHANDELWAL
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 4

THE MAHARASHTRA Pollution Control Board last month issued show-cause notices to 287 bakeries in Mumbai, including the iconic Yazdani Bakery in the Fort area of South Mumbai.

The notices were issued after civic authorities throughout last year pushed bakeries in the metropolis to switch from wood to gas or electricity. A study titled "Envisioning a Sustainable Bakery Industry for Mumbai" published in 2024 by the Bombay Environmental Action Group found that just 72 surveyed bakeries generated more than 80,000 kg of PM 2.5 pollution, and almost 120,000 kg of PM10 pollution annually.

But a switch to gas or electric ovens will likely result in a hike in the prices of Mumbai's beloved *ladi pav*, a bread that has long been a staple for the city and its working classes.

EXPLAINED CULTURE

Pão to pav

The *ladi pav* came to India with the Portuguese in the 16th century, when they established a colony in Goa. "Pão" in Portuguese means "bread".

"Wherever people from Portuguese territories migrated, this bread travelled with them. So when Goans moved to Bombay, they set up Goan bakeries and started making *pav*. Muslim and Irani bakers followed suit, and *pav* became a staple for working-class Mumbaikars," Kurush Dalal, a Mumbai-based archaeologist, historian, and culinary anthropologist, told *The Indian Express*.

Such was the *pav*'s popularity that in the 1970s and 1980s, the government sold *maida* directly to bakeries at a subsidised price to prevent "unrest" due to bread shortages, Dalal said.

Addition to native dishes

Over time, the versatile bread became an intrinsic part of Mumbai's food culture, pairing well with curries, *keema*, and *bhujji*,

or simply eaten with tea.

Pav bhaji, a quintessential Mumbai staple, is said to have emerged during the American Civil War (1861-65). As the supply of slave-picked American cotton dried up, Britain turned to India to offset shortages. As manufacturing was ramped up in Bombay, *pav bhaji* emerged as a convenient meal for mill workers.

The *vada pav*, on the other hand, appeared in the late 1960s. At the time, the *batata vada* — a spiced potato filling dipped in chickpea batter and deep-fried — was already a popular Maharashtrian snack.

Dalal tells the apocryphal story of *vada pav*'s invention:

"A street vendor named Ashok Vaidya sold *batata vadas* from a cart outside Dadar station. Many customers struggled to carry hot *vadas* while catching trains, and cold *vadas* weren't half as delicious as hot ones. Next to him was a vendor selling omelettes with *pav* for breakfast. One day, after an epiphany, Vaidya grabbed some *pavs* from his neighbour and started stuffing the *vadas* inside them. And that's how *vada*



A worker placing *ladi pav* in an oven at the New Edward Bakery in Mumbai. *Sankhadeep Banerjee*

pav was born."

The combination of a *vada* and a *pav* became an instant hit. It was both affordable and filling, something that catered to students, migrants, and mill workers alike. Even today, a Mumbai *vada pav* can cost as little as Rs 10.

The *vada pav* has also attracted political

attention. At a time when Udupi restaurants offering inexpensive vegetarian meals were flourishing in Mumbai 1960s-70s, the late Balasaheb Thackeray, founder of the Shiv Sena, positioned *vada pav* stalls as the local alternative to South Indian establishments run by "outsiders".

In fact, the party even introduced a scheme that allowed laid-off factory workers to set up *vada pav* stalls for a nominal amount, bypassing all licensing requirements. Decades later in 2009, Thackeray's party launched Shiv Vada, a chain of *vada pav* stalls, although this enterprise saw limited success.

Impending price rise

Soon, the *vada pav* may not be as cheap as it is today.

Omaish Siddiqui, of the New Edward Bakery in the Fort area, said running a wood-fired oven is cheaper for bakeries. "Wood costs Rs 6 per kg, and we use about 200 kg a day, bringing our fuel cost to Rs 1,000-1,200. Switching to electricity would significantly increase our costs, and thus make our products more expensive," he

said, adding that LPG was not feasible as the area did not have a gas connection.

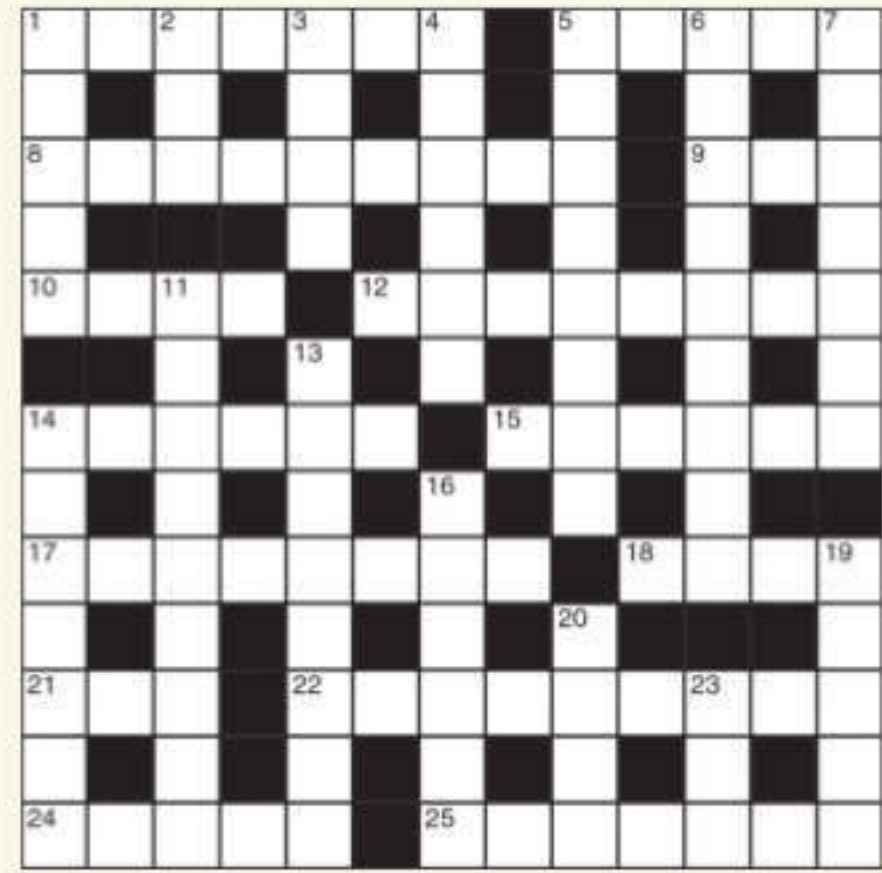
Siddiqui also pointed to broader financial pressures: "The price of *maida* has increased significantly over the years, and even yeast has become more expensive. On top of that, labour costs continue to rise. Despite all this, we've kept the price of *ladi pav* steady."

The New Edward Bakery sells *ladi pav* at Rs 12 per loaf (six *pavs*) for wholesale buyers purchasing more than 50 packets, and Rs 15 for retail customers. His wholesale clients include the India Government Mint, the RBI, Central Railways, and cycle vendors who deliver these loafs door-to-door.

"Even with subsidies, we'll have no choice but to raise the price of *ladi pav* by at least Rs 2-3 per loaf," said Nasir Ansari, President of The Bombay Bakers Association.

He said, "that means the wholesale price will rise to Rs 14-15 per loaf, increasing the cost of each *pav* by at least Rs 1. As a result, *vada pav*, which currently sells for Rs 15, may go up to Rs 20. In the end, it's the common man who will bear the cost."

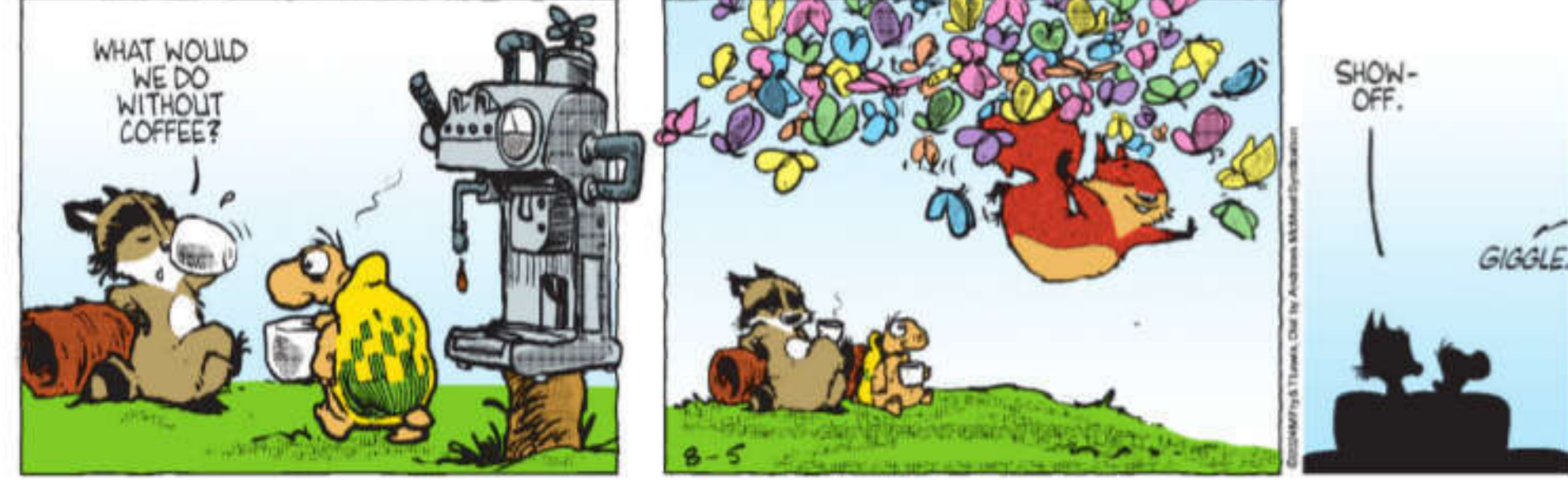
CROSSWORD 5592



- ACROSS
- 1 A roll containing nothing but chicken (7)
- 5 The capital gets poor return in this company (5)
- 8 Slow shambling team means inevitable defeat (9)
- 9 Note the old-fashioned ? watch (3)
- 10 Boss is upset and shows distress (4)
- 12 Steps in dances (8)
- 14 Traces wrongly directed supplies (6)
- 15 Short-service commission? (6)
- 17 Activity that makes oxen tire (8)
- 18 So it is held by most husbands (4)
- 21 Sign of nerves in a critical situation (3)
- 22 Decorate the bride more exotically (9)
- 24 He's put in little work yet has expectations (5)
- 25 Discard caricature (4,3)
- DOWN
- 1 Cares about competitions (5)
- 2 Scandinavian coin or note (3)
- 3 Capture and shoot (4)
- 4 It has the edge in rural gatherings (6)
- 5 New rate certain for wealth (8)
- 6 Go too far across a stretch of water (9)
- 7 Forced into service when one was short of time (7)
- 11 Floral trophy at the Dairy Show? (9)
- 13 Squanders food (8)
- 14 The ache so placed is naturally spotted (7)
- 16 Doctor in habit of fighting (6)
- 19 Shoots up with an addition to a letter (5)
- 20 Cheat on the board (4)
- 23 An act of duplicity? (3)

Solutions Crossword 5591 Across: 1 Arrogant, 5 Suit, 9 Omega, 10 Meeting, 11 Herd instinct, 13 Postal, 14 Dimple, 17 In the long run, 20 Unhitch, 21 Robot, 22 Eyes, 23 Property Down: 1 Anon, 2 Reefers, 3 Grandparents, 4 Naming, 6 Union, 7 Together, 8 Let things rip, 12 Aptitude, 15 Plumber, 16 Kosher, 18 Tahoe, 19 Stay

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



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. Use _____ and hard arguments. - English proverb (4,5)

BNOOR

ATTSS

TRINED

ALLUFW

Solution: BNOOR: BORN, BORON, STATIS, TINDER, LAWFUL
ATTSS: Use soft words and hard arguments. - English proverb

Difficulty Level 2s

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 5857

		5	4				3	2
					3		7	
	6			2		5		
4		3			2			
7		8		9				5
	3			1		4		
6		5			4			
1		6						
3	9			8	5			

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5856

9	3	6	8	7	2	4	1	5
1	8	2	4	6	5	3	7	9
7	4	5	1	9	3	6	8	2
3	1	8	2	4	9	5	6	7
6	2	4	7	5	1	8	9	3
5	9	7	3	8	6	1	2	4
4	5	1	6	2	7	9	3	8
8	7	3	9	1	4	2	5	6
2	6	9	5	3	8	7	4	1

LEADERSHIP IMPACT

Smriti Irani, Chairperson of the Alliance for Global Good Gender Equity & Equality, led several key initiatives on Gender Equity & Equality agenda at Davos along the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2025. With an agenda grounded in actionable solutions, Ms. Irani's leadership at the summit highlighted the moral imperative of gender parity & showcased its undeniable business case. In a pivotal meeting with Singaporean President Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Ms. Irani discussed innovative policy frameworks.



AWARD—REC

REC has been awarded 'Gold Shield' under the 'Financial Services Sector (Other than Banking and Insurance)' category 'ICAI Awards for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fy 2023-24'. The prestigious recognition reflects the commitment to excellence in financial reporting, transparency and adherence to the highest standards of accounting practices. Harsh Baweja, Dir. (Fin.), Rajesh Kumar, ED (Finance) & Mohan Lal Kumawat, ED (Fin.) received the award.

MEETING—NLCIL

The Union Minister for Coal & Mines G. Kishan Reddy held a review meeting of NLCIL projects at Chennai along with Smt. VismitaTej, Additional Secy. to GOI, M/o Coal. Prasanna Kumar Motupalli, CMD, NLCIL, Functional Directors & the Senior officials of NLCIL were also present. The Union Minister of Coal & Mines, Kishan Reddy lauded NLCIL as one of the best-performing PSU's & appreciated the diversification of the company in the renewable energy sector.



CSR INITIATIVE—REC

REC Limited, under its flagship CSR initiative Mobile Medical Units, has committed Rs.4.29 crores for the procurement and deployment of four Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) in 4 districts of Punjab. These units, handed over to the Indian Red Cross Society, Punjab, were flagged off by Governor Gulab Chand Kataria at Punjab Raj Bhawan.



MEETING—IREDA

IREDA conducted its 19th Stakeholders' Interaction Meet in virtual mode, chaired by Pradip Kumar Das, CMD. The meeting brought together borrowers from diverse Renewable Energy sectors to discuss key updates, foster collaboration, and advance the sector's growth. In his opening remarks, Das highlighted IREDA's remarkable achievements in Q3 of FY 2024-25, emphasizing its commitment to ease of doing business and providing low-cost funds to Renewable Energy developers.



AWARD—KARNATAKA BANK

Karnataka Bank won awards in six categories at the '20th Annual Banking Technology Conference, Expo & Citations, 2024' instituted by the Indian Banks' Association, the premier organization of the Banking Industry in India. The awards were Best Tech Talent & Organization, Best IT Risk Management, Best Technology Bank, Best Fintech & DPI Adoption - all Runner Ups, Best Digital Sales, Payments & Engagement -Special Mention & Best AI & ML Adoption – Special Mention.



PRESS CONFERENCE—NBT

Ahead of the launch of the New Delhi World Book Fair 2025 National Book Trust, India (NBT, India), under the Ministry of Education, Government of India held a press conference where Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT, India announced that the literary event will be inaugurated by the President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu at Bharat Mandapam.



INITIATIVE—SBI

The New Delhi Circle of SBI launched a Cyber Security awareness initiative, featuring Nukkad Natak (street plays) & puppet shows to educate the public about the importance of cyber security & best practices to prevent cyber threats. The initiative was kickstarted in the presence of CGM, New Delhi Circle, with a puppet show. As part of this initiative, a total of 300 Nukkad Natak & puppet shows will be conducted at different locations across SBI's New Delhi Circle till 31 March 2025.



CORPORATE BRIEFS

AWARD—RITES

RITES Limited, a Navratna Public Sector Enterprise, has been awarded the 'Gold' under the 'Public Sector Entities' category at the ICAI Awards for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the financial year 2023-24. The ICAI 'Gold' Award stands as a testament to RITES' commitment to financial excellence, transparency, and regulatory compliance. This recognition underscores the company's adherence to the highest accounting standards, meticulous financial reporting, and responsible disclosure practices. By setting a benchmark in financial governance, RITES continues to uphold its dedication to integrity and stakeholder trust.



SESSION—IREDA

Pradip Kumar Das, CMD, IREDA, addressed a pivotal session on "Sustainable Growth of Renewable Energy & Equipment Manufacturing" at Utkarsh Odisha 2025 in Bhubaneswar recently. Das highlighted that India's renewable energy expansion requires interventions across generation, manufacturing, financing, and workforce skilling to achieve its 485 GW target by 2030. With an estimated Rs.30-32 lakh cr investment needed, policies to attract global funds, expand green bonds, and empower NBFCs like IREDA are essential. He emphasized that with the right mix of infrastructure, investment, and policy support, Odisha can establish itself as a leader in India's renewable energy landscape.



POWERGRID, a 'Maharatna' CPSE under M/o Power, GOI, has announced unaudited financial results for the quarter & nine months ended 31st Dec. 2024. The Company has reported PAT & Total Income of Rs. 3,862 cr & Rs. 11,743 cr respectively on consolidated basis during Q3FY25. On standalone basis, the Company has posted PAT & Total Income of Rs. 3,894 cr & Rs. 11,609 cr respectively during Q3FY25. For 9 months period (9MFY25), the PAT & Total Income on consolidated basis are Rs.11,379 cr & Rs. 34,869 cr respectively & for the corresponding period of 9MFY24, the PAT & Total Income were Rs. 11,407 cr & Rs. 34,608 cr respectively. On standalone basis for 9MFY25, the PAT & Total Income are Rs. 11,017 cr & Rs. 33,843 cr respectively & for the corresponding period of 9MFY24, the PAT (including discontinued operations) & Total Income were Rs. 11,347 cr & Rs.33,562 cr respectively. POWERGRID's Board of Directors has declared 2nd interim dividend of Rs. 3.25 per equity share of Rs. 10/- each. This is in addition to 1st interim dividend of Rs. 4.50 per equity share for the FY 2024-25.

BOB reported a growth of 12.6% in its 9MFY25 Net Profit to INR 14,533 cr. Net Profit for Q3FY25 stood at INR 4,837 crs. Asset quality continued to be robust with Gross NPA below 2.5% at 2.43% for Q3FY25. Net NPA ratio also remained low at 0.59%. Credit costs remained below 1% due to better asset quality at 0.30% for the quarter & 0.47% for 9MFY25. ROA remained above 1% & stood at 1.15% for the quarter and 1.17% for 9MFY25.

GAIL reported Revenue from Operations of Rs. 1,01,580 crs for the nine months ended 31 Dec. 2024 as compared to Rs. 98,304 crs in the corresponding period of fy 2023-24. PBT stood at Rs. 12,123 crs, up by 39% as compared to Rs. 8,713 crs for the corresponding period in the previous year. PAT is up by 39% to Rs. 9,263 crs as compared to Rs. 6,660 crs in the corresponding period of the previous year.

SCOPE complimented the Finance Minister in presenting a progressive reform-oriented holistic budget that addresses all stakeholders of the economy. Atul Sobti, DG of SCOPE and Member, Governing Body ILO appreciated the Budget as it gave a directional push to both consumption and investment by enabling businesses, increasing spending power and for the first time addressing the welfare of Gig Workers.

S.C.D.A.V. Noida Samarpan' the Interact Club of S.C.D.A.V. Noida in collaboration with Rotary Club, Noida organised Blood Donation Camp & Health Check-up Camp to bring a change to the world. Team of doctors from Medanta hospital had given their valuable time for this noble cause. The parents and the students got the opportunity of getting the test done. They also participated enthusiastically in donating blood. The tireless efforts made by Ms. Geetu Sabharwal (Interact Club President) & the students was highly appreciated by the Principal, Mrs. Chitra Kant. The mission of the school to organise such events for the holistic welfare & service of community proved to be successful.



NTPC announced the Electron Quiz 2025, a flagship event celebrating the company's 50th yr of excellence. Scheduled to run from 1 to 28 Feb. 2025, this yr's quiz underscores NTPC's commitment to fostering talent & engaging with India's brightest minds. The regional rounds will be held at Hyderabad, Lucknow, Patna, Kolkata, Mumbai, Ranchi, Chennai, Raipur, & Noida. Each region offers exciting prizes: Rs.30,000 for the winning team, Rs.20,000 for the runners-up, & Rs.10,000 for the third position.

RAILTEL announced its Operating Income of Rs. 768 Cr in Q3 of FY 25 with YoY growth of 15% in its 151st Board Meeting held recently. PBT in Q3 of FY25 is Rs. 90 Crs as against Rs. 84 crs in Q3 of FY24, registering a YoY growth of 6%. Total PAT for Q3 of FY25 stands at Rs. 65 Cr as against Rs. 62 Cr PAT of Q3 of FY24. The company received "excellent" rating from the DPE in MOU evaluation for FY 23-24.

NTPC announced the launch of CO2 battery energy storage technology—a significant milestone in its journey towards sustainable & innovative energy solutions. Undertaken by NETRA, NTPC's R&D wing, the project will be executed in collaboration with M/s Triveni Turbine Limited & M/s Energy Dome, Italy. CO2 Battery with an 'Energy Capacity' of 160 MWHr shall be set up at NTPC Kudgi. The CO2 Battery aligns with the GOI's 'Make in India' & 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives.

MoPNG HS Puri announced the winners of two prestigious startup challenges – Avinya'25 & Vasudha – at a ceremony held at the ONGC headquarters. The announcement came at the conclusion of "Energize India: Catalyzing Growth Through Startup Innovation", which brought together energy sector veterans, investors & innovators. The winner of Avinya'25, India's premier energy startup competition, was UrjanovaC Pvt Ltd. For Vasudha, the global startup challenge in the upstream oil & gas sector, the winner was Latin Energy Partners Inc., Paraguay.

CISF in a landmark move towards strengthening women's representation & operational capability, the Central Industrial Security Force is set to establish its first Mahila (Women) Reserve Battalion in Nuh, Haryana. The initiative follows the Ministry of Home Affairs' approval on 11 Nov. 2024 for the creation of 1,025 posts for this purpose. The Government of Haryana has allocated a 50-acre land parcel in Nuh, which was assessed by CISF & deemed suitable for the establishment of the Mahila Battalion.

COMMENDATION—YSSH

Dr. PN Arora, CMD, Yashoda Super Speciality Hospitals, Kaushambi, said, "We applaud the government's efforts for prioritizing & strengthening India's healthcare sector in Budget 25-26. The announcement of 200 daycare cancer centres in district hospitals in FY 25-26 is a landmark decision in India's fight against cancer. This initiative will significantly improve early detection & treatment accessibility, particularly in underserved regions. Additionally, the inclusion of 36 life-saving drugs in the customs duty exemption list & concessional duty for manufacturing cancer medicines will make treatment more affordable for patients."



APPOINTMENT

DRPO Eminent scientist L.C. Mangal has been appointed as the DG of Technology Management at the Defence Research & Development Organisation headquarters in Delhi. Before assuming this role, he served as the Director of the Defence Electronics Applications Laboratory in Dehradun. He has contributed significantly to projects of national importance, including satellite communication & Software-Defined Radio (SDR). For his exceptional work in the field of defence research, he has been honored with several prestigious awards.



WOODS ANNOUNCES MOTHER’S DEATH

Tiger Woods announced over social media that his mother, Kultida, died on Tuesday morning. "My Mom was a force of nature all her own, her spirit was simply undeniable. She was quick with the needle and a laugh. She was my biggest fan, greatest supporter," read the statement. **REUTERS**

Playing big role in T20 WC win just surreal, recalls Hardik

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
FEBRUARY 4

IT HAS been more than six months, but the sight of Hardik Pandya breaking down in tears as he sat mid-pitch at the Kensington Oval after India won the T20 World Cup is among the indelible images of the tournament.

In the span of a month, he went from being jeered around India during the IPL to being the man of the moment in India’s hour of crisis in Barbados, sending down two crucial overs that changed the course of the final.

Recalling the events of that famous day, Pandya said his performances in the final – where he bowled the 17th and 20th overs – felt surreal. “We won as a team. But for me to play that much important role, it is just surreal. And it’s a dream which actually came true,” Pandya told the ICC.

The T20 World Cup in the US and Caribbean had come at a time when Pandya was struggling for form. In the IPL, held just before that tournament, he had a season to forget on his return to Mumbai Indians, whom he led for the first time. “From my shoulder, a big weight was kind of off. I think it was just a relief. Really proud of the way I was able to stand, and maybe not show a lot of emotions or how I have been going through,” Pandya said about the moment when he just sat down after his final delivery.

In the final, when skipper Rohit Sharma handed Pandya the ball in the 17th over, South Africa needed 26 runs with six wickets in hand. And more importantly, they had Heinrich Klaasen in the middle, who was threatening to end South Africa’s title drought in a hurry.

But Pandya’s presence of mind to go wide of the stumps – away from Klaasen’s hitting arc, gave India the breakthrough that would change the game.

“Just before the ball, I just told him (Rohit) that I’m gonna go wide to Klaasen and I just knew that he’s gonna expect a ball which is on the stumps.

“His leg was a little to the leg-side, so I knew that he’s gonna try to hit me there and that’s when I, just before my run-up, just looked at him and said I’m gonna go slow because I didn’t set a field for a slower ball. I had to outfox him or I had to be a little one up in the game so he’s not aware of what ball is coming, because the way he was hitting it was just tremendous. That just opened the door for us,” Pandya recalled.



Hardik Pandya. PTI

PRATYUSH RAJ
NAGPUR, FEBRUARY 4

AROUND 12:50 PM on Tuesday with Nagpur’s temperature hovering in the mid-30s, Mohammed Shami stepped out of the dressing room at the Jamtha Stadium with his hands full of white balls. He was followed by Team India captain Rohit Sharma and former skipper Virat Kohli. The veteran pacer, who has returned to the mix after a long lay-off, looked in good rhythm, a good omen ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy.

Shami, who is likely to play his first ODI on Thursday since the World Cup final, had head coach Gautam Gambhir repeatedly applauding as he bowled to the top Indian batsmen and all-rounders.

Shami kept steaming in for 90 minutes, showing what Jasprit Bumrah missed from the other end in Australia. Meanwhile, Harshit Rana and Arshdeep Singh, the two other pacers in the squad, had relatively lighter stints.

Shami played only two games in the recent T20I series against England and in Bumrah’s absence, Rohit and Gambhir will be banking on the 2023 ODI World Cup’s leading wicket-taker.

Rohit and Kohli, who struggled in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy and in their respective Ranji Trophy games, looked more at ease against the white ball. Despite mistiming a couple of pull shots against Shami, Rohit looked to dominate.

He was stepping out against all bowlers and looked to dominate, an approach he employed to good effect in the ODI World Cup. Under Rohit’s captaincy, India’s white-ball game has evolved over the last couple of years.

By becoming an all-out aggressive opener, he has set the template for the rest to follow. Rohit amassed 597 runs with a strike rate of 125.94 in that tournament and continued in the same vein at last year’s T20 World Cup, where India ended its 11-year ICC title drought.

His deputy Shubman Gill had high praise for his opening partner in ODIs.

“The way Rohit *bhai* has been batting in the ODIs in the past year and a half, it’s been really game-changing for us. By taking the momentum right from the start and taking the game away from ball one, he makes the job of the non-striker and the batsmen coming in a bit easier. It has helped our team a lot,” he told reporters in the press conference.

Not broken, don’t fix it

If Rohit was going bonkers, Kohli was playing the role of accumulator, as he did with great success in the ODI World Cup where he was the run-getter. Against Arshdeep and Rana, he looked compact and played exquisite drives, but against the spinners, he looked to use his feet.

The two veteran batsmen employed a fascinating template during India’s intense training session. Rohit and Kohli were taking turns to go into the pacers’ and spinners’ nets.

They would face six deliveries from the pacers – two each from Shami, Arshdeep and Rana before going into the other nets. They did the same against the spinners. A few times while doing so, they were seen talking, maybe telling each other what they had noticed.

Meanwhile, Rishabh Pant was hitting spinners into the stands with his one-handed shots, the cheeky ramp and falling sweep shots. Meanwhile, KL Rahul looked to pierce the gaps. He took a risk against off-spinner Washington Sundar, hitting him down the ground, but only when he

New year, old template

Batsmen looked to take attack to bowlers in nets while Mohammed Shami, likely to play first ODI since WC final, looked in good rhythm



The Indian team with Virat Kohli (C) and Rohit Sharma (R) at training in Nagpur ahead of the first ODI against England. PTI

What was evident from the practice session was that India will continue to play the ODI format with the same aggressive template that has served them well in two ICC World Cups in the last 15 months, and are ready to accept the risks that come with it.

looked set. Rahul also kept wickets, while Pant only batted, which may be an indication as to who is the front-runner to don the big gloves.

Despite the rich form that Yashasvi Jaiswal has shown recently – he was hitting the spinners farther than even Pant – he may have to sit out.

Shreyas Iyer, who too had a great ODI World Cup with 530 runs, was tested by throwdown experts with bouncers. Against the spinners, the Mumbai batsman was at his attacking best and smoked Varun Chakravarthy, who has been added to India’s squad for this series.

What was evident from the three-and-a-half-hour practice session was that India will continue to play the ODI format with the same aggressive template that has served them well in two ICC World Cups in the last 15 months, and are ready to accept the risks that come with it.

Coach Gambhir, after winning the T20I series against England 4-1, had described the team’s approach in white-ball cricket.

“Unless and until you don’t play that high-risk cricket, you won’t get those big rewards as well... Come those big tournaments, we want to still continue playing this way and don’t want to fear losing anything,” he said.

Shubman says no ‘toxic competition’ between him and Abhishek

PRATYUSH RAJ
NAGPUR, FEBRUARY 4

INDIA’S VICE-CAPTAIN Shubman Gill says there is no “toxic competition” between him and his childhood friend Abhishek Sharma.

Abhishek smashed the second-fastest T20I hundred for India on Sunday, reaching the mark in only 37 balls against England in the fifth match at the Wankhede Stadium.

When asked about the growing competition in the top order between him, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Abhishek, Gill said: “Abhishek is a childhood friend of mine. Jaiswal is also a friend, I don’t think there is any toxic competition between us.” “Obviously if you are playing for the country you want to perform in every match, and not think that ‘I wish this guy doesn’t perform’. You are playing for the country and for the team and whosoever performs you congratulate them,” he added.

Gill also defended India’s performance in the Test series loss in Australia. “I think, one series can’t define the form of a team. We have done a lot of good things in the past, consistently and continuously.” Gill said on India’s 3-1 loss in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

“Definitely, we have not done what we wanted to do in the Australian series. But still, I think we have done some things right. We had the chance to draw and even win the series. If we would have won the



Shubman Gill believes the ODI series will be key to India’s Champions Trophy preparation. PTI

series or even managed to draw it, we would not have been talking about this.

“It is unfair to criticise the team’s performance. We have won a World Cup (T20) and prior to that we reached the final of the ODI World Cup. We must consider those performances as well.”

The 25-year-old said the three-match ODI series against England, starting from Thursday, will be a good enough preparation for the upcoming Champions Trophy.

“I think we are playing against a good side. We are not taking this as a practice for the Champions Trophy, I think it is a very important series for us and we are looking to dominate and win this series,” he said.

It is unfair to criticise the team’s performance. We have won a World Cup (T20) and prior to that we reached the final of the ODI World Cup. We must consider those performances as well”

SHUBMAN GILL
ON INDIA’S AUSTRALIA SERIES

Varun joins squad

Varun Chakaravarthy has been added to India’s ODI squad for the England series.

The 33-year-old mystery spinner could be in line for his maiden ODI call-up and debut, shortly before the Champions Trophy due to begin in Dubai in two weeks.

Varun was the pick of the Indian bowlers in the recent five-match T20I series that the hosts won over England by a 4-1 margin. The Tamil Nadu spinner bagged 14 wickets, including a five-for, the most by an Indian bowler in a bilateral T20I series.

On Tuesday, Varun was seen bowling for over an hour against the Indian batters during the training session at the VCA Stadium in Jamtha. Varun’s statemate and former India off-spinner R Ashwin recently lauded his exploits and batted for his inclusion in India’s squad for the ICC event in the UAE.

“I have a feeling that Varun might get a chance to play in the ODI series between India and England. I don’t think it’s an easy call to take him directly to the Champions’ Trophy,” Ashwin has said on his *YouTube* channel.

[SPORTS BAR]

Arsenal will go for it at Newcastle: Arteta

With momentum on their side after a 5-1 mauling of Manchester City in the Premier League, Arsenal are ready to give their all to overturn a 2-0 deficit against Newcastle United in the League Cup semi-finals, coach Mikel Arteta said on Tuesday. Newcastle put themselves in the driving seat for the second leg at St. James’ Park, thanks to goals by Alexander Isak and Anthony Gordon at the Emirates Stadium in January. "It is a moment (for) full gas and (we're) ready to go for it and approach it in a way where we can reach the final. **REUTERS**

Indian players win at Mumbai Open

India’s 15-year-old Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi delivered a stunning performance at the L&T Mumbai Open WTA 125, defeating Belarusian Iryna Shymanovich 6-4 6-1 to advance to the Round of 16 here on Tuesday. Displaying remarkable maturity, the young sensation outplayed her more experienced opponent with precision and composure. Maaya set the tone early in the opening set, regaining control after a 2-2 tie with powerful serves, including four aces, to secure the opening set 6-4. In the second set, Shymanovich attempted a comeback, engaging Revathi in long rallies, but the Indian teenager remained unfazed. **PTI**



Usman Khawaja has been vocal in his support of Palestinians. Reuters

Khawaja backs journalist over Gaza stance

Australia batsman Usman Khawaja has condemned a radio station’s decision to drop cricket journalist Peter Lalor from its coverage of the Sri Lanka test series over social media posts related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Australian radio station SEN confirmed on Tuesday it had parted ways with Lalor, the former chief cricket writer of The Australian newspaper, after dialogue with him about some of the commentary on his social media. Lalor’s feed on X includes re-posts of news stories about Israeli attacks in Gaza and accusations of genocide levelled at the Israeli government. Pakistan-born Khawaja, who has been vocal in his support for Palestinians, wrote on Instagram that Lalor “deserved better”. “Standing up for the people of Gaza is not antisemitic nor does it have anything to do with my Jewish brothers and sisters in Australia, but everything to do with the Israeli government and their deplorable actions,” Khawaja said. **REUTERS**

Kumar joins Slovenian Club NK Radomlje

Young Indian goalkeeper Som Kumar has joined NK Radomlje, a club competing in Prva Liga, the top tier league of Slovenian football. This marks a significant step in 19-year-old Kumar’s career as he becomes the only Indian footballer with a professional contract in Europe currently. Standing at 6’3, shot-stopper Kumar, known for his agility and quick reflexes, spent the last season with Indian Super League club Kerala Blasters, before mutually agreeing to part ways with the team. Kumar has earlier spent four years in Slovenia before moving back to India in 2024. **PTI**

Haryana-Mumbai Ranji quarters moved to Eden

The BCCI has moved the Haryana-Mumbai Ranji Trophy quarter-final from Lahli to Kolkata at the last moment citing ‘unavoidable circumstances’. MCA had already booked flight tickets for its 18-member squad and they were supposed to fly to Delhi on Wednesday. “We were informed by mail that the Ranji Trophy game between Haryana and Mumbai, to be played in Lahli, has been shifted to Eden Gardens in Kolkata due to unavoidable circumstances. Cricket Association of Bengal will be hosting and taking care of all arrangements,” an MCA official said. No official reason has been given but it is understood that fog and cold could be the cause. **ENS**



Warriors survive battle with Magic

Moses Moody capped a 17-point performance off the bench with a late 3-pointer, Andrew Wiggins had a team-high 25 points and the Golden State Warriors outlasted the Orlando Magic 104-99 on Monday night in San Francisco. Stephen Curry overcame a slow start to score 24 points for the Warriors, who won for the third time in their last four games. Cole Anthony came off the bench to pace Orlando with 26 points. The Warriors ranged from trailing by 11 points in the first half to leading by 15 early in the fourth quarter, but they trailed 92-90 with 4:27 to go before outscoring the visitors 14-7 the rest of the way. Wiggins, Kevon Looney and Draymond Green had hoops in a six-point burst that gave Golden State the lead for good. **REUTERS**

How Lakshya’s father taught hill shuttlers to move mountains

NIHAL KOSHIE
DEHRADUN, FEBRUARY 4

DK Sen is a much sought-after person at the badminton courts in Parade Ground, Dehradun. To the outside world, he is known as the father and first coach of star shuttler Lakshya Sen. But in Uttarakhand, his image is of a path-finder. He had a hand in setting up the first proper badminton court in the hill district of Almora in the early 1990s. This was even before the state was carved out of Uttar Pradesh. His sons Lakshya and Chirag first played on that court before moving to the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy in Bengaluru. Sen and his wife moved out of Almora and shifted to the Garden City in 2016 to keep tabs on their children. They opted for voluntary retirement. The National Games is a homecoming for him. It's been a while since he spent more than 10 days at a stretch in his home state, Sen said. He's catching up with local coaches, former players and also old friends and acquaintances. During matches, Sen is in the coach's corner guiding Uttarakhand players. Sixteen-year-old Suryaksh Rawat featured in the men's singles final. Though Rawat, a retriever-like Lakshya, lost 21-17, 21-17 to Sathish Karunakaran on Tuesday, he's already caught the attention of PV Sindhu. India's greatest badminton player effusively praised Rawat's talent in a post on X a day earlier.

"Suryakshi's defence will be better if he improves his footwork. If he can convert defence into attack with variations it will benefit his game," Sen said. The teenager is one of Uttarakhand's big hopes and like the Sen brothers, he too made the journey to Bengaluru. Sen reels off names of promising players from the state, and he hopes Lakshya and his older brother Chirag have done enough to inspire the next generation to dream big. Like he was by his father Chandra Lal Sen, a multi-talented officer in the agricultural department and a badminton addict.

The senior-most Sen was the first to introduce Almora to badminton. Chandra Lal carried the poles on his shoulder and the net to set up an outdoor badminton court. "He used to clean the court, call people to play and taught them. My father was my coach and he asked me to do an NIS course (in coaching)," Sen recalled. He took his father's legacy forward by helping set up the first wooden badminton court in Almora. At first, they played in a hall that doubled as a class room at the Soban Singh Jeena University. "We had to remove almost 100 chairs and then put them back after we played because students used the space to



Coach DK Sen (red cap) with Uttarakhand players. *Express*

study," Sen said. Finding space for a badminton court was challenging in the hilly region. A hall used as a godown was identified as a possible venue. The first near-standard court in Almora, located at the HNB Sports Stadium in Almora, was thrown open in 1993. "Later, a politician got funds and we got a proper covering for the court," Sen said. Later on, the badminton tragic spotted an opportunity to add one more court. Plans for a helipad and tennis courts were stuck because of land issues, yet Sen convinced the authorities to use part of the funds for a second court. These are the very courts on which he coached his sons.

Sen's father was a disciplinarian but not known to lose his cool. "Once a senior officer shouted at my father without realising that the file he wanted had been ready for days. My father didn't say a word back. He quietly went to his table, picked up the file and gave it to the officer. An apology and a cash award followed. To work hard and be disciplined, that is what my father taught me and I have tried to inculcate these traits in my sons. Of course, I have passed on the love for badminton too."

Despite the entire family moving to Bengaluru, they stay in touch with their roots. Originally from Someshwar, 45 kilometres from Almora, both Lakshya and Chirag, have made visits to their ancestral village Rasyara and performed puja.

Though Lakshya pulled out of the National Games because of an ankle injury, the state's men and women teams won silver medals at the games with Chirag representing the family on the podium. Sen beamed with pride as the winners posed for multiple photos.

"I miss Almora a lot. It is our karmasthal." There's a tinge of regret when he's asked about the current talent pool from Almora. "It has shrunk. You need a passionate coach to bring the best out of the kids. But there are good signs because at the National Games, the junior players from the state have stepped up and done really well."

Sathish walks the path less taken

Singles champion and mixed event finalist at National Games is a rare Indian shuttler who trains in Malaysia

SHIVANI NAIK
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 4

SHUTTLE K Sathish Kumar Karunakaran, 23, had all the energy to expend in his versatile pursuit of trying to win two completely different badminton events—Singles and Mixed Doubles. The ambition itself was a little extravagant, if not knackering at the top competition levels. But Sathish also wanted sparring options of players much more skilled than him for both himself and Mixed doubles partner, Aadya Variyath, who would adapt to his shape-shifting, role-swerving games.

Very few coaching centres indulged in this experiment. He knew he had to head to Malaysia - to accommodate that voracious appetite for skills. Picked for the Asian Mixed Team championship in China, starting February 11 on a maiden call-up, Sathish (Singles rank of 48, XD rank of 33), is a rare contemporary success stories, choosing to set base outside India for badminton

The National Games finalist in Mixed Doubles and champion in Singles, on Tuesday at Dehradun, has moved bag and baggage to Kuala Lumpur's second biggest facility, Asia Badminton Academy after failing to qualify in Mixed Doubles last Olympics. Aadya, 22, has followed, trying to get her Doubles career at the net, going.

Coached by second-generation Malaysian, M Jivanathan Nair, Sathish and Aadya are making the most of sharing court-sparring with the country's well-known names, Goh Sze Fei-Nur Izzudin, who won India Open earlier in January, and Goh Wei Shem - Tan Wee Kiong, former World No 1s. "We completely shifted to Malaysia because we get quality sparring, good feeders there. It's mostly Malaysia's 'B' team, and there's not much difference in training methods in the two countries. But I wanted to train with players who are my level or preferably higher," Sathish explains.

Coach Jiva, who jokes he's "getting to know India" through his wards, being born and brought up in Malaysia, says Sathish's unique requirements of two events, has expertise and experienced coaching in Malaysia. "Frankly I was surprised because the same person playing doubles and Mixed doubles is fairly common, the current World champion Seo Syeung-jae is one. But Singles and Mixed are rare. Still, we have big



Shuttler Sathish Karunakaran and mixed doubles partner Aadya Variyath, with coach Jiva in Malaysia. *Express*

names like Goh and Tan who straddled both singles and doubles in their early years. So Sathish's pathway is mapped well," the coach says.

Fusion of styles

As such, Sathish doesn't train for two different events, Jiva says, but he does the typically Malaysian thing of infusing a boggling variety of both styles, in the same session.

"In Mixed, his role is of the main player which has a lot of elements from singles. He trains for singles and brings those variations in mixed."

The highly-touted tall player from Tamil Nadu originally, who spent few skills-sponging years in Bangalore, has a noticeably different singles game, with a lot of riffs of mid-court battles—where Malaysians are aces. "We are very focused on the 2028

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Olympics but there's short-term milestones which we will know realistically in the first 8 months of 2025," the coach adds.

One other thing both shuttlers are benefiting from is recovery-science where the two top Malaysian academies are doing some cutting-edge work, as was seen in Aaron Chia-Soh Wooi Yik picking the Olympic MD medal. "With two events, Sathish's recovery is a definite challenge with hectic schedules. But we have incredible science here, a dedicated regime and careful planning for them," Jiva says.

A large part of bringing fluency to Sathish's game has been getting him to back his variations, applying them at key moments. "I'm not too happy with his confidence levels on variations which need to become muscle memory. He needs to be dynamic and adapt to the opponent. But he likes taking risks and is generally attacking. Dedicated and professional, so I like that," Jiva says.

"I'm there with a full team, S&C coach, physio, and mind trainer. Focus is on improving strokes," Sathish says, of why he returned to Kuala Lumpur where he first trained for a month at 16 back in the day.

The tall shuttler started out as a defensive player, who still digs slow courts (another rarity in India). "I'm getting far more attacking in Malaysia. The struggle is a tad tougher for Aadya, who needs far more power and chutzpah at the net, though she has natural speed. "Aadya is going through a different transformation. We are pushing her out front a lot more, and asking her to increase the percentage of her role and take more responsibility especially when she's peppered with shuttles from the opposite guy," Jiva says.

Malaysian female mixed doubles players tend to be more aggressive and creative. "The match personality needs to come out," Jiva says. It's where flair is fiery.

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