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The Statesman

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ICA-D249(13)/2025



Police probe case of 12-yr-old girl's suspected kidnapping

DURGAPUR, 4 FEBRUARY

A Class VII girl, who was visiting her school friend's place during Saraswati Puja on Monday was allegedly kidnapped. The police have interrogated her classmate and two senior boys in connection with the incident.

Twelve-year-old Avora Bhattacharya, daughter of Swastika Bhattacharya, a staff nurse with Durgapur Steel Plant's main hospital, had left home yesterday morning to join Saraswati Puja. She's a student of a ICSE-affiliated girl's high school.

Swastika said: "She went to the house of her classmate Adrija Basu in Harshavardhana Road, about five km from my place yesterday morning." She added: "But when my daughter didn't return in the evening, I started searching for her and I was worried when her classmate told me that Avora had left a long time back in the afternoon."

The matter was informed to the police late last night and the police picked up Adrija and her two neighbourhood boys this morning and found anomaly when the boys told police that they'd dropped Avora at Amaravati area in neighbouring New Township PS area, about eight kilometres from Harshavardhana Road. The police later gathered CCTV footage where Avora was seen walking alone near the B-1 crossing.

The woman lodged a kidnapping complaint today. The deputy commissioner of police, Durgapur, Abhishek Gupta said: "We've received a complaint. We haven't found any footage showing the girl was forced to leave as yet." SNs

Darj MP flags graft in central project Jal Jeevan Mission

According to Mr Bista, many of the *Jal Jeevan Mission - Har Ghar Jal* DPRs lack proper planning

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SILIGURI, 4 FEBRUARY

Darjeeling MP Raju Bista has raised concerns over alleged massive corruption in the implementation of *Jal Jeevan Mission - Har Ghar Jal* projects across Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts. He has urged Union minister for Jal Shakti, C R Patil, to order a central investigation into these irregularities at the earliest.

"I informed the minister that the Jal Jeevan Mission projects in the region are managed by a separate PHE division, the Neorakhola W/S & MTC Division, under the West Bengal government and the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration. However, serious issues have emerged during their implementation," Mr Bista said.

Responding to these con-



cerns, Union minister Patil assured that a central team will be sent to examine the reported discrepancies. He also stated that going forward all states and Union Territories

will be required to sign MoUs ensuring sustainable and citizen-centric service delivery under the scheme.

According to Mr Bista, many of the *Har Ghar Jal*

detailed project reports (DPRs) lack proper planning for water sourcing. "The focus has been on laying pipes and constructing tanks without addressing how water will actually reach these tanks, making the projects unfeasible," he said.

He further alleged that in multiple locations, incorrect water sources have been identified, leading to incomplete projects. Additionally, contractors have been using substandard plastic pipes instead of durable GI or steel pipes, making the infrastructure vulnerable, especially during monsoons.

Mr Bista also claimed that existing water tanks, some dating back to the British era, are being falsely showcased as newly constructed, while new tanks are being built with poor-quality materials.

Highlighting the unique

challenges of the mountainous terrain in Darjeeling and Kalimpong, the MP emphasised that the projects require high engineering standards due to heavy rainfall and frequent landslides. "Unfortunately, the current work does not meet these standards, increasing the risk of further landslides," he warned.

He also pointed out that several projects remain stalled due to pending clearances from the West Bengal forest department.

The government has allocated Rs 67,000 crore for Jal Jeevan Mission projects nationwide, aiming to complete them within three years. Mr Bista stressed that under this initiative, every household in the Darjeeling Hills, Terai, and Dooars must be connected to piped water supply without any compromise in quality and transparency.

RG Kar financial scam: Sandip Ghosh, 4 others seek exemption

AGENCIES
KOLKATA, 4 FEBRUARY

The five accused in the multi-crore financial irregularities case at state-run R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, including the former principal of the institute Sandip Ghosh, on Tuesday, sought exemption from the case.

Besides Ghosh, four others who have sought similar exemption from the case registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), are his assistant-cum-bodyguard Afzar Ali, private contractors Biplab Sinha and Suman Hazra and a junior doctor Ashish Pandey. All of them are in judicial custody now.

The hearing for framing of charges in the case is likely on Wednesday at a special court in Kolkata. It is learnt that the hearing on exemption petitions by the five accused will be conducted simultaneously with the hearing on charge-framing.

On 28 January, the Calcutta High Court's single-judge Bench of Justice Tirthankar Ghosh directed the CBI, which

is investigating the case, to complete the process of framing charges against the five accused individuals by 6 February.

Recently, Ghosh also approached the Bench of Justice Ghosh with a plea seeking more time before the framing of the charges could begin. However, Justice Ghosh summarily rejected the petition.

As per the charge sheet filed by CBI in the financial irregularities case, the main charges are manipulations in the tendering process, getting infrastructure-related work at R G Kar done by private outsourced agencies bypassing the state public works department, "smuggling" bio-medical wastes from the hospital and selling the organs of the unidentified bodies coming to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

In the charge sheet, the investigating officials also gave details on the skyrocketing increase in the quantum of assets and properties of the accused persons, especially Ghosh, during his tenure as the principal.

Army's Trishakti Corps demonstrates combat readiness

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SILIGURI, 4 FEBRUARY

The Indian Army's Trishakti Corps successfully conducted a live fire exercise, demonstrating its battle readiness, rapid deployment, and precision strike capabilities in high-altitude warfare. The exercise was specifically designed to test the corps' operational effectiveness in the challenging mountainous terrain of Sikkim, a region



of strategic significance.

According to the Defence PRO, Guwahati, the participating units showcased coordinated firepower and

precision engagement, reaffirming their ability to swiftly adapt to diverse operational scenarios.

The exercise highlights the Indian Army's commitment to maintaining high standards of efficiency, agility, and mission readiness across all terrains. With a continuous focus on modernisation and combat preparedness, the Army remains fully equipped to address evolving security challenges in the region.

Manual scavenging deaths in Kolkata raise questions on efficiency of STPs

AGENCIES
KOLKATA, 4 FEBRUARY

The demise of three workers engaged in scavenging and manual cleaning of a sewerage drain pipe in Kolkata's Bantala leather complex, raises serious questions on the efficiency of the Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) within that complex.

Insiders at the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) said that since a thorough

probe in the unfortunate incident has already been ordered in the matter they expect that two crucial issues will be looked into.

The first being the efficiency of the STPs and the second the condition of the drain pipes there.

"It has to be seen whether the toxic chemicals used by the tanneries within the complex are properly drained out instead of contaminating the water in the surrounding

areas. At the same time there is a need for an audit of the efficiency of the treatment plants there to address such hazards," a KMC insider aware of the development said.

City-based green technologist Somendra Mohan Ghosh, who has long been vocal on this issue, told *IANS* that as per information available with him, three treatment plants there had long been virtually non-functional.

"The contaminated water has polluted wetlands and surrounding areas, causing harm to both human and environmental health. The tannery owners within the complex are also silent.

"This is a very serious issue and to me this is an environmental crime. The authorities must take immediate action to repair the treatment plants and prevent further environmental damage," Ghosh said.

TENDER

OFFICE OF THE COUNCILLORS OF OLD MALDA MUNICIPALITY
P.O.: Old Malda, Dist.: Malda, Pin-732128

E tenders are floated as specified by the Chairman, for different works & procurement vide Tender ID No. 2025_MAD_808134_1, 2025_MAD_808363_1, 2025_MAD_808430_1, 2025_MAD_808454_1, 2025_MAD_808760_1, 2025_MAD_808801_1 with submission end date: 20-02-2025 and 2025_MAD_809147_1 with submission end date: 28-02-2025 as specified by the Chairman.

Name of work: As per NleT.

Eligibility of Tenderer: As per NleT.

The details NleT or other relevant particulars (if any) may be seen by the intending tenderers during office hours in the office of the Chairman, Old Malda Municipality or visit: WWW.OMM.ORG.IN

Sd/-
Chairman
Old Malda Municipality

KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e-TENDER
ABRIDGED NIT

The Director General (Civil), KMC invites e-tender online percentage rate two bid system for the following works :

(1) NIT No. : KMC/DG(C)/BR-VIII/069/032/2024-25/R
Name of work : Development of road surface by applying cement concrete at Ahirpukur 2nd Lane from 35 Lower Range to 9 Ahirpukur Road, Kolkata under Ward No. 069; Estimated Cost : ₹ 7,99,871.73 (Including GST and CESS); Earnest Money : ₹ 16,000.00; Period of Completion : 60 Days; Last date and time of submission of bid : 15.02.2025 - 12 Noon; Date of opening of tender : 18.02.2025 - 12 Noon; The bid forms and other details are available on and from 05.02.2025 (5 pm) from the website <https://etender.wb.nic.in>.

(2) NIT No. : KMC/DGC/KI/114/077/24-25/R
Name of work : Road restoration for the work of laying of 450mm distribution main from proposed Dakshin Anandapally ESR in Ward No. 114 (Disturbed by Water Dept.); Estimated Value : ₹ 5,67,882.38 (Including GST and CESS); Earnest Money : ₹ 11,500.00; Time of Completion : 60 Days; Last date and time of submission of bid : 15.02.2025 - 12 Noon; Date and time of opening of bid : 18.02.2025 - 12 Noon; The bid forms and other details are available on and from 07.02.2025 (From 5 pm) from the website <https://etender.nic.in>.

The Director General (S&D), KMC invites e-tender online percentage rate two bid system for following works :

(1) NIT No. : S_DS-IX/80/12/24-25
Name of work : Removal of silt & foreign materials from nikashi drain along both flank in between stretch from xing of Taratala to xing of T.G. Road in Ward No. 80 under Br.-IX; Estimated Cost : ₹ 8,61,739.83 (Including CESS); Earnest Money : ₹ 18,000.00; Period of Completion : 60 Days; Bid submission start date (Online) : 05.02.2025 at 2 pm; Last date and time of submission of bid (Online) : 13.02.2025 upto 2 pm; The bid documents and other details will be available in the website <https://etender.wb.nic.in> on and from 05.02.2025 at 2 pm.

(2) NIT No. : KMC/GRBU/SO-36R/24-25 (2nd Call)
Name of the work : Cleaning of strainer and removal screen waste materials from the pump intake along PH channel for six months of New Monikhal DPS under GRBU; Estimated Cost : ₹ 9,62,890.00; Earnest Money : ₹ 20,000.00; Period of Completion : 183 Days; Last date and time of submission of bid : 15.02.2025 at 12 Noon; The bid forms and other details are available on and from 05.02.2025 at 5 pm from website <https://wbenders.gov.in>
1333/24-25

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
A Notice Inviting e-Tender No. WBW/SE/EC/NIT-10(e)/2024-25, dated 30.01.2025 invited by the Superintendent Engineer, Eastern Circle, I & W Dte. for the works: "Protection work along left bank of river Hooghly for a length of 500 M from Falta 83 Bus Stand to Falta Fort at Basulat, Falta within Block and PS-Falta, Dist-South 24 Pgs." amounting to Rs. 3,83,00,103.00, on behalf of Governor of West Bengal through e-Tendering from eligible and resourceful contractors having sufficient credentials and financial capability. All details of e-NIT can be obtained from the Website www.wbtenders.gov.in and <https://wbenders.gov.in> from 05.02.2025 at 17.00 Hours. Last date of bid submission is 25.02.2025 upto 17.00 Hours. Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Eastern Circle, I & W Dte. ICA- T2448(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
SRINIKETAN SANTINIKETAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
BOLPUR, DIST. BIRBHUM, **NOTICE INVITING TENDER**
NIT No. 11 of 2024-25. Online tender in two bid system is hereby invited for "Construction of boundary wall at plot no- 1769, I. L. No- 69, Mouza - Taltole, Ward No-02, under Bolpur Municipality under the Planning Area of Sriniketan Santiniketan Development Authority at Bolpur, Birbhum, West Bengal." Estimated cost for work: Rs. 55,66,929/-. Tender ID No. 2025_SSDA_808786_1. Bid submission start date (Online) 05/02/2025 at 11 AM. Bid submission closing date (Online) 18/02/2025 at 05:00 PM. Details are available visit the website <https://wbenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Officer, Sriniketan Santiniketan Development Authority. ICA- T2451(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
THE DURGAPUR PROJECTS LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
CIN No. U40109WB190550005250
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NIT No. (1) WBDP/DPPS/PUR/NITE/115 SR/312/2024-25, Tender ID : 2025_DPL_808019_1 for Procurement of F.G. Operating Actuator for CHP, DPPS. Bid submission end date: 08.02.2025, Bid Opening date: 12.02.2025.
(2) WBDP/PP/T/12012(18)/1/2025/AHP/E/282 dated, 30.01.2025, Tender ID: 2025_DPL_808632_1 for Renewal of vulnerable base frames, foundation bolts of running Driver, erection of support for DFA conveying pipe lines/fittings HP water pipelines and correction of Stairs at Silo from safety point of view; at FAHS 7, AHP, DPPS. Bid submission end date: 10.02.2025, Bid Opening date: 13.02.2025.
(3) WBDP/DPPS/PUR/NITE/116 SR/355/2024-25, Tender ID : 2025_DPL_808029_1 for Procurement of Cationic Polyelectrolyte (Liquid) for Chemical Laboratory, DPPS.
(4) WBDP/DPPS/PUR/NITE/114 SR/382/2024-25, Tender ID : 2025_DPL_808017_1 for Procurement of different Manually Operated Valves for DMWC System of UHB, DPPS. SI. Nos. 3&4, Bid submission end date: 15.02.2025, Bid Opening date: 19.02.2025 respectively.
(5) WBDP/DPPS/PUR/NITE/117 SR/355/2024-25, Tender ID : 2025_DPL_808029_1 for Procurement of Clariflocculator Drive Motor and Jockey Pump Motor of U7, DPPS. Bid submission end date: 15.02.2025, Bid Opening date: 21.02.2025.
(6) WBDP/PP/T/12017/15/2024-GM-PDW(DPL)-DPL/PS/E-272 dated, 15.01.2025, Tender ID : 2025_DPL_801072_1, Bid submission end date: 06.02.2025 and Bid Opening date: 09.02.2025.
(7) WBDP/PP/T/12012(18)/12/2024/AHP/E/275 dated, 16.01.2025, Tender ID : 2025_DPL_801756_1, Bid submission end date: 08.02.2025 and Bid Opening date: 11.02.2025. Visit : <https://wbenders.gov.in> / www.dpl.net.in ICA- T2446(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
HALDIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
City Centre, P.O. Debhog, Haldia Dist. Purba Medinipur, PIN-721657 Toll Free No. 1800-345-3224
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
No. 18(R)/HDA/EC/2022-23 (5th call)
Online (E-Tender) tender in a two bid system is hereby invited for "REPAIRING AND RESURFACING ROAD FROM TAMILUK PANSKURA BUS ROAD NEAR BHIMTALA STOPPAGE TOWARDS KASHI RIVER BANDH VIA CHAKRABORTY PARA UNDER PANSKURA MUNICIPALITY." Estimated Cost of work: Rs. 16,84,331/- (Including GST and Labour Welfare Cess). Document downloading date: 06.02.2025 to 21.02.2025 upto 2:30 p.m. Starting date of bid submission: 14.02.2025 at 10:00 a.m. Last date of online bid submission: 21.02.2025 upto 03:30 p.m. Information in details is available in the office and in the website of HDA : www.hda.gov.in E-Tender can be submitted through : www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, HDA. ICA- T2448(3)/2025

PURULIA ZILLA PARISHAD, PURULIA
Notice Inviting Tender
E Tender Notice No. e-NIT No. 24 of 2024-2025 Re-Tender (2nd Call) Memo No. 469/DE/PZP, dated: 30-01-2025 Please visit to the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in for details. Intending contractors may also contact Engineering Dept. of this office and office Notice Board.
Sd/- District Engineer
Purulia Zilla Parishad
Memo No. 215/ICAPURU Dt. 4-2-2025

PURULIA ZILLA PARISHAD, PURULIA
Notice Inviting Tender
E Tender Notice No. e-NIT No. 48 of 2024-2025 Fresh Call Memo No. 471/DE/PZP, dated: 30-01-2025. Please visit to the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in for details. Intending contractors may also contact Engineering Dept. of this office and office Notice Board.
Sd/- District Engineer
Purulia Zilla Parishad
Memo No. 216/ICAPURU Dt. 4-2-2025

PURULIA ZILLA PARISHAD, PURULIA
Notice Inviting Tender
E Tender Tender Notice No. e-NIT No. 25 of 2024-2025 Re-Tender (2nd Call) No. 472/DE/PZP, dated: 30-01-2025 Please visit to the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in for details. Intending contractors may also contact Engineering Dept. of this office and office Notice Board.
Sd/- District Engineer
Purulia Zilla Parishad
Memo No. 217/ICAPURU Dt. 4-2-2025

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office : Vidyut Bhawan, Block-DI, Sector-II, Bithannagar, Kolkata - 700 091
CIN : U40109WB200750C113473. www.wbsecl.in
WBSECL invites e-Tender as follows:
NIT No.: WBSEDC/TCFHP/e-Tender/2024-25/13, Dt.: 29.01.2025 of the Project Manager, TCFHP, WBSECL. Estimated Cost: ₹ 19,74,451/- for 'Repair & maintenance of Approach Road to Gowalajote (near PS-I Gate to Gowalajote Club) behind Power Station No-I of TCFHP, Leusipukuri, Dist-Darjeeling under CSR Scheme, WBSECL.
For details, visit <https://wbenders.gov.in> & www.wbsecl.in

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, PANAGARH
PO : PANAGARH, DIST : PURBA BARDHAMAN, PIN - 713420
Ph: 0343-2513216, Web: www.apspanagarh.com

- Tender are invited from reputed agencies for supply of Prescribed Support Books by HQ AWES, Delhi to the students of APS Panagarh for the session 2025-26.
- Tender documents can be collected from the School Office on payment of Rs. 500/- by DD only (non-refundable) in favour of Army Public School Panagarh payable at Panagarh from 06 Feb 2025 to 12 Feb 2025.

PRINCIPAL

SERIOUS ABOUT STORYBOOKS



A child is engrossed in reading a storybook at the 48th International Kolkata Book Fair. ■ SNs

Rare cat species spotted in trap cameras at Purulia forests

DEBAJYOTI CHAKRABORTY
PURULIA, 4 FEBRUARY

For the first time in West Bengal, forest department trap cameras have spotted a rare species of rusty spotted cat at Kotshila forests in Purulia district.

Forest officials claim that there must be more than one rusty spotted cat in the Kotshila Forests in Purulia district.

Recently, the forest department has started conservation and preservation and breeding of wildlife in that forest and has set up various trap cameras in the Kotshila forest ranges. One of these trap cameras captured the rare cat.

The small but rare cat is a fierce predator. This is the first time it has been spotted, not just in Purulia, but in Bengal.

It preys on snakes, rats, birds and lizards. It is still not clear from which region the wild animal entered the forests in Purulia.

In the past, this rare species was found in Gir National Forests in Gujarat which is famous for Asian lions and Tadoba forest sanctuary in



Maharashtra, famous as a tiger reserve.

Anjan Guha, divisional forest officer of Purulia forest division said that the rusty spotted cat is very rare and resides inside the deep forests and is very fierce in nature.

Shubrajyoti Chatterjee, an NGO working in the region for nature, wildlife preservation and conservation has stated that in the forests of Kotshila leopards are also spotted in the past and now rusty spotted cats are captured in trap cameras and is a very good sign that the region is becoming very fast a refuge of wild animals.

The people of Purulia also want that the stray tiger,

which has sneaked in from Jharkhand, stays in the forests of Purulia as a permanent residential tiger like the elephant herd of Dalma.

There are leopards, golden jackals, wolves, elephants, honey badger, nilgai etc in the forests of Purulia.

The forest department is now planning to set up a few more cameras to get details of the newly discovered wild animal in Purulia forests.

This smallest member of the cat family is found in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, though it is a very rare species now.

In recent years Purulia has recorded the highest green cover growth in the state.



'DIFFERENT STANDARDS
APPLIED TO NEIGHBOURS
IN EAST & WEST'

P7



SARMA SLAMS RAHUL
FOR REMARKS ON
INDIA'S DEVELOPMENT

P13



TRADE WARS

P8

VARUN CHAKRAVARTHY
CALLED UP FOR ODI
SERIES AGAINST ENGLAND



P15

SENSEX 78,583.81▲1,397.07 | NIFTY 23,739.25▲378.20 | ₹ vs \$ 86.98 | GOLD 85,545.00 | SILVER 1,06,000 | BRENT CRUDE (IN \$) 74.74▼1.22

WEATHER

Morning clouds followed by afternoon sun. Hazy. Maximum and minimum temperatures likely to be around 31°C and 21°C respectively.

RAINFALL: NIL
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
Max. 81% Min. 58%
TEMPERATURE
Max: 31.2°C Min: 21.3°C
SUN RISES 06:13 hrs SUN SETS 17:27 hrs
MOON RISES 10:46 hrs MOON SETS 23:29 hrs

Full Moon on 12 February

THUMBNAILS



King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath arrive at Sangam Ghat to offer prayers during the ongoing 'Mahakumbh Mela', in Prayagraj. ■ ANI

Indo-Bangla Fencing: Nearly 864.482 km of the India-Bangladesh border is yet to be fenced, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai informed the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, adding this includes a length of 174.514 km of non-feasible gap. The challenges faced in completing the feasible stretches of fencing projects relate to land acquisition, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) objections, limited working season and land slide/marshy land, he said.

ECI calls out deliberate pressure tactics to malign it in wake of Kejriwal's remarks

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 4 FEBRUARY

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday called out "repeated deliberate pressure tactics to malign" it in the ongoing Delhi Assembly polls, in an apparent reference to the remarks made by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener and former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal against it.

In a post on microblogging platform X, on the eve of the Delhi Assembly polls, the ECI without naming anyone, wrote: "The three-member Commission collectively noted repeated deliberate pressure tactics to malign ECI in Delhi Elections, as if it is a single member body and decided to have constitutional restraint, absorbing such outbursts with sagacity, stoically and not to be swayed by such insinuations."

The poll panel pointed out that action on issues raised by political parties and candidates are taken in each instance by over 1.5



lakh officials in the Delhi polls, who are functioning within established legal framework, robust processes and SoPs ensuring fair play and non partisan conduct.

Notably, the statement of the ECI came days after Mr Kejriwal accused Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar of acting in favour of the BJP in a desperate bid for a post-retirement job.

Accusing the ECI of engaging in politics, he had said: "CEC Rajiv Kumar wants a post-retirement job after February 28. I want to tell

Rajiv Kumar ji—history will not forgive you. The amount of damage you have done to the Election Commission, I don't think the Election Commission has ever been tarnished this badly in India's history." "Cash is being openly distributed in Delhi, but they fail to see it. Every day, blankets are being distributed, blankets were handed out. But they don't notice that either. We even pointed out whose house is being used to store the money, yet they turn a blind eye to it," the AAP convener had said.

'Rahul indulging in irresponsible politics on issues of national interest'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 4 FEBRUARY

Sharply reacting to Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi's remarks in the Lok Sabha yesterday that India has lost a part of its territory to China, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said it is a matter of "deep regret" that the Congress leader should indulge in irresponsible politics on issues of national interest.

"Rahul Gandhi in his speech in Parliament on 03 February 2025 made false allegations about the statement of the Army Chief on the situation on the India-China border. The Army Chief's remarks referred only to the disturbance of traditional patrolling by both sides... Government has shared these details in Parliament. The words attributed to the Army Chief by Shri Rahul Gandhi were never spoken by him at any time," Mr Singh wrote on 'X'.

Stages set for voting in Assembly elections in Delhi

SANTU DAS
NEW DELHI, 4 FEBRUARY

The stage is set for voting on Wednesday in the Assembly elections in Delhi in what has turned out to be a no-holds-barred battle among the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), BJP and the Congress.

The ruling AAP is fighting with its back to the wall due to factors like anti-incumbency and charges of corruption against its top leaders while the BJP is leaving no stone unturned to recapture power in the national capital where it has remained in the opposition for the last 27 years.

The Congress has also put its best foot forward and is contesting the election on its own despite the fact that the grand old party and the AAP are part of the INDIA bloc.

Voting for the 70-member Assembly will begin at 7 a.m. across 13,766 polling stations, manned by a total of 1,09,955 people, including 68,733 polling



personnel, amid tight security to avert any untoward incident. It will continue till 6 p.m.

More than 1.56 crore voters will decide the fate of 699 candidates who are in the fray. Of the total numbers of voters eligible to exercise their franchise, 83,76,173 are male, 72,36,560 female and 1,267 third gender electors. The total number of first-time voters is 2,39,905.

From the AAP, the prestige of Chief Minister Atishi and several ministers of the Cabinet including Gopal Rai, Saurabh

Bharadwaj and Imran Hussain, former Chief Minister and its national convener Arvind Kejriwal, former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, Somnath Bharti and Amanatullah Khan are at stake.

Prominent among the candidates from the BJP are former MPs Parvesh Verma and Ramesh Bidhuri, Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta, Kapil Mishra, Kailash Gahlot, OP Sharma, Satish Upadhyay, Harish Khurana and Ravinder Negi, while prominent Congress candi-

dates include its Delhi unit chief Devender Yadav, former MP Sandeep Dikshit, and former MLAs Anil Chaudhary, Haroon Yusuf and Alka Lamba.

Notably, the leaders of the AAP, BJP and Congress left no stone unturned to woo the voters during their campaign. Besides Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP national president JP Nadda, key leaders from the saffron party who campaigned extensively included Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, while for the AAP its national convener Kejriwal, Chief Minister Atishi, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and Sisodia campaigned.

For the Congress, its national president Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and the party's general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were at the forefront.

'BGBS to be held on a much grander scale'

Business delegations from 40 countries expected to participate

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 4 FEBRUARY

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Tuesday that this year's Bengal Global Business Summit will be held on a grand scale, much larger than in previous years, with business delegations from 40 countries expected to participate to explore investment opportunities in the state.

Miss Banerjee, speaking to the media on Tuesday afternoon, expressed confidence that the presence of prominent business leaders like Mukesh Ambani and Sajjan Jindal, among others, would significantly boost the state's investment climate, creating a favourable environment for investment. "There are 40 countries, of which 20 are partner countries. Approximately 2,000 business delegations from these 40 countries will participate," Miss Banerjee stated.

The chief minister also indicated that, in addition to business delegations



and ambassadors, the Prime Minister of Bhutan is likely to be among the invitees. The Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Hemant Soren, has also been invited.

Miss Banerjee attended a tea party at the convention centre in New Town today, ahead of the summit's formal inauguration tomorrow.

A key feature of this year's summit will be the AI hub. Officials from the MSME, IT, small cottage industries, and agro products departments will be present to discuss invest-

ment opportunities during the two-day event. The summit will also focus on the state's tourism sector. The state cabinet, meeting at Nabanna, assigned four ministers ~ Chandrima Bhat-tacharya, Shashi Panja, Jyotsna Mandi, and Bir-baha Hansda ~ to welcome guests at the summit.

Later in the day, Miss Banerjee posted on social media: "Spent the evening preceding the launch of our Bengal Global Business summit 2025 with delegates pouring in Kolkata today from all

The chief minister also indicated that, in addition to business delegations and ambassadors, the Prime Minister of Bhutan is likely to be among the invitees.

over the world. Over 5000 delegates including those from 40 countries of the planet have started arriving in our city on the eve of BGBS. 20 Ambassadors and High commissioners are assembling to represent their countries, while Indian tycoons are coming en bloc often assisted by their Chambers, CII, FICCI and ICC. Had tea with the investors and officials at a New Town lakeside gathering before proceeding to inaugurate the Summit tomorrow."

Sources at Kolkata airport confirmed that Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren and Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani are scheduled to arrive tomorrow.

PM Modi targets Kejriwal, Rahul in Lok Sabha with 'jacuzzi, Sheesh Mahal' jibes

NIKHIL VYAS
NEW DELHI, 4 FEBRUARY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday charged AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal with playing "politics of poison" and came down heavily on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for describing President Droupadi Murmu's speech in Parliament as "boring".

During his nearly two-hour-long marathon reply to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address in the Lok Sabha, the Prime Minister launched a scathing attack on Mr Kejriwal for charging the BJP-led Haryana government with 'poisoning' Yamuna water. "We follow the spirit of the Constitution, we do not do poisonous politics," Mr Modi said.

In a jibe at Aam Aadmi Party chief and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the Prime Minister said: "Some leaders focus on jacuzzi and stylish showers in homes, but our focus is on providing water to every home. After 75 years of independence, 75 per cent, more than 16 crore houses in the country did not have tap connection." "Our government has provided pure tap water to 12 crore families in five years," the Prime Minister said.

Mr Modi also made a veiled attack on Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha



Rahul Gandhi over his remarks on President Droupadi Murmu's speech on the opening day of the Budget Session of Parliament.

"Those who keep entertaining themselves by doing photo sessions in the huts of the poor will find it boring to talk about the poor in Parliament," Mr Modi said.

He cited many public-driven projects and schemes to harness the country's resources and said that his government used the money to build the nation, and not a 'Sheesh Mahal' for former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, allegedly built with taxpayers' money.

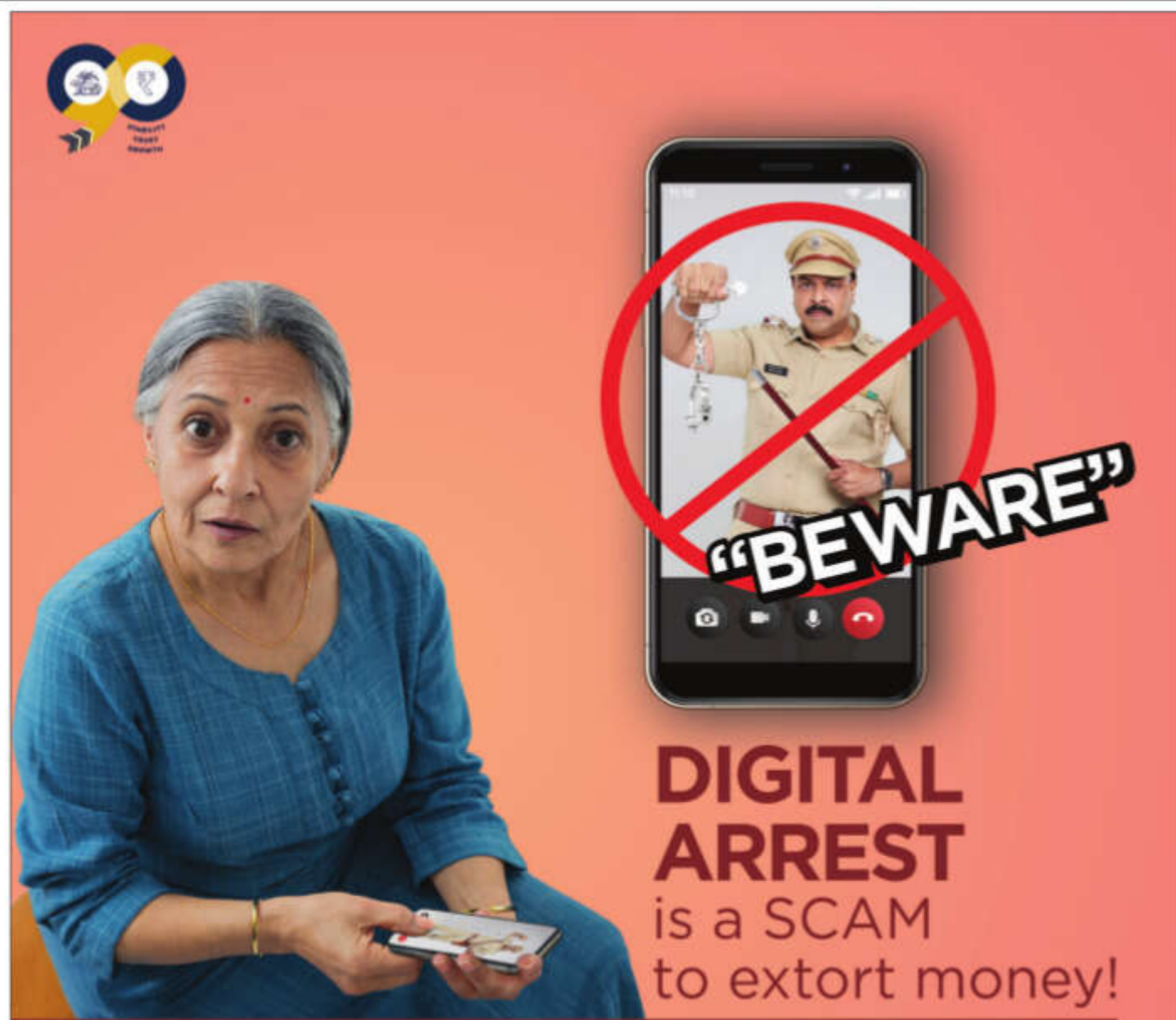
'Sheesh Mahal' is the tag the BJP has given to the Delhi chief minister's official residence, which is at the centre of a controversy over cost escalation during its renovation while Mr Kejriwal was still chief minister.

"Earlier, the newspapers were filled with news of scams and corruption. In the past 10 years, we have saved crores of rupees which have been used for the public. We have not used that money to build a 'Sheesh Mahal', instead we used that to build the nation," the Prime Minister said.

Mr Modi said his government is working to provide a bright future to the youth but there are parties which are "AAPda" (tragedy) for the future of youth. PM Modi has repeatedly attacked AAP, the ruling party in Delhi, with the "AAPda" jibe.

Targeting Rahul Gandhi, Mr Modi said that "some" people speak on foreign policy even if it causes harm to the country. Mr Modi added that some think they won't appear mature if they don't speak on foreign policy. "A few people think they don't appear mature if they don't speak on foreign policy. They think that they should definitely speak on foreign policy, even if it causes harm to the country," PM Modi said.

He recommended a book, *JFK's Forgotten Crisis* on foreign policy, which mentions the conversations between former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and then US President John F Kennedy. Mr Modi said that this book must be read by those who have a genuine interest in the subject.



The advertisement features a woman in a blue sari looking concerned while holding a smartphone. On the screen of the phone, there is a video of a police officer in uniform holding a baton, with a large red 'X' over it and the word 'BEWARE' in bold, slanted letters. Below the phone, the text reads 'DIGITAL ARREST is a SCAM to extort money!'. In the top left corner, there is a logo for 'RBI Kehta Hai...'.

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Mamata may give 'guidelines' to party MLAs on 10 February

CM is expected to outline the initial blueprint for the party's strategy for the Bengal polls in 2026

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 4 FEBRUARY

Trinamul Congress chairperson and chief minister Mamata Banerjee may fix strict "conduct guidelines" for the maverick party MLAs at a crucial meeting on the state Assembly premises on 10 February, party sources said. "The meeting at the West Bengal Assembly premises will be held on the same day, Governor C V Ananda Bose will deliver his opening address for the forthcoming Budget session. Recently, certain conduct and public statements made by some legislators had been a cause of embarrassment for the



party, much to the dislike of the chief minister. So, in the crucial meeting with the party's legislators, she might fix some conduct guidelines," said a member of the West Bengal Cabinet, who did not

wish to be named.

He added that although the conduct guidelines will be in general applicable to all the legislators, it will be a note of caution from the chief minister for those who

have turned out to be habitual offenders in posing embarrassments for the party through their actions or loaded public statements.

Recently, a comment by one such maverick legislator Madan Mitra, claiming that becoming a member of the party's district committee against money is quite common, had posed immense embarrassment for the leadership.

Although Mitra had already written a letter to the party's state president in West Bengal Subrata Bakshi, apologising for making such a public statement, the party leadership feels it is high time to caution such loose tongues to be careful

in future.

Political observers feel that the meeting of the chief minister with the party's legislators is especially crucial in the backdrop of the extended organisational meeting of Trinamul Congress scheduled either on 26 February or the day next, where the chief minister is expected to outline the initial blueprint for the party's strategy for the crucial West Bengal Assembly polls in 2026.

Every year in the first quarter, such an organisational meeting of the party is held. But this time, the organisational meeting will have a special significance considering the crucial Assembly elections next year.

Home ministry replies to Abhishek's question on communalism

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 4 FEBRUARY

The Diamond Harbour MP and Trinamul Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee had asked the union ministry of home affairs some pertinent questions regarding measures to curb communalism in the Budget session of Parliament. He asked if the Centre has implemented any concrete measures to enforce the 10-year moratorium on communalism; (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; (c) the details of percentage of increase/decrease of hate crimes including mob assaults, lynchings and attacks on minorities since 2014; and (d) the steps taken by the government to prevent such incidents and ensure accountability along with



the data related to these crimes?

The questions were answered by Nityanand Rai, minister of state of home affairs on Tuesday. From a) to (d): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are state subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. State governments are responsible for maintenance of public order as well as prevention, detection, reg-

istration and investigation of crime and for prosecuting the criminals through their law enforcement agencies to ensure peace and harmony in the society. However, the ministry of home affairs have issued advisories to states and UTs, from time to time, to maintain law and order and to ensure that any person who takes law into his/her own hands is punished promptly as per law. Further, Sub-Section 2 of Section 103 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 provides punishment of death or imprisonment for life for the offence of mob-lynching.

National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles and publishes statistical data on crimes in its publication 'Crime in India'. Published reports are available till the year 2022.

New posts in police force:

The state Cabinet on Tuesday cleared the creation of 12 new posts of deputy commissioners (DCs) in Kolkata Police, who would be from the ranks of non-IPS cadres, claimed sources. The posts of DCs would be filled from the officers in the ranks of ACP through promotions. The officers in the ranks of ACPs would be divided into two categories AC-I (investigation), would be those, whose task would be to investigate crimes. And, AC-N (non investigation) officers would be in charge of administration and training. SNS

Supporting transgender community:

Rotary Club of Calcutta Ayyanna, in association with Prantakatha, launched a gender affirmative clinic for transgender on 29 January. The clinic aims to provide comprehensive healthcare services, including hormone therapy and counselling, to the transgender community. District Governor Dr Krishnendu Gupta emphasising the importance of inclusivity and healthcare accessibility for marginalised communities. SNS

Man holds blood donation camp during Saraswati Puja

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HOOGHLY, 4 FEBRUARY

On Saraswati Puja, Ranjit Dey, the present generation of Deybari zamindar family of Serampore came forward to share concern with thalassemia-affected children.

Mr Dey organised Saraswati Puja at his residence and also held a blood donation camp to send out the message of protecting and spreading greenery. He handed over saplings to everyone who visited the pandal.

On the occasion were present thalassemia-affected children with their parents,

medical assistants, the Serampore municipality chairman Giridhari Shaw, TMC district president Arindam Guin, Seoraphuli-Baidyabati Municipality chairman Pintu Mahato and other dignitaries.

The Serampore Municipality chairman and TMC district president said that the thalassemia-affected children are past of the larger family of the society. "It is the duty of all of us to take the initiative so that the affected children receive blood when required. More such blood donation camps should come up to meet

the blood crisis and that no precious life should be lost for lack of blood. The initiative by Ranjit Dey to set up a blood donation camp for a greater cause is highly appreciable," they said.

The parents of such children appreciated the initiative.

Mr Dey said: "I have come across pathetic circumstances. During acute blood crisis, the parents of the affected children run from pillar to post to procure blood. I preferred a blood donation camp specially for the thalassemia affected children."

Abhishek visits Sebaashray camp in Metiabruz

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 4 FEBRUARY

Trinamul Congress MP from Diamond Harbour today visited a Sebaashray camp in Metiabruz this morning.

The camp was held at field 4 of Navabrata Seva Samity. He was greeted by the local Trinamul Congress leaders. Those who were present at the camp talked to him and he had assured them every possible help.

He took to X to express his opinion. He wrote: "Imagine waking up every day to a world blurred beyond recognition, where familiar faces fade, daily tasks become impossible, and independence slowly slips away. For thousands of elderly individuals battling cataracts, this isn't just a medical issue - it's a silent imprisonment. But #Sebaashray has helped them break free.

"After Diamond Harbour

and Falta, 10 patients referred from the model camp at Bishnupur underwent completely free cataract surgeries at Renuka Eye Institute. This isn't just about restoring sight- It's about restoring control, confidence and the ability to live without fear or dependence. To the elderly, losing vision is not just a health issue, it's an erosion of identity. Through Sebaashray, we are ensuring that no one is forced to accept

this as their fate.

"Healthcare must reach people before their suffering becomes irreversible. That is the ethos of Sebaashray - not passive welfare, but proactive, intervention-driven service that changes lives before it's too late."

The Sebaashray camp was inaugurated by him on 2 January. So far more than 5.50 lakh people have visited the camps since the beginning.

Fort William is now Vijay Durg

KOLKATA, 3 FEBRUARY

The nearly 250-year-old Fort William in Kolkata, headquarters of the Army's Eastern Command, has been renamed Vijay Durg, said Wg Cdr Himanshu Tiwari, chief public relations officer, ministry of defence, Kolkata.

Headed that some other structures within the fort have also been renamed.

"Kitchener House, inside Fort William, has also been renamed Manekshaw House and the South Gate, also known as St George's Gate - is now Shivaji Gate," Wg Cdr Tiwari said.

According to a senior official of the Eastern Command, the existing Fort William, on over 177 acres, replaced the original one that was sacked by Siraj-ud-Daula's troops in 1757. The British began building the new Fort in 1758 and completed the first phase in 1781.

"Wiser after the rout of the older structure, they constructed the new one with added defences. The ramparts were constructed to withstand cannon fire (of those times). The octagonal structure, with a moat all around, had eight gates. While three of these faced River Hooghly, on whose banks the Fort stands, the others overlooked open land what was then known as the Glacis. This open land is today called the Kolkata Maidan," the official said.

He added that 497 cannons were placed along the ramparts, but none of them had to fire a shot against the enemy as the fort was never attacked. AGENCIES

BJP MP Soumitra Khan flags drug menace spreading in West Bengal

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, 4 FEBRUARY

Senior BJP leader and Member of Parliament from West Bengal Soumitra Khan, has raised serious concerns over the alleged "growing drug menace" in the state.

Addressing a Press conference in Delhi on Tuesday, Khan claimed that drug addiction is spreading like wildfire across West Bengal, while the state government remains indifferent to the crisis. Khan had sought information from the ministry of social justice and empowerment regarding the steps taken by the central government to combat drug abuse in West Bengal. In response, the ministry revealed that Rs 4.06 crore had been allocated to NGOs in the state for drug de-addiction initiatives.

However, despite this funding, there has been no significant improvement in the situation. The ministry also provided shocking statistics on substance abuse in West Bengal. According to fact, 27,00,000 individuals are addicted by alcohol and 1,44,000 individuals are addicted by cannabis. There is opium addiction among 3,43,000 individuals and sedative addiction are among



1,12,000 individuals. Highlighting these figures, Mr Khan accused the Trinamul Congress (TMC)-led state government of failing to implement the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (Drug-Free India campaign) in the eight most affected districts of West Bengal.

"Despite Rs 4.06 crore being allocated to NGOs for drug de-addiction, the situation remains unchanged. "These statistics clearly exposed how helpless the West Bengal administration is in tackling drug and opium trafficking. The central ministry's data has completely exposed the failures of the TMC government," Khan asserted. He further emphasised the urgent need for action, citing reports of

15,000 distress calls from drug abuse victims across the state. With the drug crisis worsening, political tension is expected to rise as the BJP continues to target the ruling TMC over governance failures. The state government is yet to respond to these allegations. Pradesh Congress Committee leader and state spokesperson Soumya Aich Roy said BJP and TMC have no desire to eradicate drug menace from West Bengal. "If the central government is providing funds to eradicate addiction TMC is misutilising it. Both parties have no intent of reducing drug addiction. All are eyewash," he said. Trinamul leader and MP from Mathurapur, Bapi Halder, dismissed Soumitra Khan's allegations. He stated that the entire country is aware of how the central government is neglecting the people of Bengal and pushing them towards crisis by withholding funds. Halder further alleged that West Bengal does not receive any central assistance for projects, including the Awaz Yojana, making it clear that despite having 12 BJP MPs, the central government is indirectly humiliating them in front of the people of Bengal.

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Folio No.	Name of Shareholder	Distinctive Nos.	Certificate No.	No. of Shares
S0002612	Sunil R. Gandhi	3470551-3470600	33422	50
S0002612	Sunil R. Gandhi	3470601-3470650	33423	50
S0002612	Sunil R. Gandhi	3470651-3470700	33424	50
S0002612	Sunil R. Gandhi	3470701-3470750	33425	50

Date: 4th February, 2025
Place: Kolkata

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Jal Sansadhan Bhawan, Tulsī Nagar, Bhopal (M.P.)				
E-mail Id: ceproc.ewncwr.bpl@nic.in				
Tel.: 0755-2767635 Fax: 0755-2552406				
N.I.T. No. 1125/2024-25/E-in-C/e-tendering Bhopal, Dated 29.01.2025				
Bids for following works are invited on website: https://www.mptenders.gov.in Last date of purchase / download of Bid Document and submission of bid is 27-02-2025 17:30 hrs . Any amendment / modification can be seen only on the website. Detailed N.I.T. and other details can be viewed on abovementioned website.				
Sl. No.	Tender No.	Work	District	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
1.	2025_WRD_398859	On Turnkey Basis: Under Bina Complex Irrigation and Multipurpose Project Construction of Dehra Dam on Dehra Nallah, Sernaghat Diversion Weir on Dhasan river, 4 MW Dehra Power House and feeder channel for diversion from Dhasan river to Dehra dam, as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Sagar	36344.35
2.	2025_WRD_398860	On Turnkey Basis: Under Bina Complex Irrigation and Multi purpose Project Construction of Madia Power House of 21 MW capacity with all allied work, as per detailed scope of work but not limited to that.	Sagar	22130.90
Chief Engineer (Procurement)				



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01033	CSMT, Mumbai	Mau Jn.	05.02.25, 22.02.25, 26.02.25	11.30
01034	Mau Jn.	CSMT, Mumbai	06.02.25, 23.02.25, 27.02.25	23.50
01217	Nagpur	Danapur	05.02.25, 09.02.25, 23.02.25	10.00
01218	Danapur	Nagpur	06.02.25, 10.02.25, 24.02.25	16.00
01455	Pune Jn.	Mau Jn.	06.02.25, 08.02.25, 21.02.25	10.10
01456	Mau Jn.	Pune Jn.	07.02.25, 09.02.25, 22.02.25	23.50
01661	Rani Kamalapati (Bhopal)	Banaras	06.02.25, 17.02.25, 20.02.25	11.10
01662	Banaras	Rani Kamalapati (Bhopal)	07.02.25, 18.02.25, 21.02.25	14.45
01801	Virangana Lakshmibai Jhansi	Subedarganj	08.02.25, 09.02.25, 15.02.25, 16.02.25, 22.02.25, 23.02.25	6.10
01802	Subedarganj	Virangana Lakshmibai Jhansi	08.02.25, 09.02.25, 15.02.25, 16.02.25, 22.02.25, 23.02.25	14.45
02417	Subedarganj	Delhi Jn.	07.02.25, 08.02.25, 14.02.25, 15.02.25, 21.02.25, 22.02.25, 28.02.25	21.35
02418	Delhi Jn.	Subedarganj	08.02.25, 09.02.25, 15.02.25, 16.02.25, 22.02.25, 23.02.25, 01.03.25	9.30
03021	Howrah	Tundla Jn.	05.02.25, 07.02.25, 14.02.25, 21.02.25 26.02.25	19.35
03022	Tundla Jn.	Howrah	07.02.25, 09.02.25, 16.02.25, 23.02.25, 28.02.25	11.20
03023	Howrah	Tundla Jn.	16.02.25, 17.02.25, 18.02.25, 20.02.25	0.30
03024	Tundla Jn.	Howrah	17.02.25, 18.02.25, 19.02.25, 21.02.25	11.20
03025	Howrah	Tundla Jn.	28.02.25	5.45
03026	Tundla Jn.	Howrah	01.03.25	11.20
03029	Howrah	Tundla Jn.	06.02.25, 20.02.25	19.35
03030	Tundla Jn.	Howrah	08.02.25, 22.02.25	3.00
03031	Howrah	Bhind	19.02.25	0.30
03032	Bhind	Howrah	21.02.25	3.30
03219	Patna Jn.	Prayagraj Junction	07.02.25, 08.02.25, 09.02.25, 10.02.25, 15.02.25, 16.02.25, 17.02.25, 18.02.25, 20.02.25, 22.02.25, 23.02.25, 24.02.25, 25.02.25, 27.02.25, 28.02.25	14.25
03409	Malda Town	Prayagraj Junction	06.02.25, 08.02.25, 15.02.25 20.02.25, 22.02.25	20.45
03689	Gaya Jn.	Prayagraj Junction	07.02.25, 08.02.25, 09.02.25, 10.02.25, 15.02.25, 16.02.25, 17.02.25, 18.02.25, 20.02.25, 22.02.25, 23.02.25, 24.02.25, 25.02.25, 27.02.25, 28.02.25	2.20
04065	Phaphamau Jn.	Delhi Jn.	09.02.25, 17.02.25, 28.02.25	23.30
04066	Delhi Jn.	Phaphamau Jn.	08.02.25, 16.02.25, 27.02.25	23.25
04145	Subedarganj	Delhi Jn.	06.02.25, 13.02.25, 20.02.25, 27.02.25	21.35
04146	Delhi Jn.	Subedarganj	07.02.25, 14.02.25, 21.02.25, 28.02.25	9.30
04153	Kanpur Central Jn.	Bhagalpur	10.02.25, 17.02.25	14.00
04154	Bhagalpur	Kanpur Central Jn.	11.02.25, 18.02.25, 21.02.25	8.40
04315	Phaphamau Jn.	Dehradun	10.02.25, 17.02.25, 24.02.25	6.30
04316	Dehradun	Phaphamau Jn.	09.02.25, 16.02.25, 23.02.25	8.10
04525	Phaphamau Jn.	Bathinda Jn.	09.02.25, 19.02.25, 23.02.25	6.30
04526	Bathinda Jn.	Phaphamau Jn. (Prayagraj)	08.02.25, 18.02.25, 22.02.25	04.30
04527	Phaphamau Jn. (Prayagraj)	Amb Andaura	10.02.25, 16.02.25, 24.02.25	22.30
04528	Amb Andaura	Phaphamau Jn. (Prayagraj)	15.02.25, 23.02.25	22.05
04661	Phaphamau Jn. (Prayagraj)	Amritsar Jn.	08.02.25	6.30
04662	Amritsar Jn.	Phaphamau Jn.	06.02.25	20.10
05611	Kamakhya Jn	Tundla Jn.	08.02.25, 22.02.25	5.30
05612	Tundla Jn.	Kamakhya Jn	10.02.25, 24.02.25	3.00
05811	Naharlagun	Tundla Jn.	08.02.25, 22.02.25	14.30
05812	Tundla Jn.	Naharlagun	10.02.25, 24.02.25	11.20
06001	Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R Central, Chennai	Gomti Nagar	05.02.25, 19.02.25, 26.02.25	14.20
06002	Gomti Nagar	Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R Central, Chennai	08.02.25, 22.02.25, 01.03.25	3.45
06003	Kanniyakumari	Banaras	17.02.25	20.30
06004	Banaras	Kanniyakumari	20.02.25	18.05
06007	Thiruvananthapuram north	Banaras	18.02.25	14.00
06007	Thiruvananthapuram north	Banaras	25.02.25	19.30
06008	Banaras	Thiruvananthapuram north	21.02.25, 28.02.25	18.05
06019	Mangaluru Central	Varanasi Jn.	15.02.25	4.15
06022	Gaya Jn.	Thiruvananthapuram north	07.02.25	23.55
06062	Varanasi Jn.	Mangaluru Central	18.02.25	18.20
06071	Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R Central, Chennai	Gomti Nagar	15.02.25, 01.03.25	14.20
06072	Gomti Nagar	Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R Central, Chennai	18.02.25, 04.03.25	3.45
06207	Mysuru Jn.	Danapur	15.02.25, 01.03.25	5.10
06208	Danapur	Mysuru Jn.	18.02.25, 04.03.25	23.00
07081	Guntur Jn.	Azamgarh	14.02.25	23.00

TRAIN No.	STATION	DESTINATION STATION	DEPARTURE DATE	DEP. TIME
07082	Azamgarh	Vijayawada Jn.	16.02.25	19.45
07083	Machilipatnam	Azamgarh	05.02.25	22.00
07084	Azamgarh	Machilipatnam	07.02.25	19.45
07085	Kakinada Town Jn.	Azamgarh	20.02.25	20.10
07086	Azamgarh	Vijayawada Jn.	22.02.25	19.45
07087	Maula Ali	Banaras	17.02.25	23.55
07088	Banaras	Maula Ali	19.02.25	19.15
07089	Maula Ali	Gaya Jn.	15.02.25	17.50
07090	Gaya Jn.	Maula Ali	17.02.25	19.45
07091	Vikarabad JN	Gaya Jn.	18.02.25	15.45
07092	Gaya Jn.	Vikarabad Jn.	20.02.25	19.45
07093	Vijayawada Jn.	Gaya Jn.	05.02.25	19.20
07094	Gaya Jn.	Vijayawada Jn.	08.02.25	19.45
07095	Kakinada Town Jn	Gaya Jn.	08.02.25	14.30
07096	Gaya Jn.	Vijayawada Jn.	10.02.25	14.15
07099	Hazur Sahib Nanded	Patna Jn.	13.02.25	23.00
07100	Patna Jn.	Hazur Sahib Nanded	15.02.25	15.30
07101	Aurangabad	Patna Jn.	19.02.25, 25.02.25	19.00
07102	Patna Jn.	Aurangabad	27.02.25	15.30
07103	Kacheguda	Patna Jn.	22.02.25	16.45
07104	Patna Jn.	Kacheguda	24.02.25	11.30
07105	Secunderabad Jn.	Patna Jn.	07.02.25	17.00
07106	Patna Jn.	Secunderabad Jn.	09.02.25	15.30
07107	Tirupati	Banaras	08.02.25, 15.02.25, 22.02.25	20.55
07107	Banaras	Vijayawada Jn.	10.02.25, 17.02.25, 24.02.25	17.30
07707	Maula Ali	Azamgarh	21.02.25	23.55
07708	Azamgarh	Maula Ali	23.02.25	19.45
08253	Bilaspur Jn.	Varanasi Jn.	22.02.25	8.15
08254	Varanasi Jn.	Bilaspur Jn.	24.02.25	10.50
08313	Tundla Jn.	Titlagarh	08.02.25, 22.02.25, 01.03.25	5.00
08314	Titlagarh	Tundla Jn.	06.02.25, 20.02.25, 27.02.25	17.00
08418	Tundla Jn.	Puri	19.02.25	3.00
08425	Bhubaneswar	Tundla Jn.	05.02.25, 19.02.25, 26.02.25	12.30
08426	Tundla Jn.	Bhubaneswar	07.02.25, 21.02.25, 28.02.25	3.00
08529	Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Jn.	Visakhapatnam	08.02.25, 22.02.25, 01.03.25	20.10
08530	Visakhapatnam	Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Jn.	06.02.25, 20.02.25, 27.02.25	17.35
08561	Gorakhpur Jn.	Visakhapatnam	19.02.25	14.20
08562	Visakhapatnam	Gorakhpur Jn.	16.02.25	22.20
08791	Durg	Varanasi Jn.	16.02.25	13.50
08792	Varanasi Jn.	Durg	10.02.25	10.50
09017	Vapi	Gaya Jn.	07.02.25, 14.02.25, 18.02.25, 22.02.25	8.20
09018	Gaya Jn.	Vapi	08.02.25, 15.02.25, 19.02.25, 23.02.25	22.00
09019	Valsad	Danapur	08.02.25, 15.02.25, 19.02.25, 26.02.25	8.40
09020	Danapur	Valsad	09.02.25, 16.02.25, 20.02.25, 27.02.25	23.30
09029	Vishvamitri (Vadodara)	Ballia	17.02.25	8.35
09030	Ballia	Vishvamitri (Vadodara)	18.02.25	23.30
09031	Udhna Jn. (Surat)	Ghazipur City	16.02.25	6.40
09032	Ghazipur City	Udhna Jn. (Surat)	18.02.25	0.30
09371	Dr. Ambedkar Nagar	Ballia	08.02.25, 22.02.25	13.45
09372	Ballia	Dr. Ambedkar Nagar	09.02.25, 23.02.25	23.45
09403	Ahmedabad Jn.	Janghal Jn.	05.02.25, 14.02.25, 15.02.25, 18.02.25, 19.02.25, 26.02.25	21.15
09404	Janghal Jn.	Ahmedabad Jn.	07.02.25, 16.02.25, 17.02.25, 20.02.25, 21.02.25, 28.02.25	8.30
09413	SABARMATI (Ahmedabad)	Banaras	05.02.25, 09.02.25, 14.02.25, 18.02.25	11.00
09414	Banaras	SABARMATI (Ahmedabad)	06.02.25, 10.02.25, 15.02.25, 19.02.25	19.30
09537	Rajkot Jn.	Banaras	06.02.25, 15.02.25, 19.02.25	6.05
09538	Banaras	Rajkot Jn.	07.02.25, 16.02.25, 20.02.25	19.30
09555	Bhavnagar Terminus	Banaras	16.02.25, 20.02.25	5.00
09556	Banaras	Bhavnagar Terminus	17.02.25, 21.02.25	19.30
09592	Banaras	Veraval	24.02.25	19.30
09801	Sogaria (Kota)	Banaras	07.02.25, 14.02.25, 18.02.25, 21.02.25	8.15
09802	Banaras	Sogaria (Kota)	08.02.25, 15.02.25, 19.02.25, 22.02.25	14.45
03690	Prayagraj Junction	Gaya Jn.	07.02.25, 08.02.25, 09.02.25, 10.02.25, 15.02.25, 16.02.25, 17.02.25, 18.02.25, 20.02.25, 22.02.25, 23.02.25, 24.02.25, 25.02.25, 27.02.25, 28.02.25	11.00
03220	Prayagraj Junction	Patna Jn.	07.02.25, 08.02.25, 09.02.25, 10.02.25, 15.02.25, 16.02.25, 17.02.25, 18.02.25, 20.02.25, 22.02.25, 23.02.25, 24.02.25, 25.02.25, 27.02.25, 28.02.25	22.35



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THUMBNAILS

Swami Chidananda Giri delivers an inspiring discourse on Kriya Yoga: Yogoda Satsanga Society of India/Self-Realization Fellowship (YSS/SRF) President and Spiritual Head Swami Chidananda Giri, delivered an inspiring spiritual discourse on Kriya Yoga, a scientific yoga technique for quickening human evolution. Addressing a diverse audience of more than 2000 people at Palace Grounds, Swamiji shared insights on the works of the world-renowned Master Paramahansa Yogananda, author of the best-selling spiritual classic "Autobiography of a Yogi". Known as the "Father of Yoga" in the west, Yoganandaji introduced millions of seekers into the ancient Indian science of Yoga through this seminal work. Swamiji said "We are now in an ascending cycle of human evolution. The younger generation will steer this world into an age of higher consciousness. Ancient sciences like Kriya Yoga will play a major role in these times of transformation." He narrated how Mahavatar Babaji, an immortal Himalayan Master revived Kriya Yoga for this age of science & technology.

Caste census: Telangana Assembly passes resolution

T'gana urged the Centre to emulate its household caste and socio-economic survey

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 4 FEBRUARY

The Telangana Assembly today adopted a resolution urging the Centre to emulate its household caste and socio-economic survey conducted by the state government. Telangana chief minister A Revanth Reddy made a stout defence of the caste census, carried out by his government as the Opposition accused him of under-enumerating the weaker sections. He challenged the Opposition BJP and BRS to support him in providing 42 per cent reservation to the Backward Classes who form more than 50 per cent of the state population, made allegations that his prime rival the Kalvakuntla family sidestepped the survey to avoid giving land details, and thundered that this would pressurize the Centre to follow suit.

As the Opposition, particularly the BRS alleged that the data had been manipulated Reddy fired at the Opposition saying "There is no manipulation involved. We



don't have any hidden agenda. We are doing this work with full transparency. You didn't ask for this (discussion) we did it with full transparency. We passed the report in the Cabinet and then tabled it in the Assembly. This was done with full integrity and credibility. It is not that we will give out half the information and hide the rest. We are only worried about data privacy." He added that while there were four volumes, he was ready to table the first three. However, disclosing the fourth one would involve breaching data privacy as it contained the details of individuals. "The Opposition never asked. I took the onus to bring it to

the Assembly for discussion... Tell us with which caste we have been unfair. Who are they trying to provoke? Those who didn't do the work are pointing fingers at us who have executed this," he said in a dig at the BRS.

When BRS leaders like KT Rama Rao compared the data with the earlier survey done by the BRS government under K Chandrasekhar Rao Reddy explained that the previous one had pegged BCs at 51 per cent BCs, other castes at 21 per cent, SCs at 18 per cent, and STs 10 per cent STs. Muslim population was said to be 11 per cent during the BRS' survey. However, in the current one, it is

12.6 percent concluding that the number of both Hindu and Muslim BCs has gone up while that of other castes (including Muslims) has come down. He said the earlier government survey had said OCs form 21 per cent of the population but in the current report, it has come down to 13 per cent.

Reddy even named the Opposition MLAs and MPs from BJP and BRS who did not participate in the survey. He alleged that the Kalvakuntla family did not take part in the census because they did not want to disclose the details of their land. He said they would give 42 per cent reservation to BCs in local polls. KT Rama Rao demanded that the Bill should be introduced on the same day. The BRS MLAs walked out.

Earlier in the day the Speaker adjourned the House till 2 pm after the Legislative Affairs minister D Sridhar Babu informed that the Cabinet meeting was yet to get over. However, the BRS MLAs took a dig at the Congress government over what they thought was a gaffe.

Telangana Assembly secretary sends notice to BRS defectors



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 4 FEBRUARY

The Telangana Assembly secretary has finally served notices on the 10 dissident BRS MLAs, who had defected to Congress after the Assembly elections, following a SLP filed by the BRS in the Supreme Court against them. Among the BRS MLAs who defected to Congress is Danam Nagender, who contested the Lok Sabha elections as a Congress candidate.

The notice sought a written explanation from the defectors for switching parties. However, the MLAs have sought time to respond to the notices. The Supreme Court had asked the Assembly

plaint that no action was taken over their pleas even after nine months.

The BRS pursued the case relentlessly against the dissidents, both politically and legally. Initially, it secured victory when a single bench of Telangana High Court directed the office of the Speaker to announce, within four weeks, the schedule for deciding on the applications for disqualification of the dissidents. However, the division bench of the high court had set aside the order and directed the Speaker to take a call within a reasonable time.

Upbeat over what has happened in the Supreme Court, the BRS expects defectors to eventually face disqualification. The party's top leadership has even asked the supporters to prepare for bypolls. The only way to avoid the by-elections would be to engineer a split in the BRS Legislative Party and merge the splinter group in the Congress Legislative Party. However, the Congress High Command apparently stepped in to rein in the Telangana leadership from engineering defections from the BRS.



NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/133 -2024-25
Mahatransco Steel Security Transcon Pvt. Ltd.

Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Item	Estimated Amount (in Rs.) Lakhs Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-0703/0125 [RFX No. 5000001371] [4th Call] (Two Bid System) Procurement of Emergency Restoration Systems (ERS) for various EHV PCC O&M Zones of MSETCL.	Rs.176.29 Rs. 25000.00 (excluding taxes)	21.02.2025 21.02.2025 Up to 17.00 Hrs. at 17:30 Hrs.
Pre-bid meeting Date, Time & Venue	Date: 05.02.2025 Time: 15:00 Hrs. Venue: 8th Floor, MSETCL C.O. "Prakashganga" Plot No. C-19, E-Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400051	
Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (P&C) Tel. No.022- 69852717/ Cell no:-9619469933 Email: cecpa@mahatransco.in , secpa@mahatransco.in , eegrp7@mahatransco.in , eeepc@mahatransco.in For further details visit our website http://www.srmetender.mahatransco.in Any further amendments will be published on the MSETCL website www.mahatransco.in . So bidders are requested to check the website.. <div>Sd/- Executive Engineer (P&C)</div>		

ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
Tenders have been floated for various development works under Laxmipur GP, KCK-III, Panchayat Samity, Malda. NIT No-10, 11, 12, 13 / LGP / 2024-25, Dated: 05-02-2025, Memo No.-21, 22, 23, 24 / LGP / 2025, Dated: 05-02-2025 respectively. Intending bidders are requested to visit the office of the undersigned for further details.

Pradhan
Laxmipur Gram Panchayat
Kallachak-II Dev. Block
Malda

OFFICE OF THE UTTAR LAKSHMIPUR GRAM PANCHAYAT
Kaliachak-II Dev. Block, Malda
NIT No.- 06(e) / ULPURGP / 2024-25, Memo No. 26 / ULPURGP / 2025, Dated: 04-02-2025 & NIT No. 07(e) / ULPURGP / 2024-25, Memo No. 27 / ULPURGP / 2025, Dated: 04-02-2025. Sealed e-tenders are hereby invited from resourceful bona fide agencies / Govt. Organization or Govt. undertaking organization having experience of similar type of compact work and sufficient credentials of any Central / State Govt. Compact work. Fund: 15th FC UNTIED & 15th FC TIED respectively. For details contact the abovementioned office address.

Sd/- Prophan
Uttar Lakshmipur G.P.

**GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION NO. 1, NAGPUR
INVITATION FOR TENDER**
E-mail: div1nagpur.ee@mahapwd.com
E-Tender Notice No. 8/100/2024-2025

Online Percentage Rate e-tender prescribed form are invited by the Executive Engineer, P.W. Division No. 1, Nagpur (Tel Phone No. 2565449) on behalf of Governor of Maharashtra for following work from experienced & shop establishment certificate holders. The name of work, estimated cost, time limit for completion etc. as are under.

Sl.No.	Name of Work	Estt. Cost (Rs. in lakh)	Cost of blank tender form (Rs.)
1	Providing Housekeeping, Security Services & Manpower of Chief Engineer Offices under P.W.D. Sub-Division No. 1, Nagpur (for Four Month) (2nd Call)	140.00	1,180.00

1. Detailed Tender Notice can be seen on website: <https://mahatenders.gov.in>
2. Detailed Tender Notice can be seen on the Notice Board in the office of the undersigned.
3. Right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof is reserved with the undersigned.
4. In this Tender Notice, Tender Downloading, Tender Opening etc. information available on website.

Executive Engineer
P.W. Division No. 1
Nagpur

Outward No.: 1247 Date: 31-01-2025
DGIPR/ROC-6100/24-25

**GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**
Executive Engineer, Central Mumbai (P.W.) Division, Worli, Mumbai-400018
E-TENDER NOTICE No. 18 (2024-25) (Corrigendum No. 3)
Online E-Tenders in "EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction)" Form for the following work are invited by the Executive Engineer, Central Mumbai (P.W.) Division, Worli, Mumbai-400018 (Phone No.: 022-24931902 & 24936404) Government of Maharashtra, Electronic Tender Management System <http://mahatenders.gov.in> from qualified experience contractors as per Qualifying Criteria for this work.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Amount (Rs. in Crore)
1	Construction of New Administrative Building (G+7 Storyed) near Garden Gate in Mantralay Premises, Mumbai.	98.28

Already Published

Tender Issue Date	29/01/2025 at 15.00 hrs. to 04/02/2025 at 15.00 hrs.
Pre-Bid Meeting	31/01/2025 at 15.00 hrs. at (Office of The Chief Engineer, Mumbai P.W. Region, Mumbai, Bandhkam Bhavan, 4th floor, Fort, Mumbai.)
Opening Date	05/02/2025 at 15.00 hrs. (Office of the Superintending Engineer, Mumbai (P.W.) Circle, 5th floor, Bandhakam Bhavan, Fort, Mumbai)

Now Read as

Online E-Tenders in "B-2" Form for the following work are invited by the Executive Engineer, Central Mumbai (P.W.) Division, Worli, Mumbai-400018 (Phone No.: 022-24931902 & 24936404) Government of Maharashtra, Electronic Tender Management System: <http://mahatenders.gov.in> from qualified experience contractors as per Qualifying Criteria for this work.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Amount (Rs. in Crore)
1	Construction of New Administrative Building (G+7 Storyed) near Garden Gate in Mantralay Premises, Mumbai.	86.43

Tender Issue Date

05/02/2025 at 15.00 hrs. to 12/02/2025 at 15.00 hrs.

Pre-Bid Meeting

07/02/2025 at 15.00 hrs. at (Office of The Chief Engineer, Mumbai P.W. Region, Mumbai, Bandhkam Bhavan, 4th floor, Fort, Mumbai.)

Opening Date

14/02/2025 at 15.00 hrs. (Office of the Superintending Engineer, Mumbai (P.W.) Circle, 5th floor, Bandhakam Bhavan, Fort, Mumbai)

All detail information is available on following websites, Visit Website for details:
1. <http://mahapwd.gov.in>
2. <http://mahatenders.gov.in>
No. /EE/CMD/Tender/ 511 Date: 31.01.2025
Executive Engineer
Central Mumbai (P.W.) Division
DGIPR/ROC-6121/24-25
Worli, Mumbai

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE No. 01/2025 Date: 31.01.2025
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DSTE/North Central Railway, Agra acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites "Open Tender" through Online only (E-Tendering) for the following work:
S.N.: 01 E-Tender NO: AGRA-ST-2025-01 / Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 2,19,64,205.65
Name of work: S&T work in connection with the work of "Construction of subways in lieu of Level crossing no.471, 476 & 486 due to commissioning of automatic signaling in Agra- Dholpur section".
S.N.: 02 E-Tender NO: AGRA-ST-2025-02 / Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 85,38,046.20
Name of work: Annual Maintenance Contract for Ansaldo make SSI systems installed at New Junction Panel, Chhalesher, Etmadpur (AF, IDH TDL section), Papra (BTE-BKI section) & Agra City (AGC-JAB section) of Agra division for a period of 36 Months.
S.N.: 03 E-Tender NO: AGRA-ST-2025-03 / Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 25,51,896.56
Name of work: S&T work in connection with the work of "Provision of 12 m wide Foot Over Bridge at RKM in Agra Division of North Central Railway."
S.N.: 04 E-Tender NO: AGRA-ST-2025-04 / Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 1,79,29,098.00
Name of work: Comprehensive Annual maintenance contract for Ansaldo make SSI systems installed at Bhuteshwar, Vrindaban Road, Ajhal, Chhata, Kosikalan, Hodai, Sholaka & Rundhi (MTJ-PWL section), JREA (MTJ-AWR Section) & SHGN (AF-TDL Section) of Agra division for a period of three year.
Tender closing date:- **24.02.2025**. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway Website www.ireps.gov.in. Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids through web portal www.ireps.gov.in up to **15.00 hrs** on above mentioned date. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **210/25 (D)**

 North central railways  CPRONCR  www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

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 SSPSP & 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 up to 15:00 hrs on 28.02.2025. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in **222/25(DG)**

 North central railways  CPRONCR  www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

EASTERN RAILWAY
E-Auction Notice

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Asansol Division, Station Road, Asansol, Pin-713301 invites open e-Auction through IREPS portal vide website www.ireps.gov.in for awarding the contract. Details of which are as given below: **Auction Type:** Parking, **e-Auction Catalogue No.:** **ASN-PARK20-1502. Name of stations/ Locations:** (1) Two (02)-wheeler parking in north side of Galsi Railway station. (2) Two (02), Three (03) & Four (04)-wheelers parking at non circulating area behind Nazrul Mancha of Asansol Railway station. (3) Two (02), Three (03) & Four (04)-wheelers parking at non circulating area at Traffic colony attached to GT Road of Asansol Railway station. (4) Two (02), Three (03) & Four (04)-wheelers parking at Deoghar Railway station between monumental flag & main road. **E-Auction start date:** 15.02.2025 at 10.00 hrs. All prospective bidders are advised to visit the website www.ireps.gov.in for full details and to participate against the above mentioned e-Auction as per schedule given. **ASN-315/2024-25**
Tender Notices are also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in
Follow us at:  @EasternRailway  @easternrailwayheadquarter

झारखण्ड सरकार
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग

ई- अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई-निविदा सं० :- **RDSPL/SD/HZB/38/2024-25**
1.कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी:

सूच सं०	आईडी-टीफिकेशन संख्या/पैकेज संख्या	प्रखण्ड	योजना का नाम	प्राककलित राशि	अग्रघन की राशि	परिमाण विचर का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1.	RDSPL/SD/HZB/ 38/01/2024-25	कोरेंडारी	कोरेंडारी प्रखण्ड अंतर्गत ग्राम पताल अन्तर्गत उककमित मध्य विद्यालय पताल का उन्मयन कार्य।	8268600.00	165400.00	10000.00	9 माह
2.	RDSPL/SD/HZB/ 38/02/2024-25	विष्णुगढ़	विष्णुगढ़ प्रखण्ड अंतर्गत ग्राम जमनीजरा अन्तर्गत उककमित मध्य विद्यालय, जमनीजरा का का उन्मयन कार्य।	9972900.00	199500.00	10000.00	9 माह
3.	RDSPL/SD/HZB/ 38/03/2024-25	ईचाक	ईचाक प्रखण्ड के ग्राम मंगुरा में उककमित प्राथमिक विद्यालय, दलित विकास टोला मंगुरा में बाहरविहारी निर्माण एवं अन्य कार्य।	5172300.00	103500.00	10000.00	6 माह
4.	RDSPL/SD/HZB/ 38/04/2024-25	चौघारण	चौघारण प्रखण्ड के ग्राम डेडो में उककमित प्राथमिक विद्यालय, कोरियाडीह का उन्मयन कार्य।	9987900.00	199800.00	10000.00	9 माह
5.	RDSPL/SD/HZB/ 38/05/2024-25	चौघारण	चौघारण प्रखण्ड के ग्राम डेडो में उककमित प्राथमिक विद्यालय, गिराडीह का उन्मयन कार्य।	7413400.00	148300.00	10000.00	9 माह

2. बैचसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 20.02.2025
3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय – दिनांक 20.02.2025 से दिनांक 03.03.2025 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
4. ई-निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग
5. ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय –04.03.2025 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे
6. ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग
7. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 9430154606
8. परिमाण विचर की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है सदनसुर अग्रघन की राशि देय होगी।
9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि केवल **Online Mode** द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि का ई-मुद्रातन जित खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रघन की राशि वापस होगी।
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाइट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग

PR 345750 Rural Development(24-25).D











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Draft assembly rules endorsement of Art 370 abrogation: J&K Opposition

Opposition leaders accused the J&K govt of endorsing the changes wrought on 5 August 2019

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 4 FEBRUARY

The draft proposal for the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the J&K Assembly has triggered a controversy with the opposition calling it an overt endorsement of the central government's revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

The Business Rules Committee of the Legislative Assembly is headed by Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather. Other members of the committee are former Speaker Mubarak Gul (National Conference), Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami (CPI-M), Saifullah Mir (NC), Nizam-ud-Din Bhat (Congress), Pawan Kumar Gupta (BJP), Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi (NC), R.S. Pathania (BJP), and Muzaffar Iqbal Khan (Independent).

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has summoned the budget session of the J&K Legislative Assembly on 3 March.

This will be the first budget



session of Omar Abdullah's government since the return of an elected administration after seven years of direct central rule.

The need to formulate the rules afresh has arisen as the erstwhile J&K state has been downgraded as a Union Territory following abrogation of Article 370 on 5 August 2019 by the Centre.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) youth leader and MLA, Waheed-ur-Rehman Para, accused the National Conference Government of endorsing 5 August 2019

changes when the Article 370 was abrogated and the state split and downgraded into two Union Territories.

In a post on X, Waheed Para shared a screenshot of news report: "The modifications have been proposed to make the Rules in sync with the constitutional changes affected on 5 August 2019, a member of the committee, wishing to remain anonymous said"

Para wrote: "The modified J&K Assembly business rules mark a shift from Article 370, effectively endorsing the

constitutional changes of 5 August 2019. A clear acknowledgement of the new status quo".

Denouncing the draft proposals, Peoples Conference chief and MLAS Sajad Lone called it "the most explicit and unforgivable ratification of 5 August 2019 changes".

Lone criticised the committee's composition, which is dominated by seven members from the ruling National Conference (NC) and two from the opposition BJP. He noted the absence of any representation from Kashmir-based opposition parties.

He warned that the new assembly's actions could permanently eliminate any future legal challenges to the changes made on 5 August 2019, marking a significant shift in the political landscape. Lone accused NC and BJP of working together to normalise these changes and recalled historical precedents of 'endorsements' in exchange for power.

"While we dreamt of an unambiguous resolution by the new assembly rejecting

5 August 2019... now we have a shocker". "The same assembly is being used to bury any such chances of legal challenges in the future. The present assembly, reflecting the will of the people of J&K, will now be remembered as the endorser, not the rejector, of 5 August 2019," Lone said in a statement.

Drawing historical parallels, Lone recalled the past "gifts" given in exchange for endorsements, citing the 1975 arrangement where a government was formed without MLAs to approve the constitutional erosion from 1950 to 1975.

"The 1996 gift of the government on a platter by conducting an exercise of selection in Kashmir and calling it an election—that was to endorse the killings and acts of violence committed by the state. And now, the 2024 gift to endorse changes made on 5 August 2019," he added.

Concluding with a stark reflection, Lone remarked: "It is a curse to be an MLA of an assembly that will be remembered for endorsing 5 August."

Different standards being applied to India's neighbours to east and west: Jaishankar

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 4 FEBRUARY

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday criticised what he called different standards being applied to India's eastern and western neighbours while pointing out the "inconsistent application" of principles in global politics, particularly regarding democracy and military rule.

Delivering the keynote address at the IIC-Bruegel Annual Seminar at the India International Centre (IIC) here, he emphasised that the agenda can no longer be set by some only to be observed by the rest.

"Even on a question like democracy and military rule. Different standards have been applied to our neighbours in the East and our neighbours in the West. It is not my case that principles are dispensable or that we must be utterly into real politics but the agenda can no longer be set by some, only to be observed by the rest," Mr Jaishankar said.

Further, he pointed to the ongoing wars in West Asia and Europe, saying the two conflicts are often presented as matters of principle, but with selective and uneven application.

"The world is currently witnessing two major conflicts. 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," he stated.

He highlighted India's experience, citing the ongoing occupation of its territory and the overlooking of terrorism when convenient.

"We in India have yet to see aggression on our territory vacated after so many decades. Equally, terrorism has been overlooked when convenient. In our own continent, international law has been disregarded with significant consequences," he said.

The foreign minister also emphasised on the importance of India-European relations and stated: "In a world that promises to be so volatile and so uncertain, a stronger India-EU relationship can be an important stabilizing factor."

India is certainly cognizant of the greater strategic awakening of Europe in the last few years. That too can serve as a driver of deeper engagement. We already see that happening, for example, in closer defence in security and technology cooperation. The bottom line is that the

India-EU relationship is more important than ever before," the foreign minister said.

Emphasising the importance of the ties between India and the European Union as a "stabilising factor" amid the global volatility and uncertainty, he asserted that the relationship between the two is "more important than ever before".

The foreign minister highlighted the interaction with the European Commission, expressing expectations for even collaboration in the future.

"In a world that promises to be so volatile and so uncertain, a stronger India-EU relationship can be an important stabilizing factor. India is certainly cognizant of the greater strategic awakening of Europe in the last few years. That too can serve as a driver of deeper engagement. We already see that happening, for example, in closer defence in security and technology cooperation. The bottom line is that the India-EU relationship is more important than ever before," he said.

Drive to check sale of fake Kashmiri carpets to tourists intensified: Intensifying the drive against the sale of machine-made fake Kashmiri carpets in the valley, the handicrafts and handloom department has confiscated several counterfeit products that were being sold to tourists. A spokesman of the department on Tuesday said that in response to growing complaints from buyers and tourists about the sale of machine-made carpets from outside the region being falsely marketed as authentic Kashmiri hand-made carpets, the handicrafts and handloom Department has further intensified its crackdown on unscrupulous carpet sellers. Several counterfeit products were confiscated and stern warnings were issued to errant dealers to ensure compliance with quality control standards. ^{SNS}

पी एम श्री केन्द्रीय विद्यालय ककिनाड़ा
PM SHRI KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA KANKINARA

वॉक-इन-इंटरव्यू / WALK IN INTERVIEW

पी एम श्री केन्द्रीय विद्यालय ककिनाड़ा में सत्र 2025-26 के लिए पूर्ण रूप से सविदा आधार पर अंशकालिक शिक्षकों / प्रशिक्षकों का पैनेल बनार करने हेतु चल-साक्षात्कार का आयोजन विद्यालय परिसर में दिनांक 13 फरवरी 2025 को निम्नलिखित रूप से होगा। योग्य एवं इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी आवेदन कर सकते हैं।

A walk-in-Interview for preparing a panel for engagement of teachers on purely part time contractual basis for the session-2025-26 in scheduled to be conducted on 13th February 2025 in the Vidyalaya premises as under :-

Date of Interview 13.02.2025	Foundational and Preparatory stage teachers (For class 1-5) TGTs (Math, English, Science, Sanskrit) PGTs (English, Hindi, Economics, Geography, History, Political Science) Nurse, Special Educator, Computer Instructor, Dance Coach & Games Coach
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Applicants are requested to bring original certificates related to educational and professional qualifications along with one set of Xerox copies and duly filled BIO DATA forms as has been uploaded on PM SHRI KV KANKINARA website <https://kankinara.kvs.ac.in>

Eligibility : Please visit the vidyalaya website <https://kankinara.kvs.ac.in>

Registration and document verification time : 8 am to 10 am.

प्राचार्य

Temporary additional stoppage of trains at Jalalkhali Halt Station

In connection with **Mega Bible Convention-2025** following EMU, MEMU and Passenger trains running between **06.00 hrs. to 20.00 hrs.** will provide temporary additional stoppage at **Jalalkhali Halt station** in Ranaghat - Krishnanagar City section as per timings mentioned against them with effect from **06.02.2025 to 09.02.2025 = 4 days.**

● **Up trains (Timings at Jalalkhali Halt station) :** (1) **53171 Up** Lalgola Passenger: 06:07 hrs. (2) **31723 Up** Ranaghat - Krishnanagar City Local : 06:30 hrs. (3) **63133 Up** Ranaghat-Lalgola MEMU Passenger :07:24 hrs. (4) **31815 Up** Sealdah - Krishnanagar City Local : 08:22 hrs. (5) **31819 Up** Sealdah-Krishnanagar City Local : 10:04 hrs. (6) **30145 Up** BBD Bag - Krishnanagar City Local : 10:51 hrs. (7) **63107 Up** Sealdah - Lalgola MEMU Passenger : 12:29 hrs. (8) **31825 Up** Sealdah - Krishnanagar City Local : 13:05 hrs. (9) **31769 Up** Ranaghat -Lalgola Local :13:38 hrs. (10) **31827 Up** Sealdah - Krishnanagar City Local : 14:17 hrs. (11) **53175 Up** Sealdah - Lalgola Passenger : 14:57 hrs. (12) **63101 Up** Kolkata - Lalgola MEMU Passenger : 16:06 hrs. (13) **31771 Up** Ranaghat -Lalgola Local : 17:28 hrs. (14) **31833 Up** Sealdah - Krishnanagar City Local : 18:25 hrs. (15) **63177 Up** Sealdah-Lalgola MEMU Passenger :18:52 (16) **31801 UP** (SUE) Sealdah - Krishnanagar City Matribhoomi Local : 19:21 hrs. ● **Dn trains (Timings at Jalalkhali Halt station) :** (1) **31816 Dn** Krishnanagar City-Sealdah Local : 06:11 hrs. (2) **63138 Dn** Lalgola-Ranaghat MEMU Passenger : 06:24 hrs. (3) **63108 Dn** Lalgola-Sealdah MEMU Passenger: 07:32 hrs. (4) **31722 Dn** Krishnanagar City-Ranaghat Local : 07:58 hrs. (5) **31802 Dn** (SUE) Krishnanagar City - Sealdah Matribhoomi Local :08:44 hrs. (6) **31820 Dn** Krishnanagar City - Sealdah Local :09:04 hrs. (7) **63176 Dn** Lalgola-Sealdah MEMU Passenger : 10:26 hrs. (8) **63102 Dn** Lalgola -Kolkata MEMU Passenger : 11:16 hrs. (9) **31768 Dn** Lalgola - Ranaghat Local : 11:38 hrs. (10) **31824 Dn** Krishnanagar City-Sealdah Local: 12:16 hrs. (11) **53178 Dn** Lalgola-Sealdah Passenger: 12:32 hrs. (12) **31828 Dn** Krishnanagar City-Sealdah Local : 14:19 hrs. (13) **31770 Dn** Lalgola - Ranaght Local :15:04 hrs. (14) **31832 Dn** Krishnanagar City - Sealdah Local :16:24 hrs. (15) **53180 Dn** Lalgola - Kolkata Passenger :17:35 hrs. (16) **31836 Dn** Krishnanagar City - Sealdah Local :19:28 hrs.

Divisional Railway Manager/Sealdah

EASTERN RAILWAY

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BJP violating Model Code, but police harassing whistleblowers: AAP leaders

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 4 FEBRUARY

AAP on Tuesday alleged that the BJP supporters are openly violating the Model Code of Conduct in Delhi, and further claimed that the Election Commission and the Police are targeting those who file complaints.

Delhi CM Atishi, AAP leaders Manish Sisodia and Durgesh Pathak on Tuesday addressed a press conference, alleging that on Monday night, BJP members violated the Model Code of Conduct in the constituencies of Kalkaji, Jangpura, and Rajinder Nagar.

Atishi has also accused the police of allegedly assaulting two youths who were filming the violations of MCC in Kalkaji.

Moreover, AAP leaders Manish Sisodia and Durgesh Pathak who were also there in the press conference along with Atishi, claimed that when a complaint was filed, the police registered an FIR against the CM, who is a candidate from Kalkaji.

Reacting strongly to these incidents, Arvind Kejriwal posted on social media platform X, that a police case was



filed against the CM, and further mentioned, "So now, this is the official stance of the Delhi Police and the Election Commission. Their 'job' is to act as hooligans against the Aam Aadmi Party, protect BJP's hooliganism, and facilitate the distribution of alcohol, money, and goods. If anyone tries to stop them from doing this 'job', they will be booked for obstructing police and Election Commission operations."

Meanwhile, Sisodia has said that the poll panel was once widely respected across the country.

He said: "It was once led by figures like T.N. Seshan, whose name became synonymous with free and fair elections."

He alleged that under Rajiv Kumar's leadership, the Election Commission appears to have handed over the respon-

sibility of contesting elections to the BJP, and further sharpened his attack saying that in Delhi, the election is not being fought by the BJP but rather by the ECI.

He also alleged that women activists are being threatened with acid attacks, while voter IDs are being taken away from slum dwellers through intimidation.

Further criticising Kumar, he alleged that under his leadership, the poll has completely lost its credibility, and is protecting BJP's hooligans and registering FIRs against complainants.

Atishi alleged that after election campaigning ended at 6 p.m. on Monday, the silence period began, while AAP received information that some people associated with BJP leader Ramesh Bidhuri were threatening slum dwellers at night.

DC BIS focusses on strengthening manufacturing base in health sector: Director General Bureau of Indian Standards, Pramod Kumar Tiwari on Tuesday said there is a necessity of academia-industry collaboration in shaping standards that drive innovation and economic growth. Speaking during an annual convention on the healthcare sector, he discussed the importance of strengthening India's manufacturing base in the healthcare sector. He informed the attendees about the appointment of 'Chairs' of standardization in academic institutions and the signing of MoUs to enhance collaboration. The DC also highlighted BIS's initiatives, including orientation programs in institutions and annual conventions across various disciplines. ^{SNS}

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF ODISHA, KORAPUT
(Established Under the Central Universities Act, 2009)
Dept. of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India
NAD, Sunabeda, Dist-Koraput, Odisha. PIN-763004
Website: www.cuo.ac.in

No.: CUO/Exam./CUET/02-2025/88 **Date: 03.02.2025**

Applications are invited for admissions to PG programmes

COMMON UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE TEST (PG) 2025
(To be Conducted by NTA for the Academic Session 2025-26)
<https://exams.nta.ac.in/CUET-PG/>

Last date of Online Applications Submission for CUET (PG) 2025 has been extended up to 8th February 2025

PROGRAMMES OFFERED

B.Ed., MBA, & MBA (Logistics & Supply Chain Management)
M.A.: Economics, English, Hindi, Journalism and Mass Communication, Odia, Sanskrit, & Sociology
M.Sc.: Anthropology, Botany, Computer Science, Statistics & Zoology

Note: Examination computer Based Test (CBT) mode will be held between 13 March 2025 to 31 March 2025. Details of eligibility criteria are available on the CUO website (www.cuo.ac.in) as well as NTA website (<https://exams.nta.ac.in/cuet-PG/>). For any queries or clarifications, candidates can call NTA Help Desk at 011 4075 9000 or write to NTA at cuet-pg@nta.ac.in. Candidates are advised to regularly visit NTA website(s) www.nta.ac.in, <https://exams.nta.ac.in/cuet-PG/> for the latest updates regarding the examination.

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Controller of Examinations (I/c)

REQUIRED TEACHERS FOR ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL BARRACKPORE

NORTH GATE, BARRACKPORE CANTONMENT, KOLKATA-700120

Applications are invited for the Fixed Term Teachers for the following anticipated vacancies for the academic session 2025-26

Ser No	Subject	Anticipated Vacancies	Minimum Qualification
1.	TGT-Hindi	01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduation (with subject) with min 50% marks or Master Degree (in subject) with min 50% marks. B. Ed with 50% marks. Pass CTET/TET. Proficiency in teaching in English medium. Knowledge of Computer Application is desirable. OST qualified / Score Card holder in the subject.
2.	TGT-Sanskrit	01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduation (with subject) with min 50% marks. OST qualified / Score Card holder in the subject.
3.	TGT-Physical Education (Lady)	01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduation in Phy Edu or B.P.Ed. with min 50% marks. OST qualified / Score Card holder in the subject.
4.	TGT-Computer Science	01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCA or Graduation in Computer Sci or BE / B.Tech (Computer Sci / IT) with 50% marks. B. Ed with 50% marks. OST qualified / Score Card holder in the subject.
5.	PRT	08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate holding Bachelor's degree with at least 50% marks in the concerned subject/combination of subjects and in aggregate. B.El.Ed / 02-year D.El.Ed. OR In case suitable candidates with D.El.Ed / B.El.Ed qualifications are not available, candidates with B.Ed. or Integrated B.Ed. can also apply with fulfillment of the condition of six-month PDPET/Bridge Course from an NCTE recognized institute as when NCTE approved any institute to conduct the said course within two years of recruitment as PRT or commencement of the course whichever is later. Pass in Central Teacher Eligibility Test (CTET)/ Teachers Eligibility Test (TET), conducted by CBSE/ State Govt in accordance with the guidelines framed by the NCTE for the purpose. Proficiency in teaching in English medium. Knowledge of Computer Application is desirable. OST qualified/Score Card holder in the subject.
6.	PRT Computer	02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCA or Graduation in Computer Sci or BE / B.Tech (Computer Sci / IT) with 50% marks. B. Ed / D.El.Ed / B.El.Ed with 50% marks. OST qualified/Score Card holder in the subject.
7.	PRT-Physical Education	01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduation in Physical Education with 50% marks. OST qualified/Score Card holder in the subject.
8.	ATL/Robotics Lab Technician	01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> B.Tech in Computer Science or Electronics Technical Skills: Knowledge of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) concepts. Familiarity with electronics, robotics, 3D printing, coding, AI, and IoT. Hands-on experience with Arduino, Raspberry Pi, or other microcontroller platforms.

- Candidates who have not qualified OST are eligible to appear for interview. However, if appointed they have to qualify OST within 01 year of appointment with overall raw score of 40%.
- For further details, please visit our website www.apsbkp.in.
- Last date of submission of application is 15 Feb 2025 (1400 hrs) by hand/post.

Principal

TENDER

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER NOTICE

Open Tender Notice No.: RP/DNR/EL/HS/ CB/GA/ASEB Date: 03.02.2025

1.0 Name of the work with its location : Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning for the work of providing circuit breaker at TSS for isolation main line from MEMU shed (Gaya) Yard at Gaya and Yard at SEB in DDU division under Railway Project Danapur of East Central Railway.

2.0 Approximate cost of the work : Rs. 23525264.11/-, 3.0 Cost of Tender form : Rs. 0.00/-, 4.0 Earnest money to be deposited : Rs. 267600.00/-, 5.0 Date & time for submission of tender and opening of tender : Bidding start date 11.02.2025 and opening of tender on 25.02.2025 at 15:00 hrs., 6.0 Website particulars, notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : For eligibility criteria and other conditions and details, please go through the tender document available in website at <http://www.irps.gov.in>

7.0 Address of the office from where the tender details can be obtained website particulars and notice board location : Office of the Chief Electrical Engineer Railway Project, Danapur, Near Jagjeevan stadium, Khagaul, Danapur-801105 E-tendering website: www.irps.gov.in Notice board-Office of the Chief Electrical Engineer Railway Project, Danapur, Near Jagjeevan stadium, Khagaul, Danapur.

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer Railway Project, Danapur PR/02050/DNR/ELEC/T/24-25/44

US military aircraft leaves for India carrying 200 deported illegal immigrants

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, 4 FEBRUARY

India's proactive stance on illegal immigration and streamlining legal mobility has come in for praise as an India-bound USC-17 military aircraft, carrying around 200 deported illegal migrants left Texas earlier today, marking President Donald Trump's first crackdown on illegal immigrants from India after assuming office last month.

The move comes after detailed discussions held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Trump over a phone call on 27 January and ahead of PM Modi's forthcoming 13-14 February visit to Washington.

Similar deportation flights have left for Guatemala, Peru, Honduras and other countries since January 24 as the US President has vowed to crack down on illegal migration that has been the highlight of his Presidential election cam-

paign. Within hours of taking office for the second time, Trump had decided to put an end to birthright citizenship and mobilise troops along the US-Mexico border.

"New Delhi has been proactive in saying that we also have no reason to support illegal immigration and that we would, as in the past, cooperate in deportation of those who have been identified by our authorities as Indian citizens. At the same time, there is a push from the US side to try and ensure that legal migration is streamlined which is an important source of talent for the country. For us, a lot of our talented young people would have opportunities if these aspects are simplified, whether it is access to H-1b visas or green cards, I think this should be a part of the narrative with the United States," Former Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla recently told agencies.

Poll Economics

As Delhi votes today, the big question is whether the income tax relief announced in the Union Budget will have a meaningful impact on the electoral outcome. The hike in the tax rebate threshold from Rs 7 lakh to Rs 12 lakh has clear political undertones, especially in a city where the middle class dominates ~ 67 per cent of Delhi is middle class against 31 per cent nationally ~ the voter base. But is this enough to alter established political loyalties? The middle class in Delhi is not a monolithic bloc. It ranges from salaried professionals and small business owners to service providers and entrepreneurs, each with distinct economic concerns. In the past decade, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has cultivated its appeal among this group through subsidised utilities, healthcare initiatives, and free public transport for women. These policies, often dismissed as mere populism by critics, have had tangible benefits for families managing rising costs in an expensive metropolis. At the same time, there has been growing frustration over governance issues such as deteriorating infrastructure, pollution, and urban congestion. These factors have created an opening for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has positioned itself as a more competent administrator while highlighting inefficiencies in AAP's governance. The tax relief, therefore, serves as a timely intervention for the BJP to attract middle-class voters who feel squeezed by inflation and high living costs. However, voting behaviour is shaped by more than just fiscal incentives. Political preferences in Delhi often align with broader ideological choices rather than immediate economic gains. The city has long been a battleground between two competing leadership styles ~ AAP's welfare-driven governance and BJP's nationalistic and growth-oriented narrative. While tax cuts may generate goodwill, they are unlikely to outweigh deeper political convictions. Moreover, the structure of Delhi's electorate means that tax relief alone cannot be the deciding factor. A significant segment of the lower middle class and working-class voters remains more influenced by access to essential services than by changes in income tax policy. For them, affordable electricity, healthcare, and education carry greater weight than a fiscal measure that benefits only those earning above a certain threshold. Additionally, Delhi's elections have historically seen limited floating votes. The electorate tends to split between AAP and BJP, with only marginal shifts in allegiance. The real wildcard remains the performance of Congress, which has seen its influence wane over the past decade. A change in its vote share could indirectly shape the final outcome by redistributing seats between the two main contenders. Ultimately, while the tax relief announcement may reinforce existing support for BJP among salaried professionals and business owners, it is unlikely to trigger a decisive swing in the election. The battle in Delhi remains centred on governance, leadership, and long-term political allegiances. Voters will have delivered their verdict ~ not just on tax relief, but on which model of governance they trust more.

Tariff Balancing

India's reduction in import tariffs is being positioned as a move toward greater trade openness in the midst of a major global trade war launched by the US which threatens to target more countries. While the government is keen to distance itself from the perception of protectionism, the actual impact of these cuts on trade dynamics remains debatable. At the heart of this policy shift is a clear message: India wants to be seen as open to global trade while safeguarding its domestic industries. The reduction of average import tariffs from 13 to 11 per cent and the lowering of duties on high-end motorcycles are steps in this direction. However, these headline-grabbing cuts do not necessarily translate into an easier import regime. Various surcharges and additional duties remain, keeping India's overall tariff burden relatively high compared to other major economies. This move comes amid escalating global trade tensions, particularly between the US, Canada, Mexico and China. These trade wars have cast a shadow on global commerce, and India, while not at the forefront, has faced criticism for its own tariff policies. US President Donald Trump had expressed dissatisfaction over India's tariff barriers, citing them as unfair to American exporters. By reducing certain tariffs like those on high-end bikes, India appears to be signalling a desire to recalibrate its trade relations, particularly with the US, which remains its largest trading partner. Yet, the government's balancing act is evident. The tariff reductions largely apply to raw materials used in key domestic industries such as textiles and automobiles. The intention is clear ~ lower costs for manufacturers without significantly exposing domestic producers to foreign competition. This aligns with India's long-standing approach of supporting domestic industries in their growth phase before gradually opening them up to global competition. However, the effectiveness of this strategy depends on whether these tariff cuts are the start of a sustained shift or merely symbolic. Trade analysts point out that while peak customs duties are being lowered, additional levies still keep effective tariffs high. If businesses continue to face a complex and unpredictable tariff regime, the overall competitiveness of Indian industry may not see significant improvement. Moreover, the broader economic and geopolitical context cannot be ignored. India's trade policies must be viewed in the light of its global positioning ~ balancing economic nationalism with the need to integrate into global supply chains. While import tariff reductions may ease tensions with trading partners, they also raise questions about how India will protect its domestic industries in a world where self-reliance and strategic autonomy remain policy priorities. The real test of India's trade openness will be in its consistency. If tariff cuts become a sustained policy direction rather than one-off measures, they could strengthen India's position in global trade negotiations. Otherwise, they risk being seen as reactive adjustments rather than a proactive embrace of free trade. For now, India is walking a tight-rope ~ seeking global goodwill while keeping a protective shield over its domestic industries.

Trade Wars

If China faces higher barriers to U.S. markets, Indian exporters could step in to fill the gap. Sectors like electronics and garments, where India has been ramping up production, can position themselves as alternatives to Chinese suppliers. Despite rising global trade tensions, India has taken proactive steps by reducing the average customs duty from 11.65 per cent to 10.66 per cent in the Union Budget, sending a positive signal to global markets



Trade wars are not fought with missiles and tanks, but their impact can be just as devastating. They are battles waged with numbers, policy manoeuvres, and, often, a touch of political bravado. The latest salvo? A fresh round of tariffs proposed by Donald Trump ~ an economic cannonball that threatens to shake global markets and redraw trade alliances. But let's not make a virtue out of necessity. Tariffs rank amongst the oldest tools in a country's arsenal. Before free-trade pacts and worldwide value chains, empires and kingdoms utilized tariffs both for shields and for swords ~ protecting domestic industries from competition and striking at competing economies with retaliatory tariffs. The British Raj played this game with perfection, drowning out India's industries with predatory tariffs and ensuring British goods deluged the subcontinent. India, for its part, learned its lessons, too. From post-independence protectionism to present-day calculated imposition of import tariffs, tariffs have been used to protect national interests and promote industries. And now, history is repeating itself ~ only this time, the battlefield is global, the stakes are higher, and the players more interconnected than ever. The real question is: Will this new wave of tariffs strengthen economies, or are we all walking into a self-inflicted economic crossfire?

President Trump's fresh wave of tariffs ~ 25 per cent on imports from Canada and Mexico; 10 per cent on China ~ have fired up a new round of economic brinkmanship. What started as a policy aimed at "America First" is now reshaping global trade dynamics, forcing governments and businesses alike to rethink their strategies. Again, this is not a new playbook, but Trump's behaviour is not routine at all. In contrast with traditional tariff realignments through negotiations and reorientation economically, his actions are quick, strong, and one-way ~ raising concerns about the unpredictability of U.S. trade policy. The immediate fallout is clear: higher costs on imports, disrupted supply chains, and a wave of uncertainty for multinational businesses. Companies operating across North America ~ especially in the automotive, electronics, and consumer goods sectors ~ now face rising costs, which could trickle down to consumers. When foreign competitors face increased duties, domestic manufacturers, with less competition, often raise their prices as well. Estimates suggest that new tariffs could add up to \$3,000 to the price of some of the 16 million cars sold in the U.S. each year. And the impact doesn't stop at America's borders. While the U.S. economy is cushioned by its large domestic market, nations like Canada and Mexico ~ where trade contributes nearly 70 per cent of GDP ~ stand to lose much more. Bloomberg Economics estimates that a 25 per cent tariff on select goods could cut Mexico's GDP by 16 per cent, a shockwave that could ripple across Latin America. China, meanwhile, is no stranger to trade battles. Over the years, it has diversified its economic dependencies, with exports and imports now making up just 37 per cent of its GDP, far lower than the 60 per cent+ levels of the early 2000s. While the tariffs will sting, Beijing is more insulated than before. For the world economy, the

question is no longer just about tariffs ~ it's about trust. Trade deals, painstakingly drafted over years, now seem fragile. Why should any country invest years in trade agreements if they can be overturned with a stroke of a pen? The rules-based global order is at risk of turning into a free-for-all, where economic alliances are dictated more by political whims than by mutual benefit. The biggest concern for global manufacturers is the disruption of integrated supply chains. Businesses that once depended on seamless cross-border trade now face higher costs, reduced efficiency, and potential layoffs. Retaliatory tariffs are already being discussed in various economic blocs, and if countries start engaging in tit-for-tat measures, a full-fledged trade war could hit global markets. Amidst this uncertainty, India is watching closely ~ but with confidence. Unlike Canada, Mexico, or China, India does not face an immediate direct hit. However, as the ninth-largest contributor to the U.S. trade deficit, India has been on Trump's radar, particularly over tariffs. The U.S. is India's largest trading partner, with bilateral trade reaching \$77.5 billion in FY24, and a trade surplus of \$35 billion in favour of India. Key export sectors could see shifts ~ textiles, (\$10 billion in FY24) which have already witnessed a decline over the past two years; engineering goods (\$17.6 billion in FY24) which remain a stronghold; electronics (\$10 billion in FY24) which have seen a multifold increase, and pharmaceuticals (\$8.7 billion in FY24) continue to be critical export segments ~ all of which will

depend on how global trade realigns in response to the tariff war. Yet, this is not a cause for alarm ~ it is an opportunity. If China faces higher barriers to U.S. markets, Indian exporters could step in to fill the gap. Sectors like electronics and garments, where India has been ramping up production, can position themselves as alternatives to Chinese suppliers. Despite rising global trade tensions, India has taken proactive steps by reducing the average customs duty from 11.65 per cent to 10.66 per cent in the Union Budget, sending a positive signal to global markets. The India-U.S. trade relationship, built on mutual trust, is expected to strengthen further, fostering long-term economic cooperation. Moreover, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to the U.S. will be crucial in shaping India's position. Given the strong economic and strategic ties between India and the U.S., there is every reason to believe that India will navigate these challenges effectively. Our focus must remain on expanding manufacturing, strengthening infrastructure, and making India an attractive destination for businesses looking for stable alternatives amid global trade tensions.

Trade wars, even those that begin with bold declarations, end with negotiations, realignments, and, ultimately, new opportunities. The current tariff battle may disrupt economies, but it also forces countries to rethink dependencies and create new economic strategies. For India, the goal is clear: stay resilient, negotiate smartly, and turn global uncertainty into a stepping stone for economic leadership. While the world worries about rising tariffs, India must remain focused on its long-term vision ~ becoming the third-largest economy and a global manufacturing powerhouse.

More, the significant achievements after nearly 40 years of renewal and 95 years since the founding of the CPV clearly reflect the goal of building a socialist Viet Nam, as well as the development and creative application of Marxism-Leninism and the thoughts of President H. Chí Minh in the revolutionary and reform process in Viet Nam.



GOURAV VALLABH
The writer is Professor of Finance ~ XLRI Xavier School of Management and a BJP leader

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Eye-opener

SIR, Apropos "Will China's AI challenge impact US dominance" by Santhosh Mathew (31 January), the sensational launch of the Chinese start-up DeepSeek's AI system known as R1 has left the whole West, particularly USA dumbstruck. DeepSeek's claim that it developed R1 at a 50 times cheaper cost than OpenAI's ChatGPT with matching performance created mayhem in financial markets on January 30 as the Nasdaq witnessed its biggest wipe-out in history. Nvidia, the leading AI chip maker was hit the worst as its stock price plunged 17 per cent.



China's mammoth leap in AI technology made a visibly perturbed American President Donald Trump to term DeepSeek a "wake up call" and urged US companies to stay competitive. In fact, it is not a fact that US companies were caught napping but that they are not in a position to develop the advanced tools or models as cost effectively as China does. This should serve as an eye-opener for India. It is heartening that India has announced plans to build its world class foundational models within less than one year under its ambitious IndiaAI Mission. This shows India's global aspirations to become a frontrunner in the AI industry. In the last few years, India has resolved to develop advanced technologies indigenously and shed its dependency on other countries. India is aggressively developing its semiconductor industry to boost self-reliance, economic growth, and technological leadership under initiatives

like the India Semiconductor Mission and PLI scheme. Yours, etc., Manoj Parashar, Ghaziabad, 31 January.

BETTER STANDARDS

SIR, Undoubtedly, the general public has a negative image of government schools. As soon as the economy improves slightly, people are eager to send their children to pricey private schools. However, the findings of the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER 2024) offer new optimism. The ASER report, which was conducted on pupils from rural areas, demonstrates that the reading abilities and mathematical skills of youngsters aged six to fourteen in the country improved following the Corona crisis. Children in third grade at government schools have already improved their basic reading ability, which is the highest level in the recent two decades. The good news is that students' basic mathematical skills have improved in schools at both the government and private levels. Students in

PARENTS

SIR, This refers to the number of growing cases of parents being left in the lurch once their children have taken the most from them. Parents have taken care of us since our birth, yet we often leave them alone in their old age. Do we truly understand the importance of parents? Only orphans truly realize their value. Parents sacrifice their happiness for their children's future, yet many, after marriage, leave their parents alone in old-age homes. The Bhagavad Gita teaches us that parents are like gods, protecting us like a shield in this greedy world. Unfortunately, in Kalyug, people are selfish ~ often those living with you may betray you, but only parents remain truly yours. The government should introduce schemes to support aged parents who are left without care. According to me, this issue needs urgent attention and action. Yours, etc., Swara Rawal, Ujjain, 31 January.

class three can now solve subtraction problems. Children in class five can solve division problems. The good news is that learning standards have improved in schools across the country. This level remained steady until 2010, after which it began to decline. According to the ASER research, as enrolment rates have improved, so has digital literacy.

It is encouraging that following the Corona period, there has been a renewed emphasis on education in schools. Awareness has also been demonstrated among parents. However, compared to last year, there has been a reduction in enrolment of children aged six to fourteen. Yours, etc., Abhijit Roy, Jamshedpur, 1 February.

A MEMBER OF THE

ANNASIA NEWS NETWORK

ASIAN VOICES

CPV's leadership ~ solid foundation for Viet Nam's development

UCH Leang, a researcher from the Royal Academy of Cambodia, (RAC) praises the leadership role of the Communist Party of Viet Nam (CPV) in Viet Nam's national liberation and construction in nearly a century in a recent interview with Vietnam News Agency on the occasion of the 95th founding anniversary of the CPV (February 3, 1930-2025). Leang, who is also President of the Cambodian Alumni in Viet Nam Association (CAVA), expressed his admiration for Viet Nam's tremendous achievements after nearly 40 years of i M i (Renewal) and the upcoming development goals of Viet Nam and its people in a new era ~ the era of the nation's rise.

He said the significant achievements gained from the renewal process under the leadership of the CPV provide Viet Nam with a solid foundation to achieve strong development and prosperity in the future. He emphasised that since the CPV's establishment, the Party leaders have guided Viet Nam's revolution, achieving many great victories. Recalling Viet Nam's historical milestones under the leadership of the CPV ~ from the struggle for gaining power in the 1930-45 period and the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam on September 2, 1945, to the protection and development of the gains from the August Revolution and the two resistance wars

against French colonialism and American imperialism (1945-1975), the Cambodian researcher noted that the founding of the CPV on February 3, 1930, and the subsequent revolutionary achievements have greatly contributed to the revolutionary movement of Indochina, especially in Cambodia and Laos. He pointed out that the i n Biên Ph Victory on May 7, 1954, against the French colonial regime shocked France and the world, forcing the French government to sign a peace agreement granting complete independence to Viet Nam. In addition, Cambodia and Laos also had their full independence recognised by France, and the war in Indochina came to an end.

Leang also highlighted the CPV's role in deciding on and carrying out the renewal policy in Viet Nam since the 6th National Party Congress in 1986. The anti-corruption campaign and the policy of streamlining the state apparatus being vigorously implemented by the CPV are seen as correct policies with an overarching vision aimed at improving the quality of the leadership and management system and ensuring the effectiveness, quality, and transparency of the apparatus, reinforcing confidence among residents and foreign investors. According to the CAVA President, the significant achievements after nearly 40 years of renewal and 95 years since the founding of the CPV clearly reflect the goal of building a socialist Viet Nam, as well as the development and creative application of Marxism-Leninism and the thoughts of President H. Chí Minh in the revolutionary and reform process in Viet Nam.

PERSONAL

HOMAGE to Arati Mitra (Aatima/Aapiya), daughter-matriarch of Halishahar Lakuthi and Dalimtala Mitterbari on her 15th death anniversary. — @mittirbariarchives.



Climate injustice institutionalised

GARIMA MAHESHWARI

The 29th summit of the Conference of Parties (COP29) held at Baku concluded without reaching a comprehensive or satisfactory agreement on several issues that have long plagued the annual climate conferences. Indeed, in many ways, the agreements reached at COP29 might be conceived as signaling a visible dilution of the existing principles of climate justice that have undergirded the global climate regime in the form of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). When contextualized within the emergent patterns of global protectionism fueled by rising geopolitical challenges, the patterns of negotiations at COP29 and the outcomes reached become symptomatic of the larger challenges inherent in the just provision of global public goods.

The COP29 decisions spanned five critical areas, apart from the numerous other pledges and work streams that have resulted in outcome documents. These include the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), the Mitigation Work Programme (MWP), the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), the market mechanisms under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and the Global Stock-take (GST) agreed at COP28 in Dubai. Apart from these core areas, other workstreams spanned Loss and Damage (L&D), Just Transition work programme, and Gender Action Plan.

The patterns of negotiations as well as the outcomes under each of these streams reveal how commitments to climate justice have been progressively subverted. This is visible through five key shifts visible at COP29 that may continue to have significant implications for the immediate future of climate governance.

First, while developing countries as a whole had demanded provision and mobilization of \$1.3 trillion by developed countries and have condemned the paltry amount of \$300 billion by 2035 provided through the NCQG, what was also clearly visible was a pattern of fracturing solidarity and outlook that has traditionally

underpinned developing countries' negotiating positions. This fragmentation is not new and has been implicitly occurring over the past several years. At COP29, this was visible in two important ways:

One, according to reports from the negotiations, there were significant disagreements among developing countries on contextualizing the quantum figure of \$1.3 trillion demanded by the developing countries, out of which \$500 billion was supposed to be ideally provided as concessional, publicly raised and grant-based funds. Within the developing countries, there were disagreements among the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island States on the one hand, and G77+China on the other hand. While the LDCs and small island states demanded a fixed quantum amount carved out of \$1.3 trillion to be provisioned for them exclusively, G77+China were of the view that all members from the developing countries should have equitable access to this amount.

Two, it was significant that China was relatively muted throughout COP29, and some of its positions signaled divergences from core developing countries' priorities. This is again a pattern that has been implicitly visible since the negotiation of the Paris Agreement in 2015 through the rising US-China partnership on climate change, including cooperation over methane emissions reductions as well as coordinating common negotiating positions to arrive at a successful outcome.

At COP29, this trend was further highlighted by the fact that, for the first time, China explicitly provided a concrete figure, in official terms, classifying a portion of its overseas development assistance to developing countries in terms of climate finance and contextualizing it further through a historical timeline, stating that the country has been providing climate finance to developing countries since 2016 amounting to nearly \$24.5 billion.

This official disclosure by China was significant, made as a part of the 'China's Actions for South-South Cooperation on Climate Change'

report unveiled by China at COP29. It implicitly advances the developed countries' controversial arguments that the voluntary contributor base for the NCQG – even at the paltry amount of \$300 billion agreed at COP29 – should be widened, and that, financial flows raised as part of South-South cooperation initiatives, as also aid flows through multilateral development banks, should also be counted as climate finance. Both these arguments by developed countries serve to further dilute their responsibility to contribute to climate finance for developing countries, by implicitly dispensing with the justice requirement that climate finance be additional to existing development finance flows.

Second, it is also notable that, at COP29, the realization of the NCQG framework for climate finance has been accompanied by significant attempts to dilute the classification between developed countries and developing countries. Unlike the previous climate finance goal of providing \$100 billion annually by 2020 to which only the developed countries were supposed to contribute, under the NCQG framework of providing \$300 billion annually by 2035, the voluntary contribution base has been widened with even large developing countries being encouraged to contribute. Significantly, such voluntary contributions by developing countries will not affect their developing country status – a major relief for China. Thus, the North-South distinction that has traditionally formed the mainstay of the UNFCCC climate regime is progressively being diluted through such measures.

Third, attempts to make finance provisions conditional on mitigation outcomes has been a consistent effort of developed countries witnessed over the past several years, resulting in mar-



ginalization of financial allocations for adaptation. At COP29, the failure to reach any substantive outcome on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) and the inability to reach an agreement on adaptation finance to be provided by developed countries which will expire next year, should be seen as a major setback to advance adaptation efforts. Negotiations over the GGA at COP29 were not only characterized by failure to reach any substantive outcomes, but also by renewed attempts to link Means of Implementation (MOI) for adaptation (such as, financial, technological and capacity-building requirements) to 'enabling factors' of implementation. The latter expands the critical requirements of MOI to make them partially or symbolically conditional on fulfilling criteria such as governance and transparency requirements on the part of developing countries as beneficiaries of adaptation.

Finally, while COP29 yielded clearly duplicitous outcomes on critical areas like NCQG and adaptation, it also witnessed a partial unravelling of the consensus that was arrived at during COP28 in Dubai last year. This was clearly visible in the inability to reach substantial outcomes in the Mitigation Work Programme (MWP)

and the Global Stocktake (GST). Due to the insistence of China and the Arab Group, the negotiations were unsuccessful in either reflecting GST outcomes (such as transitioning away from fossil fuels) agreed to at COP28 in the MWP or even linking the updating of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the MWP. For the latter, the argument is that making NDCs conditional on fixed or dictated mitigation outcomes make them lose their nationally determined nature. As a result, the MWP outcome failed to agree on anything substantive, pushing many of these contentious issues to next year's Bonn climate conference. While this could be seen as a small victory for fossil fuel-dependent and energy deficit developing countries, it may count for little when viewed against the larger structural dilution of UNFCCC processes that has been taking place over many years resulting in the institutionalization of climate injustice, with COP29 being among the clearest manifestations of this pattern.

(The writer is a member of the climate change group at the Vivekananda International Foundation, New Delhi and is presently teaching at the Vivekananda Institute for Professional Studies - TC. Views expressed are personal.)

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

THE Soviet Government is happier in its dealing with the East than with the West, but the West unfortunately for it consists largely of creditor powers, which dislike the repudiation of national debts. What happened in London is likely to be repeated in Paris. The Russians want a commercial treaty on favourable terms. But the repudiation of debts has struck a heavy blow at France, and has been a chief cause of her financial difficulties. Therefore France will listen to Moscow only on terms; the pre-war debts must be completely and unconditionally recognized. Moscow is prepared to do this, and to pay something on account, if only France will furnish the wherewithal for the purpose. Soviet psychology is abnormal; it has passed through the stage of deep cunning into that of childishness. The sum total of Russia's indebtedness to France has been recently calculated at over 11,000 millions of gold francs, apart from 3,450 millions advanced during the war. The Soviet Government is quite prepared to recognize the troubles of France, and to begin to meet its obligations if only England, or France, or any other Power, will give it the money.

NEWS ITEMS

INTER-ALLIED WAR DEBTS

SPECIAL MEETING OF BRITISH CABINET

(BRITISH OFFICIAL WIRELESS.) LEAFIELD.

(OXFORD), FEB. 2.

THE terms of the reply to M. Clementel the French Minister of Finance, who at the close of the recent Paris Conference addressed a letter to Mr. Churchill on the subject of inter-Allied debts, have been under careful expert consideration.

Although no official information is available, the Daily Telegraph understands that the draft of the reply has been completed, and states that it is now in the hands of members of the Cabinet, to whom it has been circulated in order that they may give full consideration to what is in fact a full and reasoned statement of British policy before it comes up for deliberation.

It is reported that a special meeting of the Cabinet is to be held to-morrow to deliberate upon the reply.

M. HERRIOT'S POLICY

GERMAN DISARMAMENT HIS WATCHWORD

("TIMES" SPECIAL SERVICE), LONDON, FEB. 3.

GERMANY accuses M. Herriot of having fallen back on the policy of M. Poincare, but the Paris correspondent of The Times says it would be a mistake so to regard the French Premier's latest declaration, which ought rather to be interpreted in the light of his repeated refusals to negotiate with German nationalism, which he still rightly fears.

M. Herriot assumed office with the definite policy of "putting trust in Germany," but was bitterly disappointed by the result of the German elections, which is undoubtedly why he is now so strongly insisting on German disarmament, which, coupled with security, remains his watchword.

Meanwhile hope is entertained that M. Herriot's warning will serve its purpose, and that forces favourable to a settlement will induce the German Government to follow the path of conciliation.

SCIENCE NOTES

HAWAIIAN EXPERIMENTS IN INFANTS' FOOD

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.) LONDON, JAN. 8.

THE problem of finding a satisfactory substitute for mother's milk, when the latter cannot be provided, at least in sufficient quantity, is one that has for many years exercised communities living under the artificial conditions of modern society.

The usual substitute is, of course, cows' milk, but there are many risks attendant on the use of this liquid, such as its liability to infection, more especially from the tuberculosis germ, as well as those which naturally arise from the difference between its composition and that of mother's milk. Many others have, therefore, been tried, not only in the form of the natural milks of various other animals and even plants, but also in that of so-called condensed milk or of powders obtained by drying the milk of the cow.

Although, however, dried milk possesses the advantage that it is, or at least should be, practically free from the danger of contamination, it is still doubtful whether in many cases the process of drying does not destroy those essential elements of nutrition, the vitamins, contained in the natural milk. So the quest still goes on for some substance which approximates closely in its chemical composition to human milk and could therefore, if necessary, actually be used to replace it.

Uncertain future for Davos Man

LEE BYUNG-JONG

The wealthy business executives and global elites who gathered last month at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, are facing an uncertain future. On the one hand, Donald Trump's return to the White House, coupled with his neoliberal, business-friendly agenda, offers the prospect of continued globalization to bolster their wealth. Tax cuts, deregulation and corporate-friendly policies align with their interests. On the other hand, Trump's protectionist rhetoric - marked by threats of high tariffs and economic nationalism - casts doubt on the long-term sustainability of globalization, leaving the so-called "Davos Man" unsure of what lies ahead.

The term "Davos Man," coined by political scientist Samuel Huntington in the early 2000s, describes the ultra-wealthy executives and owners of multinational corporations who view themselves as global citizens rather than tied to any one nation. These elites have reaped massive benefits from decades of globalization, often at the expense of workers and local economies. Critics, including New York Times journalist Peter S. Goodman, have pointed out the darker side of this system.

In his 2022 book, "Davos Man: How the Billionaires Devoured the World," Goodman argues that globalization has exacerbated inequality, weakened social safety nets and enabled the Davos elite to amass unparalleled wealth. By highlighting

the stark contrast between billionaires like Jeff Bezos and struggling workers worldwide, Goodman critiques the Davos Forum as a platform that legitimizes unfair global systems under the guise of progress.

Yet globalization, once seen as unstoppable, has faced significant setbacks in recent years. The Covid-19 pandemic disrupted global supply chains, exposing vulnerabilities in the offshore manufacturing model long relied upon by multinationals. Lockdowns, factory closures and shipping delays forced companies to rethink their operations, leading to a growing trend of re-shoring and near-shoring. This shift threatens the cost advantages that globalization has offered for decades, further challenging Davos Man's vision of a borderless world.

Even before the pandemic, signs of a backlash against globalization were evident. Trump's 2016 election and Brexit were both fuelled by discontent with globalist policies. Trump rose to power by pledging to disrupt the political establishment, which he portrayed as beholden to global elites. His "America First" agenda directly opposed the principles of free trade and international cooperation that underpin globalization. Trump accused organizations like the World Trade Organization and the United Nations of undermining American sovereignty and prosperity, further galvanizing a nationalist movement.

Trump's imposition of tariffs during his first term - particularly on China - represented a direct challenge to globalization. His policies initiated

economic decoupling between China and the West, undermining the interconnected global economy that Davos champions. In his current term, Trump has doubled down on protectionism, vowing to impose even stiffer tariffs not only on adversaries like China but also on allies in Europe, Canada and Mexico.

Brexit, too, represented a significant blow to globalization. British voters, disillusioned by a perceived loss of sovereignty to EU bureaucrats in Brussels, rejected the borderless Europe championed by the Davos elite. This dissatisfaction, rooted in concerns over immigration and economic dislocation, has fuelled similar populist and nationalist movements across Europe. For Davos Man, these movements represent a direct challenge to the borderless world they envision - a world where money, goods and people flow freely without national barriers.

Geopolitical tensions have further compounded the challenges facing globalization. In the early 2000s, the Davos Forum thrived on the optimism of a peaceful, integrated world in the aftermath of the Cold War and the so-called "End of History." At the time, it seemed as though economic and political globalization were inevitable. Today, however, the wars in Ukraine and Gaza, along with intensifying US-China confrontations, have shattered this optimism. These conflicts serve as stark reminders of the fragile nature of globalization, highlighting how quickly economic interdependence can be undermined by political realities.



Amid these challenges, Trump's return to power offers a glimmer of hope for the Davos elite. His new administration, filled with tech and finance billionaires, along with promises of tax cuts, deregulation and other neoliberal measures, could reignite momentum for unfettered globalization. For executives in sectors like finance, energy and cryptocurrency, Trump's pledges to roll back regulations are especially welcome. Indeed, US media outlet Politico recently declared, "The Davos Man is Back."

Still, Trump's presidency presents a paradox for the Davos Man. While his neoliberal policies align with their interests, his nationalist "America First" rhetoric and protectionist actions remain at odds with their globalist agenda. For instance,

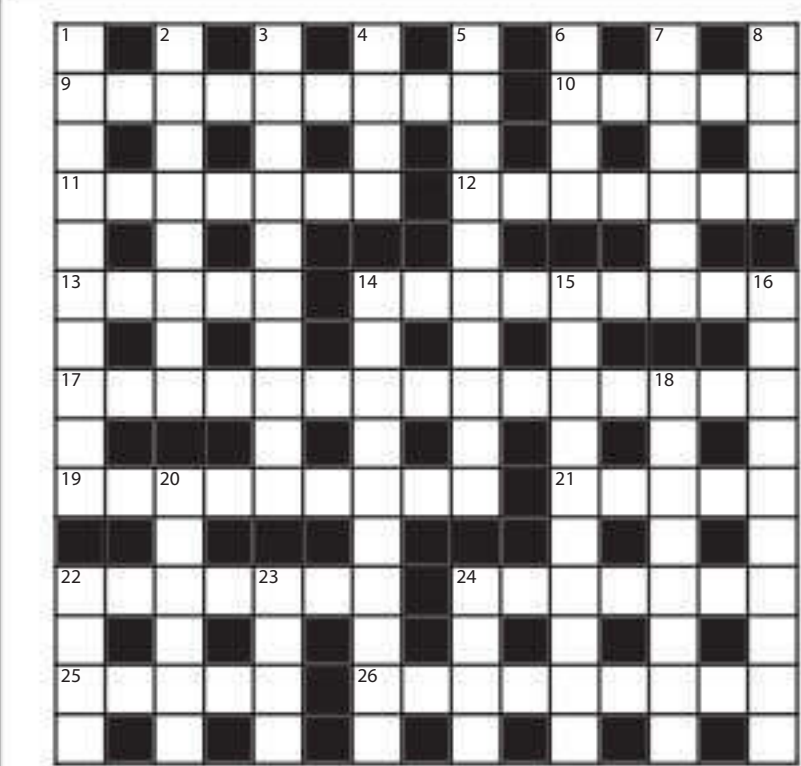
his threats of massive tariffs on Colombia over immigration issues demonstrate his commitment to nationalist priorities. Yet his close relationships with influential figures like Elon Musk, who advocates for increased immigration to support the tech industry, suggest that Trump may face pressure to adopt more globalist policies.

The future of Davos Man ultimately depends on how Trump navigates these competing priorities. Will he lean towards the nationalist agenda that brought him to power, or will he succumb to the influence of the globalist elites within his inner circle? For now, Davos Man can only wait - and hope - that the winds of Trump's policy decisions will blow in his favour.

The Korea Herald/ANN.

CROSSWORD

NO-293040



YETERDAY'S SOLUTION



ACROSS

- 9 Figure fractionally over the line? (9)
10/14D Disturbed thoughts Eliot had about her unfinished work (2,3,10)
11/25 Midsummer cop rough arresting grand Dickensian raven keeper (7,5)
12 First murderer takes in clever Macheath say (7)
13 Freezing bonus? (5)

- 14 Hope to catch rest being late and serve dinner? (5,2,4)
17 Tempter in legend with Hamlet not represented (3,3,9)
19 Last month's speaker an artisan (9)
21 Subcontinental region featured in Dublin Diaries (5)
22 Fruit to put round a sort of cake (7)
24 Happy to return with ring on greeting nobleman (7)
25 See 11

- 26 Pavlovian response to scupper one's religious hope? (9)
DOWN
1 Stirring diatribe about northeast wasted (10)
2 Write down a suggestion almost entirely in code (8)
3 Like a frame of snooker? (10)
4 What guest might do for example, consuming tons (4)

- 5 Neighbourhood merchant avoiding alcohol daily (3,7)
6 St Patrick initially harbouring English one in flight (4)
7 Using a vehicle, knock out kerbs in Finger Lakes location (6)
8 Bird in bank given mention (4)
14 See 10 Across
15 Sentimental ballad: extremely nice German song in list (6,4)

- 16 Equivalent to light brown horse I'm obliged to break in (10)
18 Small valley located in my German city (8)
20 Country pair leaving panda car the worse for wear (6)
22 Sailor has name for mountain lake (4)
23 First Lady having concern ultimately quits (4)
24 Wife leaves complete dump (4)

NOTE: Figures in parentheses denote the number of letters in the words required. (By arrangement with The Independent, London)



THUMBNAILS

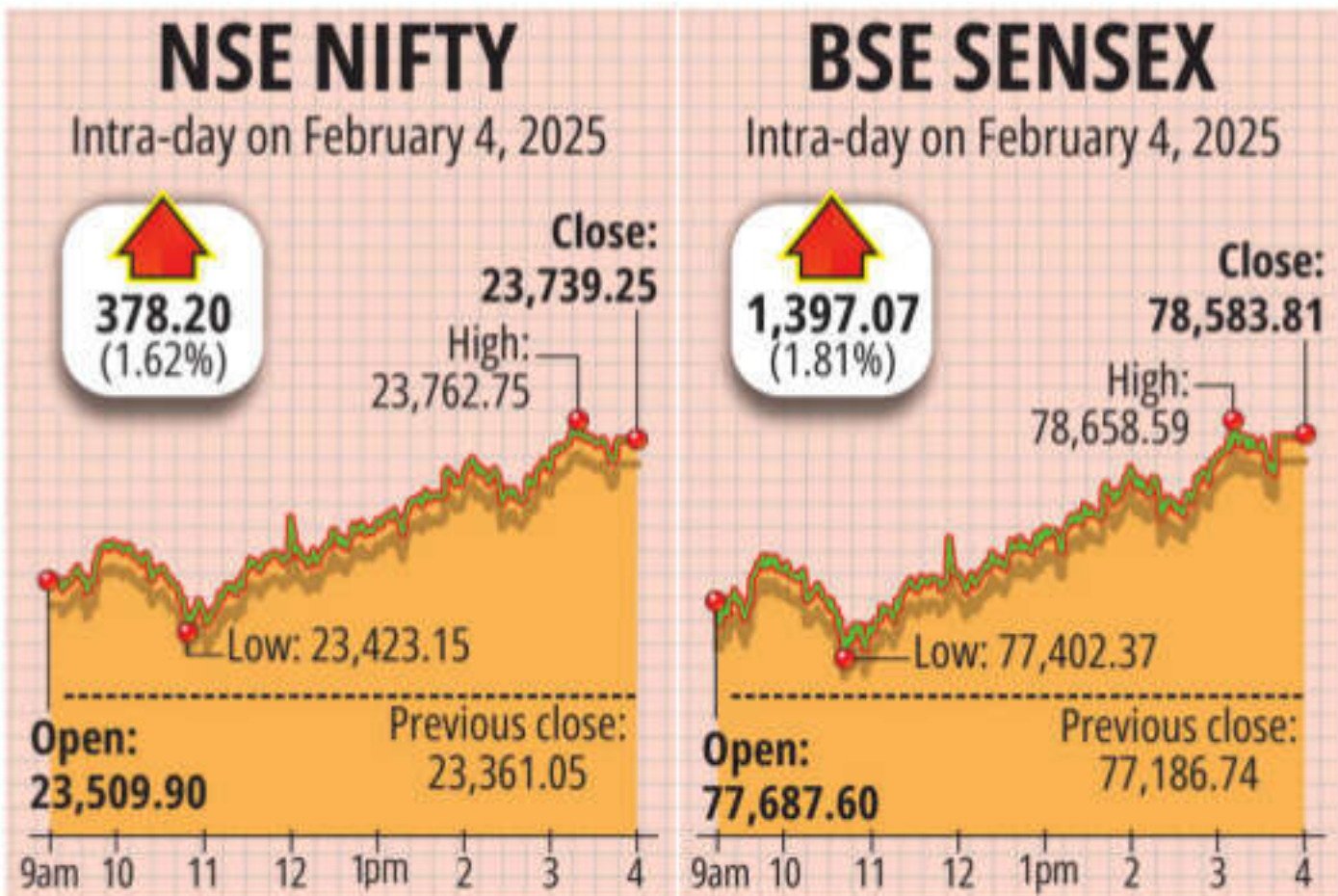
Birla Corporation Financial figures: Improvement in market conditions towards the end of the year helped Birla Corporation Limited report a year-on-year sales growth of 7 per cent by volume in the December quarter, while consolidated EBITDA for the quarter at Rs 263 crore represents a sequential growth of 36 per cent.

POWERGRID posts PAT of Rs 3,862 crore: POWERGRID has announced unaudited financial results for the quarter and nine months ended 31st December 2024. The Company has reported PAT and Total Income of ₹ 3,862 crore and ₹ 11,743 crore respectively on consolidated basis during Q3FY25. On standalone basis, the Company has posted PAT and Total Income of ₹ 3,894 crore and ₹ 11,609 crore respectively during Q3FY25.

REC wins Gold Shield in ICAI Award: REC Limited 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 financial year 2023-24. The prestigious recognition reflects the commitment of our Company to excellence in financial reporting, transparency and adherence to the highest standards of accounting practices.

Markets surge; major sectors end in green

Indian rupee ended 12 paise higher at 87.07 per dollar



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 4 FEBRUARY

Benchmark indices surged 1.8 per cent on the back of strong gains in capital goods, banking, energy, and auto stocks.

At close, Sensex climbed 1.81 per cent by 1,397.07 points to 78,583.81, while the Nifty advanced 1.6 per cent by 378.20 points to 23,739.25, witnessing a sharp bounce

back. Throughout the trading session, the Nifty reached a high of 23762.75 and a low of 23423.15 while the Sensex exhibited similar growth, trading within a range of 78658.59 and 77402.37.

On the sectoral front, except FMCG, all other sectoral indices ended in the green with Nifty PSU Bank, Infra, Energy and Oil & Gas up 2 per cent each. Nifty Midcap index added 1.6% and Small-

cap index rose 1 per cent.

Indian rupee ended 12 paise higher at 87.07 per dollar on Tuesday versus Monday's close of 87.19.

On Nifty, the leading gainers were Shriram Finance (5.60 per cent), Larsen & Toubro (4.56 per cent), Bharat Electronics (3.78 per cent), Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone (3.71 per cent), and Indusind Bank (3.40 per cent).

While on the losing side were Trent (6.27 per cent),

Britannia Industries (1.51 per cent), Hero Motocorp (1.16 per cent), Nestle India (0.76 per cent), and Eicher Motors (0.62 per cent).

Bank Nifty concluded at 49210.55, having reached an intraday high of 50206.6 and a low of 49482.5.

Bajaj Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M), UPL, SRF were among stocks that hit their 52-week highs on the BSE.

Among the individual stocks, shares of Divi's Laboratories briefly rose by over 5 per cent as investors reacted positively to the company's strong earnings performance for the December quarter.

Godrej Properties reported a 163 per cent spike in consolidated net profit, rising to Rs 163 crore for the quarter ending 31 December. Further, the shares of Larsen & Toubro jumped nearly 5 per cent.

FMCG sector shares continued their downward trend for the second day, reversing the initial boost following the Budget. United Breweries fell by 2.91 per cent while Godrej Consumer Products declined by nearly 2 per cent.

ITC Hotels fell over by 0.011 per cent and Colgate by 0.38 per cent.

99.2 per cent of mobile phones sold in India now made locally, says Vaishnav



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 4 FEBRUARY

Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnav, on Tuesday said 99.2 per cent of all mobile phones which are sold in India are made in India.

In 2014 -15 only 26 per cent of the mobile phones which were being sold in India were made in India, the rest were being imported, he said adding that the manufacturing value of mobile phones has surged from ₹18,900 crore in FY14 to a staggering ₹4,22,000 crore in FY24.

He further said that India has made significant progress in mobile and electronics manufacturing and become

the world's 2nd largest mobile manufacturing country.

In 2014, India had only 2 mobile manufacturing units but fast forward to today, the nation boasts over 300 manufacturing units, underscoring a significant expansion in this vital sector.

The minister told that over 325 to 330 million mobile phones a year are being manufactured in India and on average there are about a billion mobile phones in use in India.

"Indian mobile phones have virtually saturated the domestic market and that's there's a substantial uptick in the exports of mobile phones. The exports, which were almost non-existent in 2014, have

now surpassed ₹1,29,000 crore," the minister said.

He highlighted that the sector's expansion has also been a major employment driver, creating approximately 12 lakh direct and indirect jobs over the decade.

Highlighting the semiconductor manufacturing in the country, the minister said with the launch of the India Semiconductor Mission and the five major projects which have been approved, starting with Micron, the two projects by Tata Electronics, the one project by CG Power, and the last project by Keynes, a real manufacturing base of semiconductors in this country is being established in India.

RBI likely to cut repo rate by 25 basis points: SBI Report

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 4 FEBRUARY

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to cut the repo rate by 25 basis points in its February 2025 policy meeting, which is set to begin from Wednesday, State Bank of India (SBI) said in a research note. It said the rate cut will be with a total reduction of at least 75 basis points over the entire easing cycle. SBI Research said that with an intervening gap in June 2025, the second round of rate cuts could start from October 2025. It further said that the RBI Liquidity Framework needs to be revisited. The report further said that the RBI could start using the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) as a regulatory intervention tool rather than just a liquidity management mechanism in the future. The report emphasised the urgent need for the central bank to revisit its liquidity management framework, sug-

gesting that CRR could serve as a countercyclical liquidity buffer rather than a frequent adjustment tool for daily liquidity needs. Currently, the RBI manages liquidity through multiple measures such as Open Market Operations (OMO), the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), and the repo rate. SBI report argues that CRR should be used strategically to regulate liquidity based on broader financial conditions rather than immediate liquidity adjustments.

This will be the first MPC meet for the new Governor Sanjay Malhotra. Three new members will also be attending their first MPC meet.

In October last year, Centre had appointed three new members namely Saugata Bhattacharya, Economist; Dr Nagesh Kumar, Director and Chief Executive, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development; and Professor Ram Singh, Director, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi.

‘Tax reforms are key feature of Budget 2025-26’

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 4 FEBRUARY

Tax reforms are a key feature of the Union Budget, as it has an impact on what the rest of the economy does and for the first time have been included in Part-A of the budget, Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said on Tuesday.

"A high level of taxation is counterproductive, and we have taken the bold step of not increasing taxes. Our direction is clear, expand the tax base, expand the economy and the taxes will also flow," Pandey said in his address at the ASSOCHAM post-budget conference.

"We had a 20-25 per cent growth in personal income tax over the last three years. We don't really gain loading taxes very much on the same taxpayers," he explained.

He said the emphasis was on the need to create a wider avenue for income generation



and an environment of voluntary compliance.

"Budget making is actually balancing different imperatives and never an exercise in segments," he remarked.

Pandey further stated that the Bharat Trade Net announced in the budget will connect all stakeholders and streamline the customs process and has the potential to be much more than UPI.

"It's no longer a question of following standards; our concept of GST has no parallel in the world and we must take pride in what we all have achieved" he added.

Ravi Agrawal, Chairman, of the Central Board of Direct

Taxes, (CBDT), Ministry of Finance said: "The approach of the Tax Department has changed over a period of time. The guiding philosophy is that it is not just about collecting taxes and that tax is basically a derivative of a part of the income, you generate income and then automatically taxes come. The amendments in the Direct Tax Act, change in the tax slabs and rebates has been approached with that perspective."

He pointed out that rationalising TDS and TCS provisions, decriminalising those provisions, and the concept of updated returns contained in the budget are aimed at facilitating ease of doing business.

The CBDT chairman highlighted that the government was adopting a prudent approach of being proactive, rule-based, user-friendly, data-driven and non-intrusive with an enabling environment

and technology-driven transparent tax administration.

Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, Chairman, of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, (CBIC) said: "The customs duty rate rationalisation has been conducted in respect of 8,500 tariff lines out of 12,500 tariff lines pertaining to industrial goods. Agriculture goods and textiles have not been touched due to their highly sensitive nature. These rates have remained unchanged for almost two decades and there is a perception that India has very high rates. Rates have been now rationalised to 20 per cent which were between 70 to 20 per cent and those which were above 70 per cent have been brought down to 70 per cent. The equivalent amount of EIDC has been imposed to keep the effective duty incidents at the same rate or a slightly lower rate. So, that shock is absorbed gradually."

‘MAA stands for Multi-Asset Allocation, reflecting need for a well-diversified investment approach’

RITWIK MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA, 04 FEBRUARY

In fitness or physical wellness parlance, the 30-30 challenge is a fitness or wellness programme that involves completing a task or activity for 30 minutes a day for 30 days. There are multiple versions of the 30-30 challenge, including a diet, a nature challenge, and a Bible study. In financial investment, it suggests investing 30 per cent of savings into stocks, 30 per cent in bonds, 30 per cent towards real estate, and the remaining 10 per cent in cash and cash equivalents. This gives birth to a balanced financial portfolio. Similarly, in case of one's financial health, one would admit that we all want to enjoy our retirement in peace in our dream house with loved ones. But, the firing question is, do we plan for the same? When we start talking about retirement plans, then comes the 30-30 challenge of retirement. And if you are unaware of the 30-30 challenge of retirement planning, then it is high time to know more about it and start your retirement planning for a happy retirement. We all earn for almost 30 years of life, from 25 to 55 years. At this stage, we can earn, save, spend and invest in creating the retirement corpus so that it can be used at the time of retirement, which will be almost 30 years of our lives, assuming the life expectancy



of 85 years when we usually depend upon our savings.

Speaking to The Statesman, Jayanta Chowdhury, a Certified Financial Planner, explains the concept of the "30-30 Challenge" at length.

Excerpts:
Q: The "30-30 challenge" is a much-talked-about topic in the parlance of 'financial health' or financial well-being. How do you propose to explain that? How important is 'Asset Allocation' in the concept of financial well-being?

A: "The 30-30 Challenge" is a strategic approach to Asset Allocation. Mind you that financial stability is not a matter of chance but of careful planning. One of the most effective ways to ensure

long-term financial well-being is through Asset Allocation, a strategy that helps individuals balance risk and reward across different investment avenues. This principle is particularly significant when viewed through the 30-30 Challenge, a financial roadmap that divides an individual's economic journey into two crucial phases—accumulation and distribution.

Q: How does an individual differentiate between the first 30 years of one's life and the next 30 years, in terms of asset allocation?

A: The first 30 years of a person's financial journey constitute the accumulation phase. During this period, individuals are actively earn-

ing, allowing them to take calculated risks in pursuit of higher returns. With a steady income, they can afford to invest aggressively in growth-oriented assets such as equities, mutual funds, and alternative investments, thereby capitalizing on market fluctuations to build wealth. Time is their greatest ally, as it allows them to recover from downturns and benefit from the power of compounding.

However, as individuals transition into the next 30 years, the distribution phase begins. This is when active income ceases, and financial security depends on how well assets were allocated during the accumulation years. At this stage, the focus shifts towards capital preservation, stable returns, and minimizing risks. A diversified portfolio with a mix of fixed income, real estate, annuities, and other low-volatility assets becomes essential to ensure a steady income stream.

Q: Could you please explain this further for a layman?

A: This idea can be beautifully encapsulated in a famous Bollywood scene where Amitabh Bachchan lists his wealth—"Bungalow (apartment), Gaadi (car), Cash, Bank Balance"—but remains uncertain about his true financial strength. In contrast, Shashi Kapoor, with unwavering confidence, states, "Mere paas Maa hai."

If we reframe this dialogue in the context of financial planning, M.A.A. stands for Multi-Asset Allocation, highlighting the need for a well-diversified investment approach.

Q: Can you please explain the concepts of financial independence and stability in the long run?

A: Having a balanced portfolio across asset classes—equities, debt, gold, real estate, and international investments—ensures not just wealth accumulation but also financial independence and stability in the long run.

A well-planned asset allocation strategy safeguards individuals from market volatility, inflation, and unforeseen financial shocks. By aligning investments with life goals, risk appetite, and financial responsibilities, individuals can enjoy a worry-free retirement while securing their family's future. The 30-30 Challenge serves as a reminder that early and strategic financial planning is the key to true wealth—not just in numbers but in peace of mind and freedom.

Let me sound a word of caution at this point. For expert guidance on crafting a robust financial plan, one must reach out to a certified financial planner, who can help tailor an asset allocation strategy suited to your goals and lifestyle.

DG BIS highlights importance of strengthening manufacturing base in healthcare sector

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 4 FEBRUARY

Director General Bureau of Indian Standards, Pramod Kumar Tiwari, on Tuesday said there's necessity of academia-industry collaboration in shaping standards that drive innovation and economic growth.

While speaking during an Annual Convention on Healthcare Sector, Tiwari discussed the importance of strengthening India's manufacturing base in the healthcare sector.

He informed the attendees about the appointment of 'Chairs' of standardization in academic institutions and the signing of MoUs to enhance collaboration.

The DG also highlighted

BIS's initiatives, including orientation programmes in institutions and annual conventions across various disciplines. He urged experts to actively participate in BIS technical committees, engage in R&D projects, and integrate standards into engineering curricula to enhance learning.

Tiwari identified the challenges of a limited manufacturing base and restricted research capabilities, emphasizing the need to align with the Prime Minister's vision of Indian Standards gaining global recognition.

BIS organised the Annual Convention for Deans and HODs of Academic Institutions and R&D Organisations in the Healthcare Sector at its National Institute of Train-

ing for Standardization, Noida.

Among the series of conventions that are being held with Academic and Research organizations, this was the first convention focussing on the Healthcare sector.

Around 36 participants from 28 institutes were present at the convention, represented by Deans, HODs, faculty members and experts from Research organizations.

The convention aimed to generate awareness regarding standardization in the healthcare and medical device sector and to explore the opportunities for collaboration with academia and research organisations to strengthen the standardization activity of BIS in this sector.

Tata Power Q3FY25 profit after tax up by 8 per cent at ₹1,031 crore

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, 4 FEBRUARY

Tata Power reported a Rs 1,031 crore consolidated net profit in its Q3FY25 result in a release issued on Tuesday. The Rs 1,031 crore Profit After Tax (PAT) has increased by 8 per cent as compared to the Rs 953 crore reported in the year ago period. The Q3FY25 revenue from operations stood at Rs 15,391 crore, up 5 per cent over Rs 14,651 crore reported in the corresponding quarter of the last financial year.

The company's reported expenses at Rs 14,249 crore in the reported quarter, which is lesser than Rs 14,254 crore incurred in the year ago period.

Tata Power's Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortisation (EBITDA) grew by 7 per cent to Rs 3,481 crore due to contributions and operational efficiency across businesses. For the 9MFY25 (nine-month) period, Tata Power clocked a revenue and PAT of Rs 47,174 crore and Rs 3,909 crore respectively. The 9-month period also saw the

EBITDA reach its all-time high at Rs 10,639 crore.

Tata Power CEO and Managing Director Praveer Sinha said that the company delivered a sustained PAT growth trajectory over the last 21 quarters and all its businesses have contributed to this growth.

"We have emerged as a clean energy leader with presence across the full value chain of manufacturing, EPC, and development of renewable projects along with retail supply through group captives," Sinha said.



China hits back with tariffs on US goods, to also probe Google

Trump planning to talk with Chinese President Xi Jinping in the next few days

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIJING, 4 FEBRUARY

China countered President Donald Trump's across-the-board tariffs on Chinese products with tariffs on select U.S. imports Tuesday, as well as announcing an antitrust investigation into Google and other trade measures.

U.S. tariffs on products from Canada and Mexico were also set to go into effect Tuesday before Trump agreed to a 30-day pause as the two countries acted to appease his concerns about border security and drug trafficking. Trump planned to talk with Chinese President Xi Jinping in the next few days.

The Chinese response was "measured," said John Gong, a professor at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing. "I don't

think they want the trade war escalating," he said. "And they see this example from Canada and Mexico and probably they are hoping for the same thing."

This isn't the first round of tit-for-tat actions between the two countries. China and the U.S. had engaged in a trade war in 2018 when Trump raised tariffs on Chinese goods and China responded in kind. This time, analysts said, China is much better prepared to counter, with the government announcing a slew of measures that cut across different sectors of the economy, from energy to individual U.S. companies.

China said it would implement a 15 per cent tariff on coal and liquefied natural gas products as well as a 10 per cent tariff on crude oil, agricultural machinery and large-engine cars imported from the U.S. The tariffs would take



effect next Monday.

"The U.S.'s unilateral tariff increase seriously violates the rules of the World Trade Organization," the State Council Tariff Commission said in a statement. "It is not only unhelpful in solving its own problems, but also damages normal economic and trade cooperation between China and the U.S."

The impact on U.S. exports may be limited. Though the U.S. is the biggest exporter of

liquid natural gas globally, it does not export much to China. In 2023, the U.S. exported 173,247 million cubic feet of LNG to China, representing about 2.3 per cent of total natural gas exports, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

China imported only about 700,000 cars overall last year, and the leading importers are from Europe and Japan, said Bill Russo, the founder of the

Automobility Limited consultancy in Shanghai.

China announced export controls on several elements critical to the production of modern high-tech products.

They include tungsten, tellurium, bismuth, molybdenum and indium, many of which are designated as critical minerals by the U.S. Geological Survey, meaning they are essential to U.S. economic or national security that have supply chains vulnerable to disruption.

The export controls are in addition to ones China placed in December on key elements such as gallium.

"They have a much more developed export control regime," Philip Luck, an economist at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and former State Department official, said at a panel discussion on Monday.

Trump agrees to pause tariffs on Canada and Mexico after they pledge to boost border enforcement



AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, 4 FEBRUARY

President Donald Trump on Monday agreed to a 30-day pause on his tariff threats against Mexico and Canada as America's two largest trading partners took steps to appease his concerns about border security and drug trafficking. The pauses provide a cool-down period after a tumultuous few days that put North America on the cusp of a trade war that risked crushing economic growth, causing prices to soar

and ending two of the United States' most critical partnerships.

"I am very pleased with this initial outcome, and the Tariffs announced on Saturday will be paused for a 30 day period to see whether or not a final Economic deal with Canada can be structured," Trump posted on social media. "FAIRNESS FOR ALL!"

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau posted Monday afternoon on X that the pause would occur "while we work together," saying that his gov-

Rubio says El Salvador offers to accept deportees from US of any nationality, including Americans

AGENCIES
SAN SALVADOR, 4 FEBRUARY

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said late Monday that El Salvador's president has offered to accept deportees from the U.S. of any nationality, including violent American criminals now imprisoned in the United States.

President Nayib Bukele "has agreed to the most unprecedented, extraordinary, extraordinary migratory agreement anywhere in the world," Rubio said after meeting with Bukele at his lakeside country house outside San Salvador for several hours.

"We can send them and he will put them in his jails,"

Rubio said of migrants of all nationalities detained in the United States. "And, he's also offered to do the same for dangerous criminals currently in custody and serving their sentences in the United States even though they're U.S. citizens or legal residents."

Rubio was visiting El Salvador to press a friendly government to do more to meet President Donald Trump's demands for a major crackdown on immigration.

Bukele confirmed the offer in a post on X, saying El Salvador has "offered the United States of America the opportunity to outsource part of its prison system."

He said his country would accept only "convicted criminals" and would charge a fee that "would be relatively low for the U.S. but significant for us, making our entire prison system sustainable."

Elon Musk, the billionaire working with Trump to remake the federal government, responded on his X platform, "Great idea!"

After Rubio spoke, a U.S. official said the Trump administration had no current plans to try to deport American citizens, but said Bukele's offer was significant. The U.S. government cannot deport American citizens and such a move would be met with significant legal challenges.

Trump and Musk move to dismantle USAID, igniting battle with Democratic lawmakers

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, 4 FEBRUARY

The Trump administration and billionaire ally Elon Musk moved to eradicate the agency that provides crucial aid that funds education and fights starvation, epidemic and poverty overseas, sparking a showdown with congressional Democrats who blasted the effort as illegal and vowed a court fight.

In one of the most dramatic efforts to push back on President Donald Trump's bid to slash and reshape the federal government, some Democrats sought Monday to enter the headquarters of the U.S. Agency for International Development. They were blocked by officers

from even breaching the lobby, and Secretary of State Marco Rubio said he was the acting administrator of the agency despite it being an independent body for six decades.

While Trump has spent the first three weeks of his new presidency making broad changes to the federal government, the fast-moving developments at USAID have emerged as a particularly controversial flashpoint with Democrats who argue it symbolizes the massive power Musk is wielding over Washington.

"Spent the weekend feeding USAID into the wood chipper," Musk boasted on X.

In the space of a few weeks, in fact, much of the



agency was dismantled — work and spending ordered stopped, leadership and staff gutted by furloughs, firings and disciplinary leaves, and the website taken offline. Lawmakers said the agency's computer servers were carted away.

Trump told reporters Monday that shutting down USAID "should have been

done a long time ago." Asked whether he needs Congress to approve such a measure, the president said he did not think so.

Congressional Democrats, cheered by a few hundred supporters, vowed to act outside USAID headquarters, where federal officers and yellow tape blocked both employees and lawmakers

from entering hours after Musk declared, "We're shutting it down."

"This is a constitutional crisis we are in today," Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy said.

Added Maryland Democrat Jamie Raskin: "We don't have a fourth branch of government called Elon Musk. And that's going to become real clear."

Showing the extraordinary power of Musk and his budget-slashing Department of Government Efficiency, thousands of USAID employees have been laid off and programs shut down around the world in the two weeks since Trump became president and imposed a sweeping freeze on foreign assistance.

Trump warns 'no guarantees' fragile Gaza truce will hold as Netanyahu heads to DC for talks

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, 4 FEBRUARY

President Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu are set to meet Tuesday as the Israeli prime minister faces competing pressure from his right-wing coalition to end a temporary truce against Hamas militants in Gaza and from war-weary Israelis who want the remaining hostages home and the 15-month conflict to end.

Trump is guarded about the long-term prospects for

the truce, even as he takes credit for pressuring Hamas and Israel into the hostage and ceasefire agreement that went into effect the day before he returned to office last month.

"I have no guarantees that the peace is going to hold," Trump told reporters on Monday.

The leaders' talks are expected to touch on a long-sought Israel-Saudi Arabia normalization deal and concerns about Iran's nuclear program, but hammering out the second

phase of the hostage deal will be at the top of the agenda.

Netanyahu's arrival in Washington for the first foreign leader visit of Trump's second term comes as the prime minister's popular support is lagging. Netanyahu is in the middle of weeks-long testimony in an ongoing corruption trial that centers on allegations he exchanged favours with media moguls and wealthy associates. He has denied the accusations and said he is the victim of a "witch hunt."

INFORMATION WANTED

This is the photograph of **Souranshu Mohan Bardhan**, Father's Name-**Purnagshu Mohan Bardhan**, of Taran Pally, PO-Nataghar, PS-Ghola, Dist.-24 Parganas (North), State-West Bengal, who has been missing since 21.09.2020 at about 21.30 hrs. from Residential area, Description of this missing person is : **Age-54 Years, Complexion-Black, Height-5 Feet 4 Inch, Wearing- T-Shirt (Round neck), Track suit, Language-Bengali**. Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D 263 (3)/2025

INFORMATION WANTED

This is the photograph of **Raisha Ali**, Father's Name-**Asraf Ali**, of C/O Mahabub Ali, Nayabasti, PS-Maheshatala, Dist.-South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, who has been missing since 22.12.2024 at about 13.00 hrs. from Residential area, Description of this missing person is : **Age-16 Years, Complexion-Fair, Height-4 Feet 6 Inch, Wearing- Pink Colour Churidar, Language-Bengali**. Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D 262 (3)/2025

INFORMATION WANTED

This is the photograph of **Samir Biswas**, Father's Name-**Shibu Biswas**, of Vill-Banipur Rail Colony, PO-Banipur, PS-Habra, Dist.-24 Parnagas (North), West Bengal, who has been missing since 21.02.2023 at about 09.00 hrs. from his Residential area, Description of this missing person is : **Age-16 Years, Complexion-Shallow, Height-5 Feet 2 Inch, Wearing- Black Shirt & Black Pant, Language-Bengali**. Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D 261 (3)/2025

INFORMATION WANTED

This is the photograph of missing person **Kalyani Chakraborty**, wife of **Ashish Chakraborty** of 361, Chittaranjan Colony, who has been missing since 16.01.2025 from Garia. Description of this missing person is : **Age - 69 Years, Height - 5', Complexion - Fair, Built - Medium, Wearing - Mustard Colour Nighty, please inform whereabouts of the missing person, contact to the O.C., Missing Persons Squad, Detective Department, Kolkata Police, Lalbazar, Kolkata - 700001, (Telephone No. 033 - 2214 -1835, 9874902710). ICA-D266 (3)/2025**

INFORMATION WANTED

This is the photograph of **Mamoni Adhikari**, Husband's Name-**Dipankar Das**, of Hatgachi, PO-Noikora, PS-Nazat, 24 Parganas (North), State-West Bengal, who has been missing since 05.07.2024 at about 10:00 hrs. from Residential area, Description of this missing person is : **Age-33 Years, Complexion-Fair, Height-5 Feet, Wearing- Yellow Saree, Language-Bengali**. Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D 251 (3)/2025

INFORMATION WANTED

This is the photograph of **Sasti Mondal**, Father's Name-**Jagadish Mondal**, of Ballitola, PO-Bhuthi, PS-Bhuthi, Dist. Malda, West Bengal, who has been missing since 29.11.2019 at about 18:00 hrs. from Residential area, Description of this missing person is : **Age-38 Years, Complexion-Shyambarna, Height-5 Feet 4 Inch, Wearing- Black Jacket & Black Full Pant, Language-Bengali**. Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D 252 (3)/2025

INFORMATION WANTED

This is the photograph of **Tasabar Ali**, Father's Name-**Kausar Ali**, of 4/ H/2/6 Convent Lane, PIN-700015, who has been missing since 20.09.2019 from Residence under Entaly PS, Description of this missing person is : **Age-26 Years, Complexion-Fair, Height-5 Feet 5 Inch, Wearing- Blue Kurta and White Pant, Language-Bengali**. Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D 253 (3)/2025

INFORMATION WANTED

This is the photograph of **Gobinda Kumar Mukhiya**, Father's Name-**Chande Mukhiya**, of Ward No 06, Vill+PO-Chandradih, PS-Khajauli, Dist.-Modhuboni, State-West Bihar, who has been missing since 04.01.2025 at about 11.30 hrs. from NSCBI, Airport area, Description of this missing person is : **Age-15 Years, Complexion-Black, Height-4 Feet 5 Inch, Wearing- Red Full T-Shirt and Black Pant and Slipper, Language-Bengali**. Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D 254 (3)/2025

পিতা-মাতা/অভিভাবকের অনুসন্ধানের জন্য বিজ্ঞপ্তি

হাবিট দিগজয় ওরফে দিপজয় নামক শিশুপুত্রের এক বৎস অসামানিক ২ (দুই) বৎস ৪ (চার) মাস। শিশুটির গায়ের রং মাঝারি, উচ্চতা ৮০ সেমি ও ওজন ১০ কেজি। পরনে ছিল লাল রঙের গেঞ্জি ও ফুল প্যান্ট। শিশুটি সম্পর্কে কাহারো কাছে কোন সংবাদ জানা থাকলে দ্রুতগতিতে ত্রিকানায় যোগাযোগ করবেন - জেলা শিশু সুরক্ষা ইউনিট, দফতর ২৪ পল্লীমা, নিউ ট্রেডার্স বিল্ডিং, আটলান্টা, আদিলপুর, কোলকাতা-৭০০০২৭, (মো:-৯৩০২৮০৬৯২১)

আইসিএ-ডি ২৬৮ (৩)/২০২৫

INFORMATION WANTED

This is the photograph of **Sankchi Kumari @ Sonakshi Kumari**, Father's Name-**Arun Singh**, of Bahula Moti Bazar, PS-Andal, Dist.-Paschim Bardhaman, who has been missing since 30.10.2024, from Residence Under Andal PS, Description of this missing person is : **Age-18 Years, Complexion-Sallow, Height-5 Feet, Wearing- T-Shirt & Jeans, Language-Bengali**. Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D265 (3)/2025

INFORMATION WANTED

This is the photograph of **Muskan Parvin**, Father's Name-**Moksed Ali Sardar**, of Jamberia Murarisha, PO-Murarisha, PS-Hasnabad, 24 Parganas (North), West Bengal, who has been missing since 11.12.2024 at about 10:00 hrs. from School area, Description of this missing person is : **Age-13 Years, Complexion-Fair, Height-4 Feet 10 Inch, Wearing- Yellow Kurti, Language-Bengali**. Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D 250 (3)/2025

INFORMATION WANTED

This is the photograph of **Milan Murmu**, Father's Name-**LT. Suklal Murmu**, of Vill-Metalsole, PO-Ramgarh, PS-Lalgah, Dist.-Paschim Medinipur, State-West Bengal, who has been missing since 06.05.2019 at about 08.00 hrs. from Residential area, Description of this missing person is : **Age-20 Years, Complexion-Shyambarna, Height-5 Feet, Wearing- Yellow Kurta, Language-Bengali**. Please Contact Officer in Charge, Missing Persons Bureau, C.I.D., West Bengal, Bhabani Bhaban, Kolkata-700027, Ph. No.-033-2450-6120.

ICA-D 264 (3)/2025

INFORMATION WANTED

On 17.10.2024 at about 05.15 P.M. four minor children were reported to have been missing from Punarjiban Home, 16, Radha Gobinda Nah Sarani, Kolkata – 700033, PS – Golf Green. Description of the four missing minor children (victims) are:

Name : Md. Dilkash, Son of Mafush Khan, Age - 12 Years (Approx), Sex - Male, Height - 147 cm., Complexion - Fair, Built - Thin, Wearing - White Colour T-Shirt and Skin Colour Half Pant, Mother Language - Bengali.

Name : Biswajit Roy, Son of Mritunjoy Roy, Age - 14 Years (Approx), Sex - Male, Height - 161 cm., Complexion - Shallow, Built - Normal Muscular, Face - Long, Wearing - Blue & Black Check T-Shirt and Ash Colour Half Pant, Mother Language - Bengali.

Name : Aditya Jais, Son of Amit Jais, Age - 12 Years (Approx), Sex - Male, Height - 145 cm., Complexion - Black, Built - Normal Muscular, Face - Round, Wearing - Light Yellow T-Shirt and Green Colour Half Pant, Mother Language - Hindi.

Name : Deep Bairagi, Son of Biswajit Bairagi, Age - 16+ Years (Approx), Sex - Male, Height - 165 cm., Complexion - Black, Built - Normal Muscular, Face - Round, Wearing - Green Colour T-Shirt and Pink Colour Half Pant, Mother Language - Bengali.

please inform whereabouts of the four missing minor children (victims), contact to the Officer-in-Charge, Missing Persons Squad, Detective Department, Kolkata Police, Lalbazar, Kolkata - 700001. (Ph. No. 033 – 2214 -1835, 9874902710).

ICA-D267 (3)/2025





A BUDGET FOR A BETTER TOMORROW



EMPOWERING MIDDLE-CLASS LIKE NEVER BEFORE

- No income tax: Income up to ₹12 lakh per annum and up to ₹12.75 lakh per annum for Salaried Class (including Standard Deduction of ₹75,000)
- The taxpayers can now claim NIL annual value for two self-occupied properties.
- The period for filing the updated return has been extended from 24 to 48 months.
- National Savings Scheme (NSS) withdrawals are tax-free for deposits made on or after the 29th Aug, 2024.
- NPS Vatsalya contributions to get tax benefits like the NPS account.



RELIEF IN TDS/TCS RULES

- Limit for tax deductions on interest for senior citizens to be doubled from ₹50,000 to ₹1 lakh.
- The annual limit of ₹2.40 lakh for TDS on rent will now be ₹6 lakh, benefiting small taxpayers.
- The threshold to collect Tax at Source (TCS) on remittances under RBI's Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), is increased from ₹7 lakh to ₹10 lakh.
- Removal of TCS on remittances for educational purposes.
- No prosecution for delayed TCS if paid at any time on or before the time prescribed for filing the quarterly TCS statement.
- Higher TDS deduction will apply only in non-PAN cases.



TAX REFORMS TO FUEL UP BUSINESSES

- Determination of arms length price of international transaction for a block period of three years is proposed to streamline transfer pricing process.
- Expanded Safe Harbour Rules to reduce litigation and provide certainty in international taxation.
- New Presumptive taxation regime for non-residents engaged in providing services or technology to a resident company engaged in electronic manufacturing.
- New Safe Harbour Rule for non-residents who store components for supply to specified electronics manufacturing units.



REDUCING COMPLIANCE BURDEN

To reduce the compliance burden for small charitable trusts/institutions, the period of registration is increased from 5 years to 10 years.



BOOSTING EMPLOYMENT AND INVESTMENT

- Tonnage tax Scheme extended to Inland Vessels registered under the Inland Vessels Act 2021.
- The benefit under section 80 IAC is extended for five years and the eligible start-ups incorporated before April 1, 2030 can claim the benefit.
- As a measure to boost infrastructure funding, the deadline for investment in Sovereign Wealth Funds and Pension Funds has been extended to 31.03.2030.
- Specific benefits for ship-leasing units, insurance offices, and treasury centers of global companies set up in the IFSC.
- To claim benefits, the cut-off date for commencement in IFSC has also been extended by 5 years to 31.3.2030.
- Certainty of taxation to Cat I and Cat II AIFs for investments in infrastructure and other such sectors on the gains from securities.

For Website



Income Tax Department
Central Board of Direct Taxes



For FAQs

SC pulls up Assam govt for failure to deport declared foreigners

The bench directed the Assam govt to begin deportation process immediately

PARMOD KUMAR
NEW DELHI, 4 FEBRUARY

The Supreme Court on Tuesday pulled up the Assam government for not taking steps to deport persons declared as foreigners and for keeping them in detention centres indefinitely and directed it to start the deportation process immediately.

Directing the Assam government to initiate steps for deporting 63 foreign nationals, kept in detention centre, within two weeks, a bench of Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan questioned the state government's claim that deportation was not possible as migrants didn't disclose their foreign addresses.

"You have refused to start deportation saying their addresses are not known. Why should it be our concern? You deport them to their

foreign country. Are you waiting for some 'muhurat' (auspicious time)? Even without an address, you can deport them. You can't continue to detain them indefinitely," the bench told Assam's Chief Secretary.

The bench further said, "Once they are held to be foreigners, they should be deported immediately. You know their citizenship status. Then how can you wait till their address is received? It is for the other country to decide where they should go."

The bench told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that Assam is indulging in the suppression of facts.

Mehta said he has spoken to the highest authority in the state government and "there may be some lacunae".

Justice Oka then observed, "On the flip side, the state exchequer is spending on the persons detained for so



many years. This concern doesn't seem to be affecting the government."

To the bench's query whether the central government has started the deportation process, the Solicitor General said: "Let me sit with the Ministry of External Affairs. It is not a state subject. It is a central subject which is diplomatically dealt with by the Centre. I will speak with the concerned official."

Recording its dissatisfaction and stating that Assam's latest affidavit "was as vague as its earlier affidavits, the top court in its order said: "Evens if the address of these persons in the foreign country is not available, as the state is aware that they are citizens of a particular country, we direct the state to immediately start process of deportation in respect of persons at serial number 1

to 63."

Further directing the Assam government to file a detailed affidavit within two weeks regarding the nationality verification process, including dates of actions taken, the top court also directed the Union government to give details within one month regarding the persons deported so far and to clarify how to handle stateless individuals.

The bench ordered the Assam government to ensure better conditions in detention centres, forming a committee to inspect the facilities fortnightly.

The bench posted the matter for further hearing on 25 February, 2025.

The court was hearing a matter relating to foreigners detained in detention centres in Assam and seeking the release of persons who have completed more than two years in the detention centres.

Uttar Pradesh govt to conduct state's 8th Economic Census digitally



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, 4 FEBRUARY

Uttar Pradesh has made significant strides in law and order, infrastructure, and economic growth in the last seven-and-a-half years. Now, the state has launched the Eighth Economic Census 2025-26 to ensure inclusive development with a \$1-trillion economy.

Through this exercise, the government aims to devise targeted policies and welfare schemes to uplift all sections of society and foster statewide growth. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials to formulate a com-

prehensive plan for the Eighth Economic Census (2025-26), aiming to elevate Uttar Pradesh's economy to new heights.

The Yogi government envisions this census not merely as a data collection exercise but as a transformative tool to drive economic growth.

An official said here on Tuesday that to ensure accuracy and efficiency, the census would be conducted digitally as per the chief minister's directives. A web-based mobile application is being developed to facilitate real-time data verification, monitoring, and analysis, ensuring

transparency and informed policy-making.

This digital approach will help assess the current status of enterprises, self-employed individuals, workers, and small traders, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of government schemes.

The government plans to deploy 17,000 enumerators and 6,000 supervisors for the census. Local youth will be trained and integrated into the initiative, not only ensuring precise economic data collection but also creating employment and skill development opportunities, reinforcing the Yogi government's commitment to economic empowerment and progress.

CM Yogi Adityanath has decided to include women enumerators in the Eighth Economic Census 2025-26, promoting their active participation. By offering technical training, data collection skills, and digital platform opportunities, the Yogi government is empowering women and advancing their self-reliance.

Assam CM Biswa slams Rahul for his remarks on India's development

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
GUWAHATI, 4 FEBRUARY

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched a scathing attack on Rahul Gandhi for his remarks in the Lok Sabha during political debates over India's economic trajectory, accusing him of undermining the nation's progress while praising the neighbouring country, which he termed 'shameful and unacceptable'.

Taking to social media platform X, Sarma said: "In his address today, Rahul Gandhi did nothing but glorify China while disparaging India and demoralizing our industries. This is unacceptable."

Gandhi's remarks, delivered during a debate on India's economic situation,

included concerns over economic inequality, industrial competitiveness, and employment challenges under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. However, his comparison of India's development trajectory with China's has drawn sharp reactions from the ruling BJP.

Sarma refuted Gandhi's claims, asserting that India's industries are thriving, its youth are excellent, and the nation is making significant strides under Modi's leadership. He condemned what he viewed as an attempt to demoralise India's workforce and businesses, affirming that the country remains confident and unstoppable in its journey toward becoming a global economic powerhouse.

Assam CM meets Jaishankar on 'Act East Policy' and global ties

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
GUWAHATI, 4 FEBRUARY

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma met with Union Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar on Tuesday, focusing on strengthening the state's role in India's Act East Policy and enhancing its global economic and diplomatic outreach.

The meeting underscored Assam's growing international presence and its potential as a key player in India's engagement with Southeast Asian nations.

During the discussions, Sarma briefed the External Affairs Minister on his recent visits to Bhutan, South Korea, and Japan, where he observed widespread appreciation for India's economic progress.

He emphasised that these nations recognised India's rapid development and showed a keen interest in strengthening bilateral coop-



eration with Assam.

A significant highlight of the meeting was Minister Jaishankar's upcoming participation in the 'Advantage Assam 2.0' conclave, where he will address Assam's pivotal role in India's Act East Policy.

This initiative aligns with the central government's broader strategy to bolster trade, connectivity, and cultural exchanges between

India's northeastern states and ASEAN countries.

Sarma's meeting with Jaishankar follows his engagements in New Delhi on Monday post the Union Budget 2025 presentation.

His discussions with Union Ministers primarily revolved around advancing Assam's economic and industrial growth, aligning with the upcoming Advantage Assam 2.0 Summit.

PM Modi to take dip in Mahakumbh today



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MAHAKUMBH NAGAR, 4 FEBRUARY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Mahakumbh Mela in Prayagraj on 5 February.

PM will reach Mahakumbh at around 11 AM and will take a holy dip at the Sangam and offer prayers to Maa Ganga.

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will accompany the PM.

According to officials, PM will arrive in Prayagraj at 10 am and reach DPS

helipad and from there, he will reach VIP Ghat at Sangam nose by Nishadraj Cruise.

PM will also stay here for about an hour. During this time, he will bathe and then return.

Mela officials stated that the new proposed programme does not include the earlier schedule which included his visit to the State Pavilion and Netra Kumbh.

There is, however, no official confirmation whether PM will visit Akshayvat, Saraswati Koop and Bade Hanuman Mandir to offer prayers.

The Prime Minister last visited Prayagraj on 13 December when he inaugurated and launched multiple development projects worth around Rs 5,500 crore.

Prayagraj Railway Division achieves milestone with over 300 trains operated on Basant Panchami

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MAHAKUMBH NAGAR, 4 FEBRUARY

The grand Amrit Snan on Basant Panchami at Mahakumbh in Prayagraj saw over 2.5 crore devotees taking a holy dip at Triveni Sangam. Devotees arrived in large numbers in the days leading up to the auspicious occasion, marking a significant spiritual event.

To ensure smooth travel for

pilgrims, the Prayagraj Railway Division operated 106 Mela Special trains on Basant Panchami, along with around 200 regular trains from various stations, ensuring safe transportation for lakhs of devotees.

The Amrit Snan on Basant Panchami holds immense significance at Mahakumbh, attracting millions of devotees seeking spiritual purification. In response to this massive influx, the Prayagraj Railway

Division strategically operated both regular and special trains, ensuring seamless travel for pilgrims.

Special trains were run in a direction-wise manner, with services from Prayag and Phaphamau stations catering to travellers heading towards Lucknow and Rae Bareilly, while Rambagh and Jhansi stations managed routes towards Varanasi.

Similarly, trains from Praya-

graj Junction and Subedarganj were directed towards Delhi, Agra, and Kanpur, whereas services from Naini and Chheoki stations operated towards Satna, Maihar, and Manikpur.

This meticulous planning ensured that devotees could travel conveniently without unnecessary congestion. Estimates suggest that about 10 lakh passengers were safely transported to their destinations on Basant Panchami.

Meghalaya ADC polls: Nomination process ends with 259 candidates in fray

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHILLONG, 4 FEBRUARY

The nomination process for the upcoming elections to the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council (KHADC) and Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council (JHADC) in Meghalaya has officially concluded, ahead of the February 21 polls.

A total of 259 candidates have submitted their nom-

inations across the two councils, setting the stage for an electoral battle.

In Ri-Bhoi district, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) fielded two candidates on the final day: Rodney Syngkli from the Umsning constituency and Manin Raja from Nongpoh. Both candidates emphasised the BJP's ability to bring central government support and development initiatives to Megha-

laya.

Among the other key nominations was Amanda Pakyntein, wife of sitting MLA and former cabinet minister Banteidor Lyngdoh, who is contesting from the Mawkyntse seat in East Khasi Hills on an NPP ticket.

Meanwhile, the United Democratic Party (UDP) nominated Synshar Kubar Roy Lyngdoh Thabab for

the Sohiong-Nongspung constituency.

The nomination period, which commenced on 27 January, concluded on 3 February, followed by the scrutiny of nominations. Candidates have until 4 February to withdraw their candidacies, after which the final list of valid candidates and their election symbols will be released on 6 February.

Study reveals rapid shrinkage of Himalayan glaciers in Arunachal

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
GUWAHATI, 4 FEBRUARY

A recent study has unveiled a troubling trend in the Eastern Himalayas, where 110 glaciers in Arunachal Pradesh have vanished over the past 32 years.

Conducted by researchers from Nagaland University and Cotton University, the study highlights the alarming pace of glacial retreat, underscoring the impact of climate change in the region. The findings were published in the *Journal of Earth System Science*.

The research, covering the period from 1988 to 2020, mapped glacier changes using remote sensing and GIS techniques across multiple districts in Arunachal Pradesh, spanning from Tawang to Lohit.

According to the study, the total glacial area decreased from 309.85 sq. km at retreat rate of 16.94 sq. km over the study period. The number of glaciers fell from 756 to 646. Glaciers located at altitudes between 4,500 and 4,800 meters, primarily on slopes ranging from 15° to 35° and facing north, were most affected.

EASTERN RAILWAY
CANCELLATION NOTICE
E-Tender No.: Engg-Fountain-24-25-LLH. Closing on 14.02.2025 at 12:00 hrs, which was published earlier online by Chief Works Manager, C & W Workshop, Eastern Railway, Liluah, Howrah-711204 for the Open e-tender for supply, installation and commissioning of 03 (Three) nos. of fountain at C & W Workshop, Eastern Railway, Liluah, is now hereby cancelled. Website where complete details of tender available alongwith Corrigendum-1: www.irops.gov.in. MISC-324/2024-25
Tender Notices are also available at Website www.ee.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irops.gov.in
Follow us at: [@EasternRailway](https://twitter.com/EasternRailway) [f @easternrailwayheadquarter](https://www.facebook.com/easternrailwayheadquarter)

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER
Tender Notice No. 114-ELC-G-KGP-24-25-41, dated 03.02.2025, e-Tender is invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ G/Kharagpur-721301, S.E. Railway for and on behalf of President of India for the following work before 12:00 hrs. on the date mentioned against items. **Description of work:** Three years Comprehensive Maintenance Contract of 26 person carrying capacity, G+3 floor travel one no. Hospital Bed Lift at Main Hospital of Kharagpur Division. **Tender Value:** ₹ 18,00,680/-. **Bid Security (E.M.D.):** ₹ 36,000/-. **Cost of Tender Document:** Nil. **Completion Period:** 36 months from the date of issue of Letter of Acceptance. **Date of Submission:** Upto 12:00 hrs. of 21.02.2025. **Date of Opening:** 21.02.2025. Interested Tenderers may visit website www.irops.gov.in for full details, description and specification of the tender and submit their bids online, in no case manual tender for this work will be accepted. **Note:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit www.irops.gov.in to participate in all tenders. (PR-1098)

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Dy.Chief Engineer (Construction)-I, North-Western Railway, Jodhpur through for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders (Open Tender - Two packet system), for the following work. **Tender No.:** T.No. JJU/Const./T-08/2024-25-BR-RAS-MEC. **Name of the work with its location:** Construction of ROB No.5(1 x 36.0 M Composite Girder) at Ch.15281, ROR No.13 (1 x 30.5 M Composite Girder) at Ch.20649, ROR No.14 (1 x 30.5 M composite girder) at Ch.20999, 01 No. Important Bridge No.48 (34 x 18.30 M. PSC Girder) at Ch.42959, ROR-77 (1x45.70 m. open web girder) at Ch.57923, ROB No.79 (1 x 36.0 M Composite Girder) at Ch.60575, including substructure, superstructure and all other ancillary works complete as per direction of Engineer in charge in connection with Merta City – Ras New line Project of Jodhpur Division. **Approx. cost of work:** ₹ 112,19,75,039.63 **Earnest Money to be deposited:** ₹ 57,59,900/- **Tender Closing date & time:** 24.02.2025 upto 15:00 hrs. **Date, time & place for Pre-bid conference:** On 03.02.2025 at 11:30 hrs. in the office of Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction)-I, North-Western Railway, Jodhpur. **Detail of particular, where e-tender can be seen & filed up:** www.irops.gov.in **Official email address:** dycecu@nwr.railnet.gov.in 141-AR/25
Follow us on: www.facebook.com/NWRRailways www.instagram.com/NWRRailways

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice FOR MECHANICAL WORK YEAR 2024-25
NIT No.: 43/2024-25 - CWJU. Name of work, location & Period : Eddy Current Array Surface Crack Detection Test of LHB Wheel Sets and Magnetic Particle Induction Test in ICF Bogies. Jodhpur Division, 2 years. **Approx. cost of the work:** ₹ 2,88,34,680/- **Earnest money to be deposited:** ₹ 2,94,200/- **Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of tender:** On 22.02.2025 till 14.00 hrs. through E-tendering online submission on IREPS. Tender will be opened soon after. Website particular and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen etc.: <http://www.irops.gov.in> CDO NWR, Jodhpur's notice board. **Note:** The offer can only be accepted through E-Tendering on the website of www.irops.gov.in. Offer in any other form will not be accepted. The tender/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signatures Certificate & must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidders can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering 144-AR/25
Follow us on: www.facebook.com/NWRRailways www.instagram.com/NWRRailways

MORE TENDER ADS ON PAGES 2 & 6

Tender Notice
e-Tenders are invited from reputed Vendors for supply and installation of Lab. equipments in the Department of Geography, Alipurduar University. For details please visit <https://wb.tenders.gov.in> Memo No. NIT 08/APDUJ/R/2024-25, Dt. 04.02.2025. Sd/- Registrar (Additional Charge) Alipurduar University

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice FOR MECHANICAL WORK YEAR 2024-25
NIT No.: 43/2024-25 - CWJU. Name of work, location & Period : Eddy Current Array Surface Crack Detection Test of LHB Wheel Sets and Magnetic Particle Induction Test in ICF Bogies. Jodhpur Division, 2 years. **Approx. cost of the work:** ₹ 2,88,34,680/- **Earnest money to be deposited:** ₹ 2,94,200/- **Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of tender:** On 22.02.2025 till 14.00 hrs. through E-tendering online submission on IREPS. Tender will be opened soon after. Website particular and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen etc.: <http://www.irops.gov.in> CDO NWR, Jodhpur's notice board. **Note:** The offer can only be accepted through E-Tendering on the website of www.irops.gov.in. Offer in any other form will not be accepted. The tender/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signatures Certificate & must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidders can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering 144-AR/25
Follow us on: www.facebook.com/NWRRailways www.instagram.com/NWRRailways

EASTERN RAILWAY
E-Auction Notice
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Asansol Division, Station Road, Asansol, Pin-713301 invites open e-Auction through IREPS portal vide website www.irops.gov.in for awarding the contract. Details of which are as given below: **Auction Type:** Parking. **e-Auction Catalogue No.:** ASN-PARK19-1202. **Name of stations/ Locations:** (1) Two (02)-wheeler staff parking in north side circulating area of Asansol Railway station. (2) Two (02)-wheeler staff parking at south side circulating area of Asansol Railway station. **E-Auction start date:** 12.02.2025 at 11:00 hrs. All prospective bidders are advised to visit the website www.irops.gov.in for full details and to participate against the above mentioned e-Auction as per schedule given. ASN-314/2024-25
Tender Notices are also available at websites : www.ee.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irops.gov.in
Follow us at: [@EasternRailway](https://twitter.com/EasternRailway) [f @easternrailwayheadquarter](https://www.facebook.com/easternrailwayheadquarter)

Government of Jharkhand
Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Co-Operative (Agriculture Division)
Directorate of Soil Conservation
2nd Floor, Krishi Bhawan, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834008
e-mail – disoiiljhr@gmail.com edjamtc@gmail.com
Contact No. - +91 7004221564, +91 94272769373
website - www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in/or/www.jamitc.org/www.sameti.org
CANCELLATION NOTICE OF ONLINE NIT
No. SC/01/2024-25
PRNO. 330583 Agriculture (24-25) D dt. 25.07.2024
Expression of Interest (EOI) are invited for Empanelment of Manufacturer or Their Authorized Dealer to Supply Tractors/ Self Propelled Machines/ Agricultural Machines/ Implements/ Tools/ Items / Pump Sets/ HDPE Pipe etc on subsidy basis to the individual farmers and different type of farmers groups etc. under different programme of the department of Agriculture, animal husbandry & co-operative to be implemented the scheme of the financial year 2023-24 to 2025 -26
Due to unavoidable circumstances the invited online tender NIT No. SC/01/2024-25&PRNO. 330583 Agriculture (24-25) D dt. 25.07.2024 is being cancelled and a fresh new short term tender notice is being invited.
Sd/-
Director, Soil Conservation
Jharkhand, Ranchi
PR.NO.345678 Agriculture(24-25):D

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tender No.: JHS-ENGG-C-2025-20 Date: 31.01.2025
E-TENDERING 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: Bina Jn.- Virangana Lakshmi Bai (UP & DN) TFR- 86.26 Tkm., TTR (TSR)- 35 set & other misc. P.way work.
Approx. Cost: ₹ 21388530.42 **Earnest Money:** ₹ 257000.00
Date of Closing Tender: 28.02.2025 at 15:00 hrs.
Date of completion / period from issue acceptance letter: 12 Months.
● Tender on line can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs. on 28.02.2025.
● For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.irops.gov.in. 223/25 (A)
f North central railways www.facebook.com/CPRONCR www.instagram.com/CPRONCR www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. JHS/Br/L/2024-25/20 Date: 30.01.2025
E-Tendering Tender Notice
Dy. Chief Engineer/Bridge/Line/Jhansi, North Central Railway, Jhansi for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-tenders on the prescribed forms for the under noted work:-
Tender No.: Br-JHS-2024-23. **Name of work:** Provision of inspection pathway, ladders & inspection cradle for inspection of bearing of PSC girder bridges at Mahoba-Khajuraho- Lalitpur.
Approx. Cost of work: ₹ 3,58,64,875.79/- **Bid Security (Earnest Money):** ₹ 3,29,300/-
Date of Closing of Tender: 24.02.2025 **Completion period:** 08 Months
Eligibility Criteria for similar work: Any structural steel fabrication work.
Note- (1) The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders are available on Website www.irops.gov.in up to 15:00 hrs. on the date of date of tender closing i.e. 24.02.2025. (2) Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2008. (3) Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entry in any other form/letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. (4) Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. (5) Payment of Bid Security (Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)) in respect of e-tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway or bank guarantee only. (6) In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. (7) Tender on line can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs. on dated 24.02.2025. 216/25 (MG)
f North central railways www.facebook.com/CPRONCR www.instagram.com/CPRONCR www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

Can aching joints really predict the weather? Exploring the science behind this

MICHELLE SPEAR

For centuries, people have claimed that their aching joints can predict changes in the weather, often reporting increased discomfort before rain or cold fronts. Given the scale and duration, there is a sense of legitimacy to these anecdotes—but this phenomenon remains scientifically contentious.

From shifts in barometric pressure to temperature fluctuations, many theories attempt to explain how environmental factors might influence joint pain. But is there an anatomical basis for this claim, or is it simply an enduring weather-related myth?

At the heart of this debate lies barometric pressure, also known as atmospheric pressure – the force exerted by air molecules in the Earth’s atmosphere. While invisible, air has mass, and the ‘weight’ pressing down on us fluctuates with altitude and weather systems.

Higher barometric pressure often signals fair-weather conditions with clear skies and calm winds, whereas lower pressure typically precedes unsettled weather, such as cloudy skies, precipitation and humidity.

Moveable joints are intricate structures cushioned by synovial fluid, the viscous liquid that lubricates joints and encased in capsules rich in nerve endings. In healthy joints, these components should allow smooth, pain-free movement. However, when joints are compromised by cartilage damage (as in osteoarthritis) or inflammation (as in rheumatoid arthritis), even subtle changes in the environment may be acutely felt.

One leading hypothesis suggests that changes in barometric pressure

may directly influence joint discomfort. When atmospheric pressure drops ahead of storms, it can allow inflamed tissues within joints to expand slightly, increasing stress on surrounding nerves and amplifying pain. Conversely, rapid increases in pressure, characteristic of fair-weather systems, may compress already sensitive tissues, leading to discomfort in some people.

Scientific studies offer some support for these claims, though results remain mixed. For instance, a 2007 study published in the American Journal of Medicine found a slight but significant correlation between dropping barometric pressure and increased knee pain in osteoarthritis patients. However, this pattern is not universally observed across all joint conditions.

A 2011 systematic review in Arthritis Research and Therapy examined the relationship between weather and pain in rheumatoid arthritis patients. It revealed highly variable responses: while some people reported increased pain under low-pressure conditions, others noted no change. A few even experienced discomfort during high-pressure fronts.

More recently, a study found a modest association between falling pressure and heightened joint pain, but it also highlighted substantial individual differences in how people perceive weather-related pain.

These findings suggest that while changes in barometric pressure may influence joint pain for some, responses are far from uniform and depend on a complex interplay of factors, including the individual’s

underlying joint condition and overall pain sensitivity.

Why responses differ

Barometric pressure rarely acts in isolation. Fluctuations in temperature and humidity often accompany pressure changes, complicating the picture.

Cold weather can have a pronounced effect on joints, particularly in people with existing joint conditions. Low temperatures cause muscles to contract and become stiffer, which can lead to reduced flexibility and a greater risk of strain or discomfort.

Ligaments, which connect bones to one another, and tendons, which anchor muscles to bones, may also lose some of their elasticity in colder conditions. This decreased pliability can make joint movement feel more restricted and exacerbate pain in conditions like arthritis.

Cold weather can also cause blood vessels to narrow — particularly in the extremities, as the body prioritises maintaining core temperature. This reduced blood flow can deprive affected areas of essential oxygen and nutrients, slowing the removal of metabolic waste products like lactic acid, which may accumulate in tissues and exacerbate inflammation and discomfort.

For people with inflammatory conditions, the reduced circulation can aggravate swelling and stiffness, especially in small joints like those in the fingers and toes.

Cold also slows the activity of synovial fluid. In lower temperatures, the fluid becomes less effective at reducing friction, which can heighten

joint stiffness and make motion more painful, particularly for people with degenerative conditions such as osteoarthritis.

Sudden temperature changes may also play a role. Rapid shifts can challenge the body’s ability to adapt, which might worsen pain in people with chronic conditions. Similarly, high humidity can intensify sensations of heat or dampness in already inflamed areas, further complicating the experience of pain.

However, isolating a single variable – whether humidity, temperature or pressure – proves difficult because of the interplay of overlapping factors.

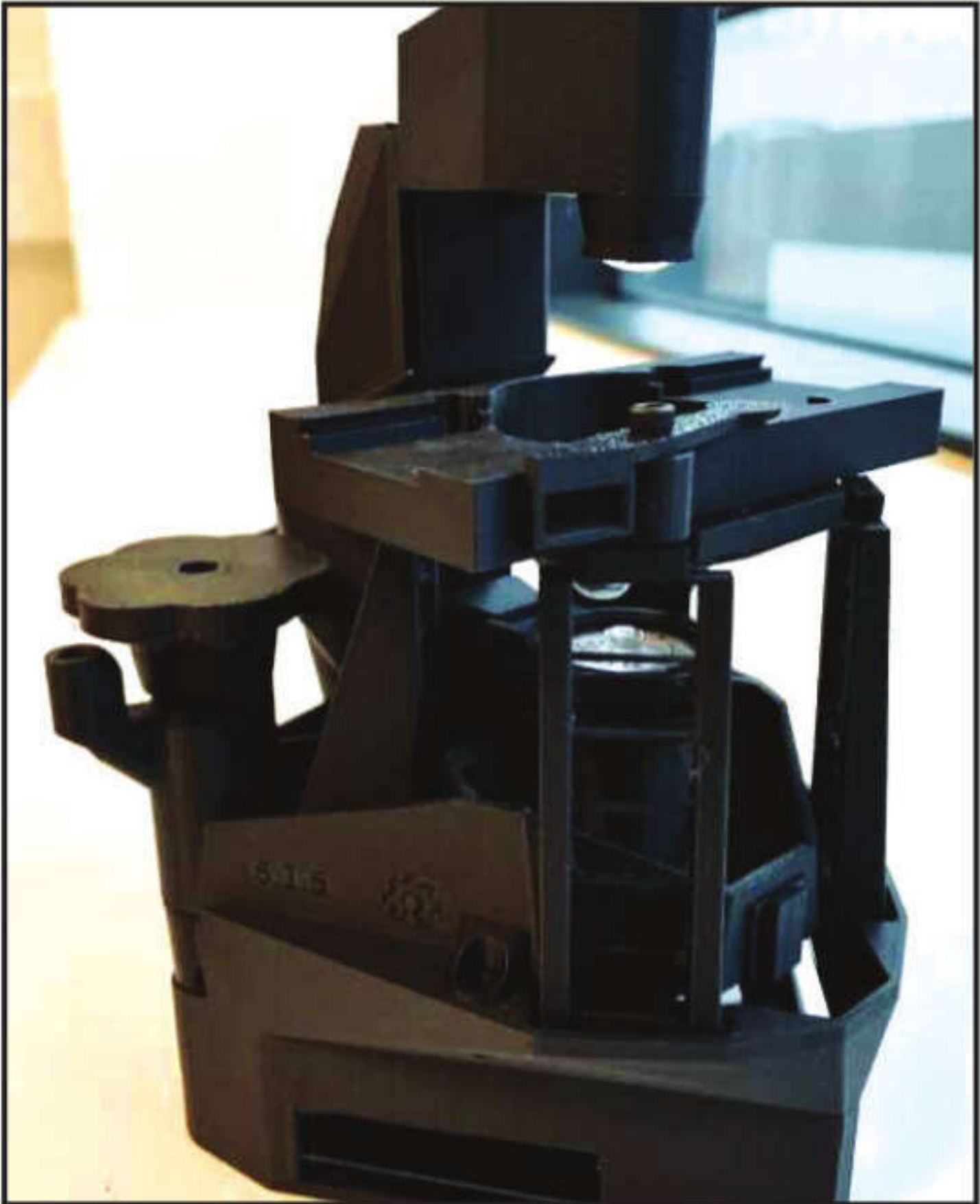
Responses to weather also depend on individual factors, including the extent of joint damage, overall pain sensitivity and psychological expectations. This variability makes it difficult to link a single meteorological factor to a biological response.

Still, the evidence suggests that people with joint conditions tend to be more attuned to environmental changes, particularly pressure fluctuations.

While the relationship between weather and joint pain remains an imperfect science, the collective evidence indicates that there may be some truth to the age-old belief. For those with chronic joint conditions, shifts in barometric pressure and accompanying weather changes might indeed serve as nature’s warning system – albeit one that’s far from foolproof.

The writer is a Professor of Anatomy at the University of Bristol. This article was published on www.theconversation.com.

Strathclyde scientists create world’s first fully-3D printed microscope under £50



Scientists at the University of Strathclyde have created the world’s first fully 3D printed microscope in under three hours and for less than £50 – a fraction of the cost of traditional devices.

Using a publicly available design from the website OpenFlexure the scientists produced the microscope’s frame – and clear plastic lenses they designed themselves – using low-cost, accessible 3D printers.

The microscope was completed by adding a shop-bought camera and a light, with the whole device controlled by a Raspberry Pi computer processor.

To test the imaging performance of the system, the scientists used standard test samples: a stained blood smear and a stained, thin section of a mouse kidney. The microscope demonstrated sub-cellular resolution, clearly imaging individual red blood cells and detailed structures in the kidney sample.

Dr Liam Rooney, a postdoctoral research associate, who created the device with Prof. Gail McConnell at Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences, said, “In under three hours, you can transform a design, freely available on the internet, into a fully functional optical microscope. This opens the doors to democratised access, rapid prototyping, and bespoke design of microscopes and optics at a fraction of the price of traditional microscopes. It could help

scientists and medics in low-income countries around the world, as well as enable students to learn more about science through accessible, cheap kits.”

The microscope uses a single lens with a 2.9x magnification, which is on the lower end of the spectrum, but its resolving power – essentially how clearly a sample can be seen – is what is most important for diagnostic purposes. Traditional diagnostic microscopes can typically cost between £10,000-£15,000.

The key element to the scope is the plastic, 3D lenses, and it took Prof. McConnell and Dr Rooney, three years to perfect it while collaborating with other colleagues from around the world.

The frame the researchers’ device was built from is already used for diagnostic imaging in low-income settings, but the unique combination of this with the 3D-printed lenses – each costing 11 pence to make – is what makes the microscope more accessible, cheaper and quicker to build.

The project also included contributors including Jay Christopher and Ralf Bauer, in the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, Rebecca Craig and Brian Patton in the Department of Physics at the University of Strathclyde as well as Rebecca McHugh and Andrew Roe in the Department of Bacteriology at the University of Glasgow.

Curious engagement of phenoxyacetic acid with plants and soil

TAPAN KUMAR MAITRA

Among the various derivatives of phenoxyacetic acids, 2,4-D (salts and esters) and MCPA (salts) are widely used as herbicides. The chemical properties of these herbicides are due to the aromatic radical (phenyl) and the presence of the carboxyl group COOH. 2,4-D (2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid) is a derivative of 2,4-dichlorophenol into whose hydroxyl group an acetic acid residue has been introduced making it a new compound with herbicidal properties. These compounds combine with inorganic and organic bases forming salts, which are easier to dissolve and store, being sufficiently stable in both solid (powder) and liquid (solution) states. With alcohols, they form esters that are widely used as herbicides, as they evaporate more easily and spread further when sprayed.

The physiological activity of phenoxyacetic acid increases when a halogen such as fluorine or chlorine is introduced into the aromatic radical affecting the effectiveness of these herbicides. The position of these halogens is key in determining how strong the herbicide will be. For example, in the dichlorophenoxyacetic acid series, 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid has the highest physiological activity positing the strongest version of the chemical, and 2,6-dichlorophenoxy-acetic acid has the lowest activity making the chemical less effective. The effectiveness in question decreases depending on the chlorine atom positions as follows: 2,4-D >> 2,5 >> 3,4 >> 3,5 > 2,6. If a hydrogen atom is substituted by an aliphatic hydrocarbon radical in a molecule of a phenoxyacetic acid, the herbicide’s effectiveness is not affected considerably.

These herbicides penetrate well into plants through their leaves and roots but are more frequently sprayed into vegetating plants using aqueous solutions and emulsions. The spraying periods are established depending on the phase of stability of the cultivated plants, the sensitivity of the weeds, and the weather. The herbicides may penetrate through open stomas, especially well if the leaves are young with thin epidermal tissues, and the weather is favourable. They may also penetrate through either the cuticles or cell walls – since, both hydrophilic and lipophilic compounds can permeate easily through them.

Herbicides undergo chemical transformations within the plants that may either lead to the intensification of their toxicity or to complete inactivation of the same making the herbicide harmless. Derivatives of 2,4-D undergo processes of metabolism in three directions: decarboxylation (destruction of the side chain and formation of CO₂ at its expense), hydroxylation (the introduction of a hydroxyl group in the ring), and the formation of complex compounds with the metabolites. The formation of complex compounds of 2,4-D with the products of metabolism in plants also leads to the loss of phytotoxicity of this herbicide, meaning that it no longer harms the plant.

Herbicides that are derivatives of 2,4-D do not stay the same once they enter the soil as well, decomposing through various chemical and biological processes. Salts of 2,4-D soluble in water may be washed into the deeper soil layers by rain or irrigation, leading to the contamination of groundwater. On the contrary, esters of 2,4-D evaporate from the surface of the soil.

2,4-D herbicides also undergo photochemical decomposition. This process

occurs more rapidly in soils with a high microbiological activity, under the influence of various microorganisms.

Microorganisms capable of influencing the decomposition of 2,4-D herbicides include *Mycoplasma*, *Rhizobium*, *Corynebacterium*, *Arthrobacter*, *Achromobacter*, *Flavobacterium*, and certain actinomycetes.

Certain sensitive weeds react to these herbicides derived from phenoxyacetic acid quite rapidly. Within hours, the growth of the plant stops, the petioles and young shoots curl, and the entire plant bends abnormally. Thickenings are formed in the lower parts of the plant from which adventitious roots appear. The upper parts of roots thicken and decay, and young roots die off. The thickenings and fasciation of the shoots, leaves, and roots are attended by an increased turgor. As a result, the shoots and roots burst, and the wounds are infected by bacteria and fungi speeding up the plant’s death. The generative organs are equally affected leading to a range of consequent developmental deformities. These morphological changes are very diverse and depend on the age of the plant, its specific features, and weather conditions.

It has been established at present that 2,4-D discontinues oxidising phosphorylation by inhibiting the esterification of the phosphate, disrupting the process of formation of compounds rich in energy (macroergs) – ADP and ATP. It has also been established that 2,4-D strongly affects the synthesis of RNA (ribonucleic acid). This allows us to presume that the herbicides first affect the nucleic acids, and then, through the latter, the biosynthesis of proteins. Disruption of the biosynthesis of structural and enzyme proteins leads to disruption of the processes of metabolism, the result being

complete disarrangement of many aspects of metabolism in a plant’s organism. Studies have further shown that 2,4-D noticeably affects the photosynthesis processes, both in terms of the photolytic activity of chloroplasts and photosynthetic phosphorylation. It is also known that 2,4-D has a sharp negative effect on the synthesis and transformation of growth stimulants in plants.

When considering all the aspects of the negative action of 2,4-D on plants, one cannot fail to note that this herbicide, as well as other ones similar to it, inhibits the enzymes of plants. The addition of a large number of foreign molecules, for example, of 2,4-D to the cytoplasmic system causes disruptions such that not one, but possibly all the enzyme systems lose their

equilibrium, and this leads to the disruption of most processes.

This can be a partial explanation of such deep disruptions in plants. However, the causes of such irreversible disturbances of the physiological processes have not yet been revealed adequately to date.

The author is an associate professor (retd.) and former head of the department of botany at Ananda Mohan College.





JAYAWARDENE HAILS BUMRAH

Mumbai Indians (MI) head coach Mahela Jayawardene opened up on the team's pace spearhead and Indian star bowler Jasprit Bumrah, calling him a "coach's dream to work with" because of his "low maintenance" nature as a player. Jayawardene also said that Bumrah's every delivery needs to have an impact for his team

For more updates www.thestatesman.com

THUMBNAILS

Bank of Baroda recognises Arjuna Award recipient Pranav Soorma for his sporting achievements: Bank of Baroda, one of India's leading public sector banks, recognised Pranav Soorma, an Officer of the Bank and recipient of the prestigious Arjuna Award 2024. At the Paris Paralympic Games 2024, Soorma won a silver for India in the Men's F51 Club Throw event. He was presented with the Arjuna Award 2024 on 17 January, 2025 for his outstanding achievements in Para Athletics and for bringing glory to the nation. "Pranav's remarkable accomplishments are a result of his relentless dedication and perseverance, and as an organisation we stand by him as he continues to make the country proud. Our sports quota initiative is designed to support and empower talented individuals by providing them with the necessary institutional backing to excel in their chosen field. We remain committed to fostering a culture that nurtures talented sportspeople like Pranav and encourages excellence in all spheres of life," Debadatta Chand, Managing Director and CEO, Bank of Baroda said during the Felicitation ceremony. Chand honoured Soorma in recognition of his accomplishments by granting an out of turn promotion as Manager, a cash reward of Rupees Ten Lakh and acknowledging as a sportsperson within the Bank of Baroda.

Varun Chakaravathy earns Team India call-up for ODI series against England

The 'mystery spinner' from Tamil Nadu gets included in national squad ahead of Champions Trophy

TRIDIB BAPARNASH
NEW DELHI, 4 FEBRUARY

The BCCI senior selection committee on Tuesday confirmed the inclusion of mystery spinner Varun Chakaravathy to the ODI side ahead of the three-match series against England.

There were speculations of his inclusion in the squad after Varun was spotted training with the India squad, preparing for the ODI series against England at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur on Tuesday.

The Rohit Sharma-led team, including star batter Virat Kohli, arrived in Nagpur on Monday, a day after concluding the T20I series in Mumbai. While Varun was missing with the rest of the squad in visuals from the Nagpur airport on Monday, his presence during India's training session on Tuesday afternoon fuelled speculations of his inclusion. "The Men's Selection Committee has added Varun Chakaravathy to India's squad for the upcoming 3-match ODI series against England," a BCCI media release confirmed.

Though not officially part of India's ICC Champions Trophy squad yet, Varun's addition to the ODI squad, could also open doors for his inclusion in the final squad for the marquee tour-



nament, in which India will play all their matches in Dubai.

The BCCI's senior selection committee had initially ignored Varun while announcing a provisional India squad for the Champions Trophy. However, with changes allowed until 12 February, his performance in the ODI series could determine his selection for the Champions Trophy.

With the Champions Trophy starting on 19 February and uncertainty surrounding star quick Jasprit Bumrah's fitness, the selectors are run-

ning against time to finalise the squad. Bumrah, who has been out of competitive cricket since the Sydney Test, is being closely monitored by the board's medical team at the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.

In the scenario of Bumrah missing out, sources said that selectors are keeping an eye on Harshit Rana as a possible replacement, and with Kuldeep Yadav, the first-choice pick for the spinner's role, also returning from injury, the team management will be keen to test Varun in the 50-over format.

Varun's inclusion in the ODI squad comes a day after former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin had hinted at the possibility of the mystery spinner featuring in India's Champions Trophy squad.

The Tamil Nadu spinner had a sensational run in the recently-concluded T20I series, which India won 4-1. The spinner won the Player of the Series award for taking 14 wickets, including a five-wicket haul, in five matches.

"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. He has not played ODIs. I have a feeling they will give him a chance in the India vs England ODI series," Ashwin had predicted on his Youtube channel.

"If they don't give him a chance here, then it's difficult. But, nevertheless, I congratulate Varun for his first player of the tournament award. He is the Chakaravathy of T20I cricket at the moment. I wish he grows more and more," he added.

England wicketkeeper Jamie Smith may miss first two ODIs vs India



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 4 FEBRUARY

England wicketkeeper Jamie Smith is likely to miss the first two ODIs of the three-match series against India due to calf issues but is expected to fit for the Champions Trophy.

The wicketkeeper-batter felt discomfort in his calf during the third T20I in Rajkot, England's solitary win, and has been receiving treatment since. He played the second and third T20Is, replacing Jacob Bethell. But missed the following two games as India won the series 4-1.

According to a Daily Mail report, the 24-year-old will effectively undergo a fitness test in the final match of the tour in Ahmedabad next Wednesday, which also happens to be the deadline to finalise Champions Trophy squads being lodged with the International Cricket Council.

Joe Root has joined England for the ODI leg of the tour, but Smith's absence is limiting their batting options.

Root was meant to replace spinner Rehan Ahmed in the squad, but the latter is now asked to stay on for the 50-over matches.

In the T20I leg of the tour, England have rigidly stuck to a four-pronged pace attack supplemented by Adil Rashid, in contrast to India, who have used up to five spinners in an innings.

After the thrashing in the T20I series, pacer Saqib Mahmood is also expected to play the opening ODI in Rajkot.

The right-arm pacer played just one match before being axed for the final T20I at Wankhede Stadium, despite reducing India to 12 for three with a stunning triple wicket maiden.

The three-match ODI series begins in Nagpur on Thursday, with the second match following on Sunday. The final match of the series, which will be England's last outing before their Champions Trophy opener against Australia on 22 February, is scheduled for 12 February.

"It's a matter of trying to give these guys the oppor-

tunities, try and play them to a degree where they'll be most suited. I actually said to him after about 10 overs 'it's not a bad one to miss, mate'.

"He was nodding his head at me," England coach Brendon McCullum told the media.

"I said: 'Boss, everything you've done has been absolutely brilliant in the last game and we couldn't be happier with where you're at. You're going to play in the first ODI so get yourself ready for that'.

"It's just making sure you look after the guys and make sure you're being honest with them as well. We aren't going to get all of these decisions right but you've got a bit of an idea of what you're trying to achieve," he added.

The three-match ODI series begins in Nagpur on Thursday, with the second match following on Sunday. The final match of the series, which will be England's last outing before their Champions Trophy opener against Australia on 22 February, is scheduled for 12 February.

Windies star Deandra biggest mover in ICC Women's rankings



AGENCIES
DUBAI, 4 FEBRUARY

West Indies experienced all-rounder Deandra Dottin emerged as the biggest winner after ICC issued the latest update of the Women's T20I Player Rankings on Tuesday.

Dottin returned to international cricket for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in 2024 following a brief retirement period of just over two years.

The 33-year-old is already closing on the top sports of all three rankings categories in the shortest format.

The West Indies star's recent rise in the rankings comes in the aftermath of her Player of the Series performance during her team's three-match T20I series against Bangladesh.

It was a series that the Caribbean side dominated to pick up a 3-0 clean sweep. Dottin scored a series-best 110 runs across the three matches and rose a whopping 26 places on the latest T20I rankings for batters.

After her recent rise, she is sitting marginally outside the top 10 in equal 11th place.

The category is still led by Australian stalwart Beth Mooney.

Her compatriot Qiana Joseph has also emerged as a big mover in the T20I batters.

The left-hander from Barbados jumped 27 spots to 29th overall following her 92 runs from two innings against Bangladesh.

Dottin is in the top 10 in the category for T20I all-rounders.

Her latest all-rounded performances against Bangladesh boosted her up 11 spots to ninth overall in the list that is headed by fellow West Indies star Hayley Matthews.

Her experienced teammate Afy Fletcher moved two places to move to 23rd overall on the list for T20I all-rounders.

Notably, the 37-year-old is among the biggest movers on the latest list for T20I bowlers.

The seasoned spinner managed four wickets across the three matches against Bangladesh and jumped two places to 12th overall on the T20I rankings for bowlers.

Notably, a trio of players from the Asian side also made ground on this list. Bangladesh Spinner Rabeya moved four spots up to 14th following her three wickets in the series. Fahima Khatun (up six runs to 35th) and Sultana Khatun (up 20 places to 74th) also made some ground in the latest ICC rankings for women that is still being led by England spinner Sophie Ecclestone.

ICC Champions Trophy 2025: Tickets for India-Pakistan clash sold out within minutes

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 4 FEBRUARY

Cricket fans hoping to witness the electrifying ICC Champions Trophy contest between arch-rivals India and Pakistan at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on 23 February were left disappointed as tickets vanished within minutes of release.

With India scheduled to play all their matches in Dubai, the demand for tickets was unprecedented.

Fans rushed to secure seats for the marquee showdown, only to find that most ticket categories, including premium options priced at AED 2,000 and AED 5,000, were snapped up almost instantly.

Hybrid Format and Ticket Pricing

The 2025 Champions Trophy will be played in a hybrid format, with matches split

between Pakistan and Dubai. India's refusal to send its team to Pakistan, led to a pre-tournament agreement under which Rohit Sharma & Co will play all their matches, including the semifinal and final, if they go the distance, in the UAE.

Tickets for all of India's matches, including a potential semi-final appearance, went live at 5:30 PM (IST) on Monday.

On expected lines, the biggest rush was for the marquee clash between India and Pakistan on February 23. However, within minutes the match was sold out, leaving fans disheartened as their turn never came.

Eight teams will feature in the tournament that returns to life after eight years. The sides are divided into two groups, with Group A consisting of defending champions and hosts Pakistan,

along with India, New Zealand and Bangladesh, while Group B features Australia, alongside Afghanistan, England and South Africa.

India will kick off their campaign in the tournament against Bangladesh in Dubai on 20 February before the high voltage clash against Pakistan on 23 February, and later take on New Zealand on 2 March.

The tournament is scheduled to begin on 19 February, with the final set for 9 March.

There was also a huge demand for tickets for India's opening contest against Bangladesh and their last group-stage match against New Zealand.

Anticipating the run-ups of the last edition to make the semi-finals, there was also demand for tickets for the knockout contest (if they qualify), scheduled for 4 March.

Sri Lanka star Karunaratne to retire after 2nd Australia Test

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 4 FEBRUARY

Sri Lanka opener Dimuth Karunaratne has decided to call time on his career after the second Test against Australia at Galle, which will also be his 100th Test. This is also Sri Lanka's final Test of the current World Test Championship cycle.

With Sri Lanka set to play only two further Tests until May 2026, the 36-year-old Karunaratne's decision to play his final Test at the same venue, where he began his Test career against New Zealand in November 2012, will leave the door open for youngsters in the new World Test Championship cycle.

"It was the right time to go, considering there are three or four younger players who could come in for the next WTC cycle. Plus, this match was in Galle, where I made my debut, so it will be nice to finish things there,"



Karunaratne was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"After the first Test against

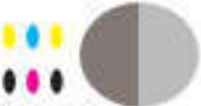
Australia ended, I told SLC that the next Test would be my last," he added.

Karunaratne has scored by far the most Test runs for a Sri Lanka opener, hitting

7079 at an average of 39.99 in that position. He will also become Sri Lanka's seventh cricketer to feature in 100 Tests, following Sanath Jayasuriya, Muthiah Muralidaran, Chaminda Vaas, Mahela Jayawardene, Kumar Sangakkara and Angelo Mathews.

"Playing 100 Tests is a tough thing to accomplish, especially when you're an opening batter and you're doing the dirty work for the team," he said.

Karunaratne, who captained Sri Lanka in 30 Tests, has so far scored 15 centuries. Opening up on his regrets, the opener lamented at being unable to breach the 10,000 runs in Test cricket. "If I have regrets, one of them would be not being able to get to 10,000 Test runs. I thought the way that I was going in 2017, 2018 and 2019, that I'd have the chance to get there. But then Covid hit, and Sri Lanka don't play as many Tests anymore," he said.





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