



TRUMP PROPOSES
U.S.A. TAKING OVER
THE GAZA STRIP

P10



GEN CHAUHAN
LAUNCHES KEY
INFRA INITIATIVES

P5



T'GANA GOVT FACES
OBJECTION OVER
QUOTA FOR MADIGAS

P6

ABHISHEK SHARMA
JUMPS TO NO.2 IN ICC
T20I BATTERS' LIST



P16

SENSEX 78,271.28 ▼ 312.53

NIFTY 23,696.30 ▼ 42.95

₹ vs \$ 87.46

GOLD 87,290.00

SILVER 1,07,000

BRENT CRUDE (IN \$) 75.43 ▼ 0.79

WEATHER

Partly cloudy. Hazy in the evening. Maximum and minimum temperatures likely to be around 30°C and 18°C respectively.

RAINFALL: NIL
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
Max. 63% Min. 60%
TEMPERATURE
Max: 30.2°C Min: 18.3°C
SUN RISES 06:13 hrs SUN SETS 17:28 hrs
MOON RISES 11:32 hrs MOON SETS 00:29 hrs
Full Moon on 12 February

THUMBNAILS



Art College students celebrate as they take the idol of Goddess Saraswati for immersion marking the end of the occasion of Saraswati Puja, in Patna. ■ ANI

Bangladesh resumes visa and consular services in Agartala after 2-month suspension: The Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Agartala has announced the resumption of visa and consular services from 5 February, ending a two-month suspension imposed after a security breach at the mission. The services were halted on 3 December, a day after a group of protesters stormed the mission premises in response to the arrest of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das in Dhaka. (Page 13)

Cong's Rahul Gandhi reiterates nationwide caste census call

IMRAN MOJIB
PATNA, 5 FEBRUARY

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, reiterated his call for a nationwide caste census as he underlined the paradox of representation without power for the country's Dalits, Other Backward Classes (OBCs), and tribals.

Speaking at a programme pertaining to the birth anniversary of the Dalit icon Jaglal Chaudhary in Patna, Mr Gandhi, observing that India's backward classes do have political representation, but that has not translated into real power in their hands. "Dalits have been given representation, but due to lack of actual participation in the power structure, it means nothing," Mr Gandhi said.

He also repeated his call to save the Constitution of India, contending that only the Constitution could give the backward classes true representation, and that is



why, according to him. the BJP and the RSS wanted to change it.

Invoking Rohit Vemula, a student activist who committed suicide in January 2015, he said that all RSS leaders did bow to Ambedkar, but they didn't respect what he fought for. "They will do it in a subtle way to deceive you," he said.

Mr Gandhi said the new political establishment under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has further diminished the representation of Dalits,

tribals and backward classes of the society.

However, he promised that it wouldn't continue anymore and asserted that Dalits and the backwards would get a share in power as per their population.

In order to achieve these goals, Mr Gandhi stressed the need to conduct a caste survey across the country, making policies based on the collected data and implementing them with full determination. He also cited the example of Telangana in this regard.

"The Caste Census will tell us the actual number of Dalits, backward classes, minorities, and the poor from the general category. Based on this, we will analyse their representation in the judiciary, media, institutions, and bureaucracy to uncover the reality," he said.

Mr Gandhi said that not a single Dalit, OBC, or tribal holds a leadership position in India's top 200 companies.

US C-17 military aircraft lands in Amritsar with illegal immigrants

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 5 FEBRUARY

As many as 104 illegal Indian immigrants deported from the United States landed on Wednesday at Sri Guru Ramdasji International Airport in Amritsar in a US military aircraft.

Thirty of them are from Punjab, 33 each are from Haryana and Gujarat, while three each are said to be from Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, and two are from Chandigarh, sources said.

Initially, there were reports that the US C-17 Globemaster aircraft was carrying 205 illegal Indian immigrants but the authorities were not disclosing any specific details in this regard.

Punjab NRI Affairs Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal Tuesday said that many people from the country entered the USA on work visas which later expired, making them illegal immigrants.

Mahakumbh: PM takes holy dip at Triveni Sangam

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MAHAKUMBH NAGAR,
5 FEBRUARY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a sacred dip at the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati during the Prayagraj Mahakumbh here on Wednesday.

He immersed himself in the Triveni Sangam amidst the chanting of Vedic hymns.

Before his ritual bath, PM Modi offered prayers to Lord Surya, chanted on Rudraksha (dried seeds used for prayers by Hindus and Buddhists) beads, and performed rituals, honouring the rivers Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati, followed by Ganga Puja and Aarti. Adhering to traditions, Prime Minister Modi first touched the holy waters in reverence before offering tarpan (offering made to divine entities) and prayers to the Sun. Clad in a black kurta, saffron sash, and a



Himachali cap, he offered akshat (raw unbroken rice sprinkled with water), naivedya (offering to deity or nature), flowers, fruits, and a red chunari (cloth used to cover the top of a dress) to the divine confluence, amid Vedic hymns reverberating in the air.

Following the dip, he performed Aarti of the three sacred rivers. The Tirtha Purohit present at the site honoured him with a tilak. After the

puja, PM Modi and CM Adityanath shared a boat ride back to the helipad.

After his Sangam dip, PM Modi wrote on social media: "Blessed to be at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj. The Snan at the Sangam is a moment of divine connection, and like the crores of others who have taken part in it, I was also filled with a spirit of devotion." "May Maa Ganga bless all with peace, wisdom, good health and harmony,"

he added.

Prime Minister Modi arrived at Prayagraj Airport in the morning and proceeded to the DPS helipad aboard an MI-17 helicopter, where Chief Minister Adityanath received him. From there, he travelled to Aaral Ghat and boarded a boat to head toward the Triveni Sangam.

Accompanied by CM Adityanath, the Prime Minister discussed the arrangements made for the Mahakumbh and the facilities provided for devotees. During the boat ride, he also acknowledged the greetings of the devotees gathered at the Sangam and waved to them. Upon reaching the Triveni Sangam, PM Modi joined thousands of common devotees already performing their ritual baths. Notably, despite the VIP movement, there was no restriction on public participation, allowing devotees to continue their sacred dips alongside the Prime Minister.

BGBS bags multiple investment pledges

Reliance Group to invest Rs 50,000 cr more in Bengal within a decade

RITWIK MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA, 5 FEBRUARY

The Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Group, which has invested more than Rs 50,000 crore in West Bengal over the last 8 years, will double his group's investment figures in "Mamata Didi's Bengal" within this decade.

Sajjan Jindal-owned JSW Group will invest Rs 16,000 crore at Shalboni in Midnapore to put up 2x800 MW power plant and subsequently invest another Rs 16,000 crore to double its power capacity there. JSW will also invest in Durgapur (Andal's) Aerotropolis project to make the airport larger and set up JSW Industrial Park over 2,000 acres.

Harshavardhan Neotia-owned Ambuja Neotia Group will shell out Rs 15,000 crore to put up five star category hotels, seven five-star hotels and one Golf-themes Township across West Bengal.

Sanjiv Goenka-led RPSG group, on its part, will invest more than Rs 10,000 crore in energy,



healthcare and education sector in the state. The diversified conglomerate ITC Ltd, on its parts, is also in the process of investing large sum in manufacturing facilities, IT, and hotels, besides putting up their global centre of excellence for AI in Kolkata.

All these were announced at the 8th Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) here on Wednesday, much to the pleasure of Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Meanwhile, the state government will begin mining at the world's second largest coal block at

Deucha-Pachami in Birbhum district from Thursday itself. Initially, Mining Development And Operator will start work for removing the soil layers, the Chief Minister said. She hoped that this project entailing an investment of Rs 35,000 crore, will be a gamechanger not only for Birbhum but for the industrial scenario of the entire state.

That's not all. Miss Banerjee is hopeful that responding positively to her request to N Chandrasekhar, chairman Tata Sons, the group, which now owns Air India, may also start direct flights

The state government will begin mining at the world's second largest coal block at Deucha-Pachami in Birbhum district from Thursday

from Kolkata to some European destinations.

The chief ministers said that over the last seven seasons of the Bengal Global Business Summit, the state has received investments worth Rs 19,50,000 crore, out of which projects entailing investments of Rs 12,00,000 crore are already in different stages of implementations. She said that as many as six economic corridors besides different highways will also fuel economic and industrial growth of the state.

Industrialists present on the occasion attributed the state's success in attracting fresh inflows to the state to transparency, efficiency, ease of doing in business and Miss Banerjee's leadership. (More reports on Pg 4)

BJP comeback in Delhi after 27 years, big setback for AAP, predict exit polls

NIKHIL VYAS
NEW DELHI, 5 FEBRUARY

Exit polls telecast by different private TV channels, on Wednesday evening, predicted comfortable victory for the BJP in the Delhi Assembly elections.

Voting for the 70-seat Delhi Assembly ended at 6 p.m. with the turnout hovering around 60 per cent. Voter turnout stood at 57.70 till 5 p.m., with the highest registered at Mustafabad constituency at 66.68 per cent. The 11-hour voting remained largely peaceful except for some sporadic complaints of bogus voting and model code violation.

If the exit polls prove correct, the saffron party will return to power in the national capital after a gap of 27 years. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), according to the exit polls, could finish with 25 to 30 seats in the 70 member Delhi Assembly while Congress may end up with one seat.

Most of the exit polls have predicted a big win for the BJP as the saffron party is projected to get over 40 seats out of 70 assembly seats in Delhi while only two exit polls have predicted the victory of the AAP.

The Delhi Assembly polls saw a triangular contest between the ruling AAP and Opposition parties BJP and

Delhi Assembly Elections 2025			
What the Exit Polls Predict			
• Assembly seats: 70 • Majority: 36			
	AAP	BJP+	Cong
Chanakya Strategies	25-28	39-44	2-3
JVC	22-31	39-45	0-2
Matriz	32-37	35-40	0-1
P-Marq	21-31	39-49	0-1
People's Insight	25-29	40-44	0-1
Peoples Pulse	10-19	51-60	0
Poll Diary	18-25	42-50	0-2
WeePreside	46-52	18-23	0-1

KBK Pollgraphics

Congress. According to the Peoples Pulse poll survey, the BJP and its allies may get 51-60 seats out of 70 seats, AAP may win up to 10-19 seats and Congress zero seats.

As per P-MARQ, the BJP and its allies may get 39-49 seats while the AAP is poised to win 21-31 seats. It has predicted 0-1 seats for the grand old party.

According to the WeePre-side exit poll, the AAP may get 46-52 seats while the BJP may win up to 18-23 seats. It has also predicted 0-1 seats for the grand old party.

Poll Diary has predicted 42-50 seats for the BJP and its allies and 18-25 for the AAP. Meanwhile, JVC has pre-

dicted 39-45 seats for the saffron party and its allies in Delhi while the AAP is poised to win 22-31 seats.

Matriz exit poll has predicted a close contest between the BJP and AAP. It said the saffron party is likely to win 35-40 seats and the AAP 32-37 seats. It has predicted one seat for the Congress.

According to People's Insight exit poll, the BJP is likely to emerge victorious in 40-44 seats and AAP 25-29 seats. The Congress, it said, can win a 0-1 seat.

Meanwhile, Chanakya Strategies has predicted 39-44 seats for the BJP, 25-28 seats for the AAP and 2-3 seats for Congress.



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Entry fee to Ballavpur wildlife sanctuary in Birbhum withdrawn

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BIRBHUM, 5 FEBRUARY

The tourists visiting Ballavpur Sanctuary will no longer have to buy a Rs 100 ticket for entering the sanctuary at Santiniketan in Birbhum. The forest department has issued a notification and has withdrawn the entry fee for the visitors.

The tourists had to cough up Rs 100 to enter the sanctuary. The state government has plans to further develop the wildlife sanctuary to boost tourism in the district.

Recently, during her north Bengal official tour, chief minister Mamata Banerjee had expressed her concern about the entry fees imposed by the state forest department for entering the Bengal Safari Park in Siliguri. After her strong statements, the forest department has withdrawn the entry fees of Bengal Safari Park. The withdrawal of entry fees in this sanctuary also seems to have been taken after the instruction of CM to the forest department in north Bengal.

The Ballavpur Wildlife Sanctuary, located in the Khoai region in Birbhum is host to huge numbers of deer in the state, including cheetal deer and blackbucks. The sanctuary also hosts foxes,



golden jackals, monkeys, turtles, peacock, rabbit, mongoose, snakes and a large number of bird species in the vast waterbody, including permanent residential birds and also winter migratory birds.

It is the only deer conservation sanctuary in West Bengal. On 11 July, 1977, the deer park was opened for the public and it has been spread over 700 acres with trees like Sal, Pial, Sishu, Cashew, Amlaki, Baharea, Sirish, berries, mohua, sonajhuri etc.

Already beautification works have taken up with initiatives like lake beautification and cleanings, plantation drive etc.

Jyotish Barman, range officer of Bolpur Forest Range said that the entry fees have been withdrawn, but the tourists and the visitors must produce an authentic identity card before entering the Ballavpur Wildlife Sanctuary. The Ballavpur sanctuary is about two kilometres from the Visva-Bharati University in Santiniketan.

Sittingong Tourism Festival: Blend of culture, adventure & tradition

Darjeeling Hills, located in Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts, is part of the Kanchenjunga Regional Tourism Circuit, comprising north Bengal, Sikkim, Eastern Nepal, and Bhutan

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SILIGURI, 5 FEBRUARY

The 2nd Darjeeling Ecotourism and Cultural Festival will be held at Ahal Ground, Sittingong III, Kurseong, under the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) from 7-9 February.

Organised by the Sittingong III Homestay Owners' Welfare Society, the festival aims to promote rural tourism, homestays, adventure activities, and traditional practices.

Darjeeling Hills, spread across Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts, is part of the Kanchenjunga Regional Tourism Circuit, which includes north Bengal, Sikkim, Eastern Nepal, and Bhutan.

Rural tourism in the region traces its roots to Tinchuley village, where the first homestay movement in India began in the mid-1990s. Over nearly three decades, the model has inspired similar initiatives across the country and neighbouring nations. Policymakers and rural tourism stake-



holders from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Himachal Pradesh, Nepal, and Bhutan have visited the region to study its success. Once known for colonial-era tourism with tea gardens, toy trains, and Dak Bunglows, Darjeeling Hills now thrives on community-led rural tourism. This shift has reduced migration, strengthened local economies, and instilled a sense of pride in indigenous food, culture, and lifestyle. With support from GTA Tourism and technical assistance from the Association for Conservation

& Tourism (ACT), the Homestay Owners' Association launched this festival in 2024 to celebrate this transformation.

The festival opens on 7 February with a grand reception featuring Nepal's all-women band, Naumati Baja, followed by the inauguration of stalls. The chief guest, guest of honour, and special guests will officially inaugurate the festival at 11 a.m. The afternoon will showcase local cultural performances, along with competitions such as a Tarul (yam) eating contest and an ethnic dress competi-

tion. On 8 February, activities begin with birdwatching, followed by GTA-led auditions, rock climbing, rappelling, a plantation and orchard tour, and a bustling fair with stalls. A momo-making competition for women will be the highlight of the day. The final day, 9 February, starts with yoga and pranayama, followed by cultural events, village games, and an orange-eating competition. The festival will conclude with a grand closing ceremony from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., marking the end of three days of celebration, culture, and community spirit.

Armed Bangladeshi miscreants attack BSF in S Dinajpur

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SILIGURI, 5 FEBRUARY

Tension escalated along the Indo-Bangladesh border in Malikpur, South Dinajpur, as Bangladeshi miscreants launched yet another attack on BSF personnel in the early hours of Wednesday.

Armed with sharp weapons, sticks, and wire cutters, the miscreants illegally crossed the International Border (IB) twice within hours, attempting to smuggle goods and loot villagers near the fenced area.

During the first intrusion on the intervening night of 4-5 February, BSF personnel intercepted the miscreants, forcing them to retreat. However, just hours later, another larger group re-entered the area, armed and ready for confrontation. When challenged by the BSF, the miscreants turned aggressive, launching a violent attack with dahs (machetes) and other sharp-edged weapons. Despite warnings, the intruders encircled the BSF team and attempted to snatch a soldier's firearm, leading to a fierce scuffle. One BSF jawan sustained injuries in the assault.

According to a Press statement, faced with imminent



danger, the BSF troops fired non-lethal munitions to deter the attackers, but the miscreants remained undeterred. As the situation worsened, a BSF soldier fired in self-defence, forcing the attackers to flee. Due to dense fog in the area, the miscreants vanished under cover of darkness. A subsequent search operation led to the discovery of an injured Bangladeshi national, who was immediately evacuated to Gangarampur Hospital for medical treatment. As of now, his condition is stable.

The BSF also recovered sharp weapons, sticks, and wire cutters from the site.

Medical aid was provided to the injured BSF personnel. The incident has once again raised serious concerns about the rising audacity of cross-border criminal networks, prompting heightened security measures along the Indo-Bangladesh border.

T E N D E R

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Siliguri Jalpaiguri Development Authority
Himanchal Vihar, Near - Passport Seva
Laghu Kendra, Matigara-734010

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

The Chief Executive Officer, Siliguri Jalpaiguri Development Authority, Siliguri invites electronic tenders for the work of (i) Online under 2 (Two) bid system from eligible resourceful bonafide and experienced firms / companies / individual contractors for the following works: Tender No. 1) NIT 032/ Engg/ 2024-25 of SIDA & 2) NIT 033/ Engg/ 2024-25 of SIDA. Name of Work : 1) Construction of proposed 3rd Floor Roof over existing structure of Khadim House at Mazur, Ward No. 4 of MC, Siliguri under (BEUP Fund) and 2) Construction of Boundary Wall at Park situated in Ward No. 47, MC, Siliguri under (BEUP Fund) Amount, sum of Rs. 26,665.00 & 2) Rs. 5,45,123.00, Earnest Money- 1) Rs. 10,533.00 & 2) Rs. 10,902.00. Tender Documents Sale / Download Start Date & Time: 07.02.2025 at 4:00 PM and Bid Submission End Date & Time: 17.02.2025 up to 4.00 P.M. Date of opening of Technical Proposals - 20.02.2025 at 11:00 A.M. Date of opening of Financial Proposals - to be notified after technical evaluation. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. All details can be obtained from the website - www.sida.org or Log in <https://wbenders.gov.in> or Contact Engineering Section of SIDA at (0353) 2512922, 2515647. Sd/- Chief Executive Officer ICA- T24894/2025

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Sagarighi Thermal Power Project
P.O. Monigram, P.S. Sagarighi, Dist. - Murshidabad, Pin - 742237

Notice Inviting E-Tender

Ref. No.: WBPDCI /Tend-Adv/24-25/SgTPPC/CC-3064 Dated: 31.01.2025
NIT No.: WBPDCI /SGTTPP/NIT/ E3167/24-25 Dated: 28.10.2024

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, SGTTPP, WBPDCI, from eligible Agencies/Companies in three (03) Part bid system for "Overhauling job of Coal Burner, SADC & Coal Carrying Pipe upto Burner Isolating Gate & Hangers at Unit #1 during scheduled capital Overhauling in August 2025". Tender Document Download Start Date: 30.01.2025 at 10:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 22.02.2025 up to 15:00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Jaydeep Kundu, Dto. General Manager (Contract Cell). Mobile: 8336903930. E-mail: kundu@wbpdco.in For details please visit : <https://wbenders.gov.in> ICA- T25127/2025

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Sagarighi Thermal Power Project
P.O. Monigram, P.S. Sagarighi, Dist. - Murshidabad, Pin - 742237

Notice Inviting E-Tender

Ref. No.: WBPDCI /Tend-Adv/24-25/SgTPPC/CC-3066 Dated: 31.01.2025
NIT No.: WBPDCI /SGTTPP/NIT/ E3254/24-25 Dated: 11.01.2025

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, SGTTPP, WBPDCI, from eligible Agencies/Companies in three (03) Part bid system for "Overhauling job of Coal Burner, SADC & Coal Carrying Pipe upto Burner Isolating Gate & Hangers at Unit #1 during scheduled capital Overhauling in August 2025". Tender Document Download Start Date: 30.01.2025 at 10:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 22.02.2025 up to 15:00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Jaydeep Kundu, Dto. General Manager (Engg.). Mobile: 8336903930. E-mail: kundu@wbpdco.in For details please visit : <https://wbenders.gov.in> ICA- T25127/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
(N.I.T. No.: 25/WBTD/SE/2024-25)
(Abridged e-Tender)

E-Tender, in prescribed form in two parts viz. Technical & Financial Bids are invited for the works : Construction of cement concrete pavement of Manojit Nag Bus Stand at Alipurdar under Alipurdar District. Tender id : 2025_WBTD_809730_1. Please visit website <https://wbenders.gov.in> Sd/- Superintending Engineer, WBTDCL Ltd. ICA- T24734/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer Salt Lake Reclamation Division invites two no. online percentage rate basis e-tenders vide Tender id No. 2025_UDD_808441_1 WBUDBMA/EE/SLRD/NIT-18(e)/2024-25 of EE/SLRD (2nd Call) dated 30/01/2025. Value of work is Rs. 6,12,579.00. Start and last date of submission of bid online are 06/02/2025 and 13/02/2025 upto 13-00 Hrs. respectively. All documents can be seen/obtained from the website <https://wbenders.gov.in> Detailed information can also be seen in the website www.wburbanservices.gov.in and office Notice Board. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Salt Lake Reclamation Division. ICA- T25003/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No. 09/EE/CPD-EE&AM/2024-25

e-Tender is invited by the Superintending Engineer, FAWB-I Circle, W&S Sector, KMDA, Block-C, 1st Floor, Unayan Bhavan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091, from eligible and resourceful contractors, for the work, Name of Work, Estimated Amount (Including GST & Cont), Earnest Money, Time of completion, Renovation & strengthening of 350 mm dia pipe carrying sewage along with other auxiliary Works at Tahoni Male pun, Swarnanti River Bridge within Ward No-11 under Banarsahi Municipal area, Rs.7,55,811/-, Rs.15,116/-, 30 days, End date & time of online bid submission: 13.02.2025 at 18:30 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. www.kmda.wb.gov.in www.wbenders.gov.in ICA- T24772/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No. 09/EE/CPD-EE&AM/2024-25

Online e-Quotation is invited by the Executive Engineer, ECPD-I, EKAM Sector, KMDA, Block-A, 4th floor, Unayan Bhavan, Kolkata-700091, Name of Work, Quoted Rate per Annum (excluding GST), Earnest Money, Contract Period, Reserved Fee Per Annum (Excluding GST), FEE CAR PARKING in front of KMDA STP Office to Moonstone Office Gate, Quoted Rate, Rs.29,952/-, 24 Months, Rs.7,48,800/-, Last date & time for online Bid Submission: 22.02.2025 Time 15:30 Hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. www.kmda.wb.gov.in www.wbenders.gov.in ICA- T2583/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE

Executive Engineer, PWD, Howrah Division invites online e-tender for the works of ~ 24 Hours (Round the Clock) Guarding the entire premises of Assistant Engineer, PWD, Uluberia Sub-Division, Office at Gangarampur, P.O.-Kajuri, Dist.-Howrah & 8 Hours (from 10:00 PM to 06:00 AM) guarding the entire premises of SAE, PWD Ama Section Office at Munshihra in the district Howrah under Uluberia Sub-Division for the year 2025-2026. Estimated Amount Put to Tender : Only Service Charge quoted by the Bidder N i e T. No. W B P W D / E E / H O / N i e T_98/2024_25. Tender ID : 2025_WBPDW_810229_1. Bid Submission start date (online) 07.02.2025 upto 09.00A.M Bid Submission end date (online) 21.02.2025 upto 1.00 PM. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N i e T and Tender documents may be downloaded from : <https://wbenders.gov.in> Sd/-Executive Engineer, Howrah Division, PW ICA- T25403/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PW(Roads) TENDER NOTICE

EE, Coo Hwy. Divn, PW. (Roads) Dte. invites online e tender for the work of - (1) Construction of boundary wall at 02/02/2025 upto 9.00AM, Bid submission closing date (online): 19/02/2025 up to 02.00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from : <https://wbenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, Cooch Behar Highway Division, Cooch Behar ICA- T25994/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE

Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Midnapur Division at Midnapore, district Paschim Medinipur invites e-Tender No.16(8) of 2024-25 for 08 (eight) nos. work related to Road, Building & Bridge works - (1) Emergent repairing Potholes with 20mm thick Premix Carpet & Seal Coat (Type-B) in patches of N.L. Khan Road from 3.15 Km to 5.60 Km and Sampriti Sarani from 0.00 Km to 3.00 Km (2) Construction of boundary wall of a plot under jurisdiction of Manikpara Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital (3) Yearly repair and maintenance work (Building & S & P work) due to change of occupation to the residence of various district level officers of the various department under the jurisdiction of P.W.D., Midnapur Sub-Division (4) Embankment protection work by Eucalyptus Bullah planting in stretches of ML Road from chainage 0.600 Km to 4.200 Km (5) Protection of embankment against slip failure by closed Eucalyptus bullah driving at Right side 29.100 Kmp to 29.250 Kmp approach of Nimpara Bridge at 29.00 Km of Balighat, Mohanpur - Solpatta Road. (6) Repairing potholes with premixed bituminous stone materials followed by 20mm thick premix carpet with Seal Coat (Type-B) of different roads within Kharagpur Sub-Division, P.W.D. (7) Emergent repairing Potholes followed by 30mm thick Bituminous Concrete in patches from 18.00 Kmp to 30.00 Kmp of Chandrakona -Ghatol Road (SH-4) (8) Emergent repairing Potholes followed by 30mm thick Premix Carpet & Seal Coat (Type-B) in patches from 0.00 Kmp to 16.210 Kmp of Mugbanan-Khetua-Amanpur-Baharole Road. Tender ID : 2025_WBPWD_809973_1 to 8 Bid submission closing date 11 / 02 / 2025 for sl. no.2 & 3 and 19/02/2025 for sl. no.1,4,5,6,7 & 8 upto 14.00 hrs. (online). Details will be available at www.wbpdco.in & <https://wbenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Midnapur Division. ICA- T25623/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-TENDER NOTICE

Superintendent of Police, Jhargam-721507 invites online NIT No. 17/HASP/JRM/2024-25 (Sl. No. 1 to 7) for renovation works at different places of Jhargam district for the work of (1) Petty repair of roof of Dining, Barrack 1, 2, Officer Barrack at Netai Camp, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,96,805/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.1, (2) Petty repair and Renovation of First Floor Barrack, Toilet block, Kitchen of Traffic Guard Building at Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,99,911/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.3, (3) Petty repair and Renovation of Traffic Guard Office, Traffic Inspector Chamber, Toilet and latrine at Ground Floor of Traffic Building at Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,99,911/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.3, (4) Renovation of Women PS at Jhargam. Estimated cost: 1,35,328/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.4, (5) Renovation and Re-structuring of Gents and Ladies Lock up at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (7) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (8) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (9) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (10) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (11) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (12) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (13) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (14) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (15) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (16) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (17) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (18) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (19) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (20) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (21) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (22) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (23) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (24) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (25) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (26) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (27) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (28) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (29) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (30) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (31) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (32) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (33) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (34) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (35) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (36) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (37) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. Estimated cost: 4,15,839/-, Tender ID: 2025_WBP_810216.6, (38) Renovation of NVF Barrack at Manikpara Bit House, Jhargam. 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Narendra Modi
Prime Minister



Government of Maharashtra

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₹ 15,70,604 Crore of Investment



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Chief Minister Deputy Chief Minister Deputy Chief Minister Minister, Industries

Directorate General of Information and Public Relations
Government of Maharashtra

THUMBNAILS

Raj Assembly adjourned following slogan shouting: The Rajasthan assembly was on Wednesday adjourned for 15 minutes amidst uproar and slogan shouting over formation of new districts and subsequent abolition of some districts. As several members tried to raise the issue, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Jogaram Patel said, "Since the matter is subjudice, it won't be appropriate to discuss it in the House." Leader of the Opposition Tikaram Julie said that the cases pertaining only 2 districts are pending before the high court, therefore, the House can discuss the issues excluding the two districts. However, Minister Patel maintained that he has placed the ruling from the Chair that the matter is sub judice hence, this could not be raised in the House. Harish Chaudhary (Congress) said "The House business procedure rules give powers to the Chair (Speaker) for holding the discussion." The Parliamentary Affairs Minister said that the Chair's ruling should not be discussed in the house. The members in the opposition benches were not satisfied and an uproar continued that forced Speaker Devnani to adjourn the House for 15 minutes.

General Chauhan launches key infrastructure initiatives

The developments align with the national objective of Aatmanirbhar Bharat



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 5 FEBRUARY

General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), inaugurated key infrastructure developments at the Naval Base in Karwar, Karnataka. The event marked the opening of residential

accommodation for Senior Sailors and a Main Distribution Sub Station, significant milestones under Phase IIA of the ongoing Project Seabird. Accompanied by Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, SG Dastidar, DAS, FA (DS), and other senior officers, General Chauhan inaugurated the state-of-the-art facilities which are expected

to enhance both living and operational conditions at the base. The new residential accommodation, constructed by M/S NCC Pvt. Ltd. of Hyderabad, consists of four towers with 240 dwelling units, designed to provide comfortable housing for Master Chief Petty Officers (MCPOs) and Chief Petty Officers (CPOs). This addition

is part of the ongoing effort to improve the quality of life for senior sailors stationed at Karwar. The Main Distribution Sub Station, built by M/S ITD Cementation India Ltd. from Mumbai, features four 33/11 KV – 35 MVA transformers, capable of delivering a stabilised 65 MVA power supply. This system will support operational piers, accom-

modation units, and essential utilities at the Naval Base. Additionally, the station is backed by three 3 MVA Captive Power Plants, ensuring a reliable power supply even during emergencies. These projects are part of the broader Phase IIA of Project Seabird, which aims to bolster the naval infrastructure at Karwar, enabling the berthing of more ships and submarines. The phase also includes the development of a Naval Air Station, a full-fledged Naval Dockyard, and various logistics facilities. The ongoing construction has created 7,000 direct and 25,000 indirect jobs, further contributing to local economic growth. The developments align with the national objective of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, with over 90% of the materials and equipment sourced from Indian vendors. Additionally, the project meets the environmental standards set by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), ensuring sustainable and responsible infrastructure growth, a statement from the Naval spokesperson stated.

Acknowledge failure of Make in India: Rahul



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 5 FEBRUARY

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said on Wednesday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should acknowledge that 'Make in India' is a failure as the country's manufacturing

sector has witnessed a decline. Referring to the prime minister's reply to the Motion of Thanks on the President's address in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, Gandhi said: "Prime Minister, in your speech you didn't even mention 'Make in India'. The prime minister should acknowledge that 'Make in India', although a good initiative, is a failure." On the manufacturing sector, the Congress leader pointed out that it has fallen from 15.3 per cent of GDP in 2014 to 12.6 per cent – the lowest in the last 60 years. Stating that India's youth desperately need jobs, Gandhi said: "No government in recent times, UPA (United Progressive Alliance) or NDA (National Democratic Alliance), has been able to meet this national challenge at scale. We need a vision to

address what's holding our manufacturing sector back, and prepare it to be competitive in the global economy of the future." "This vision for production in India must also have a specific focus on emergent technologies like electric motors, batteries, optics, and AI. This is the only way to revive our manufacturing sector, develop cutting edge manufacturing ability, and create the jobs we need," he said. The leader of the Opposition said: "China is 10 years ahead of us and has a stronger industrial system, this is what gives them the confidence to challenge us. The only way to compete effectively with them is to build our production systems and for that we need vision and strategy."

Bihar: Tejashwi meets Governor over deteriorating law and order

IMRAN MOJIB
PATNA, 5 FEBRUARY

Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav Today met the Governor of Bihar Arif Mohammad Khan and submitted a memorandum highlighting the deteriorating law and order situation in Bihar and informed him about the chaotic situation prevailing in the state due to lawlessness and corruption. After the meeting, Tejashwi lashed out at the state government and targeted Nitish Kumar, as the Chief Minister is also the minister responsible for the Department of Home. He said that Bihar is not in safe hands as law and order has collapsed in the state. Madhubani's painful incident is the latest example. In a post on social media platform X, Tejashwi wrote: "Due to the poor law and



order situation in Bihar, record breaking incidents of murder, firing, rape, robbery, theft, snatching and extortion are happening every day in the state and smuggling of liquor and drugs is at its peak. Hundreds of people are being murdered every month. The police administration is torturing the common citizens on the basis of caste and religion. Muslims are especially being targeted and harassed." "The criminals are emboldened under the protection of the government. The ministers of the state government

themselves are openly accepting the crimes sponsored by the government. The state and central ministers are justifying the firing of hundreds of rounds. There is a worrying situation of anarchy and chaos in the state. The Chief Minister is unaware of all this," he added. In Madhubani, Maulana Mohammad Feroz was beaten up by the police during vehicle checking. After an investigation, police personnel accused of assault have been suspended and police station in-charge trainee DSP Gaurav Gupta has been removed from his post. However, the incident continues to be in the limelight. Leader of Opposition in Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Yadav also visited Madhubani and met the victim Firoz. This has further politicised the incident.

MP govt to phase out alcohol shops; open milk shops

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, 5 FEBRUARY



Diwas celebrations late Tuesday evening. Speaking about the Narmadapuram district's future, he assured that every effort will be made for its development. He said that Narmadapuram would be transformed into a modern city, on par with Indore and Bhopal, Reiterating the BJP-led Madhya Pradesh government's commitment to social welfare, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has announced that liquor shops across the state will be phased out and instead milk shops will be opened all over the state. He made the announcement while addressing the Narmada Prakatotsav and Narmadapuram Gaurav

ensuring growth and progress for the region. The CM also declared the establishment of an engineering college in Narmadapuram district to enhance higher education opportunities. Dr. Yadav also presided over the foundation laying and inauguration of 30 development projects worth Rs 104.72 crore, including Bhoomi Pujan for 24 projects valued at Rs 29.96 crore and the inauguration of six completed projects worth Rs 74.76 crore. To mark the occasion, 1.25 lakh floor-based lamps were lit at Sethani Ghat, creating a visually striking and spiritually uplifting atmosphere along the Narmada coastline.

PM Modi mourns demise of Prince Karim Aga Khan IV

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 5 FEBRUARY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday condoled the passing of Prince Karim Aga Khan IV, Considered by his followers to be a direct descendant of Prophet Muhammad. The PM lauded him as a visionary, who dedicated his life to service and spirituality. He hailed his contributions in areas like health, education, rural development and women empowerment will continue to inspire several people. I will always cherish my interactions with him. My heartfelt condolences to his family and the millions of followers and admirers across the world." Earlier in the day, the Aga Khan Foundation wrote on x: "His Highness Prince Karim Al-Hussaini, Aga Khan IV, 49th hereditary Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims and descendant of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), passed away peacefully in Lisbon on 4 February 2025, aged 88, surrounded by his family." The announcement of his designated successor will follow.

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Row over J'khand DGP appointment violating SC order

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
RANCHI, 5 FEBRUARY

The appointment of Jharkhand's Director General of Police (DGP) has sparked a political storm in the state. BJP state president and former chief minister Babul Marandi has strongly opposed the appointment of Anurag Gupta as the state's regular DGP, calling it a violation of Supreme Court directives. He has urged the Jharkhand High Court to take suo motu cognizance of the matter. The BJP claims that the Hemant Soren government appointed a tainted officer to the top police post, disregarding due process. Marandi pointed out that on 7 January, the state cabinet had decided to form a selection committee, comprising a retired judge, the Chief Secretary, a Public Service Commission member, and the JPSC chairman, to shortlist candidates for the DGP post. However, the government bypassed this process and directly appointed Gupta. Referring to the Supreme Court's 2006 directive, BJP leaders argued that DGP appointments must be based on recommendations from the State Public Service Commission unless specific laws are enacted.

Substantial increase in cargo handled at major airports

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 5 FEBRUARY



The cargo handled at Major Ports has increased from 581.34 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 819.23 million tonnes in FY 2023-24, a CAGR of 3.5% which is comparable to global standards. During 2023-24, the cargo handled consisted of 33.80 per cent liquid bulk, 44.04 per cent dry bulk, and 22.16 per cent container cargo. Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sar-

bananda Sonowal told the Rajya Sabha in a written reply that infrastructure development and capacity augmentation of major ports

is a continuous process. It involves the construction of new berths and terminals, mechanisation of existing berths and terminals, capital dredging for deepening of drafts for attracting larger vessels, development of road and rail connectivity, etc. Further, Vadhaven Port in Maharashtra has been approved to be developed as the mega container port in the country catering the requirement of handling new generation mega size container vessels.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD TENDER NOTICE

Executive Engineer, Hooghly Electrical Division, P.W.Dte. invites online e-Tender for the work of "Repair and Renovation of Electrical Installation work of Women's Polytechnic, Chandernagore, Hooghly. eNIT No.- WBPWD/EE/HPD/NIET-108 of 2024-25 Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_779235_1 Bid submission start date(online): 05/12/2024 from 1.00 P.M Bid submission closing date(online): 16/12/2024 upto 02.00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T and Tender documents may be downloaded from : <http://wbttenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.Dte. Hooghly Electrical Division, ICA- T2476(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

QUOTATION NOTICE

The Executive Engineer Alipurdwar Division, Social Sector, P.W.Dte., Manna Dey Street, Alipurdwar Pin 736122, on behalf of governor of West Bengal invites E-Tender online on item rate basis Vide Tender reference No WBPWD/EE/HPD/SS/PWD/NIE/Q- 02 of 2024-25 Tender ID : 2024_WBPWD_809032_1 For the work of Providing 4(Four) nos. Security Guard for guarding Govt. properties in different establishment under the control of Alipurdwar Division, Social Sector, P.W.Dte. for 1 (One) year. Bid submission start date & time (Online) : 05.02.2025 at 11.00 A.M Bid submission closing date (Online) : 18.02.2025 upto 3.00 P.M The details of NIEQ and Tender document may be downloaded from <http://wbttenders.gov.in> Sd/- EE/HPD/SS/PWD, ICA- T2561/4/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Online NIT is invited by the EE, BNWD, P.W.Dte., vide Tender No. WBPWD/EE/BNWD/NIET-21e/24-25 for the work of "Supplying and laying of interlocking paver block along with some other minor maintenance and repairing works at Saishali Complex in Salt Lake City during the year 2024-2025". Estimated Amount put to Tender Rs. 6,86,396/- (T/I/D: 2025_WBPWD_809945_1). Bid proposal submission start date & time (Online) : 05/02/2025 from 18.55 P.M. Bid proposal Submission end date & time (Online) : 15/02/2025 upto 02.00 P.M. Intending bidders are requested to visit the website <http://wbttenders.gov.in> and this Office notice board. Sd/- EE, PWD, BNWD, ICA- T2541(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

TENDER NOTICE

Online PERCENTAGE rate tender is invited vide NIT no. 03 of 2024-2025 of SE/NHC for the work of Ratua - Bhaluka Road from 6.40 km to 11.20 km, Widening and strengthening work under Malda Highway Division in the District of Malda under RIDF-XXX, Project ID: PD2425293815000, Rs. 7,14,68,023.00. (Tender ID: 2025_SH_809778_1). Last date of bid submission of NIT are 04.03.2025 upto 3.00 P.M. Intending bidders are requested to visit the website: <https://wbttenders.gov.in> and this office notice board. Sd/- (ARUP KUMAR ROY, Superintending Engineer, Northern Highway Circle, P.W.(Roads) Directorate ICA- T2546(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD TENDER NOTICE

Executive Engineer, Bardhaman Electrical Division, P.W.D. invites online e-Tender for the work of: Repairing and renovation of E.I. work at Smart Class Room and Auditorium Hall of Women's ITI Burdwan eNIT/NIQ No. - WBPWD/EEBD/ANIT-51/2024-25 Tender ID: 2025_WBPWD_809927_1 Bid submission start date (online): 31.01.2025 from 06:00P.M. Bid submission closing date (online): 13.02.2025 upto 02.00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T and Tender documents may be downloaded from : <http://wbttenders.gov.in> Sd/-Executive Engineer, P.W.D Bardhaman Electrical Division, ICA- T2538(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

NOTICE INVITING E-Tender

Executive Engineer, PWD, Howrah Division invites online e-tender for the work of : Restoration of black top portion by bituminous work on Belur Anandnagar Road in paces from 2.65 km to 3.20 km during the year 2024-2025 Estt. Amrt. put to Tender : Rs. 4,94,989/- N.I.e.T. NO. : WBPWD/EE/HD/NIET_97/2024_2025_1 Bid submission start date(online): 31.01.2025 from 06:00 P.M. Bid submission closing date(online): 07.02.2025 upto 02.00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from : <http://wbttenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, Howrah Division, PWD, ICA- T2536(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD TENDER NOTICE

Executive Engineer, Bardhaman Electrical Division, P.W.D. invites online e-Tender for the work of: Renovation (Electrical Part) of the office of the Entomologist, FCRS, Kalna Road, Burdwan, Purba Bardhaman eNIT / NIQ No.- WBPWD/EEBD/ NIT-50/2024-25. Tender ID: 2025_WBPWD_809895_1. Bid submission start date(online): 31.01.2025 from 06:00 P.M. Bid submission closing date(online): 07.02.2025 upto 02.00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T and Tender documents may be downloaded from : <http://wbttenders.gov.in> Sd/-Executive Engineer, P.W.D Bardhaman Electrical Division, ICA- T2537(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD TENDER NOTICE

Executive Engineer, Bardhaman Electrical Division, P.W.D. invites online e-Tender for the work of: Renovation (Electrical Part) of the office of the Entomologist, FCRS, Kalna Road, Burdwan, Purba Bardhaman eNIT / NIQ No.- WBPWD/EEBD/ NIT-50/2024-25. Tender ID: 2025_WBPWD_809895_1. Bid submission start date(online): 31.01.2025 from 06:00 P.M. Bid submission closing date(online): 07.02.2025 upto 02.00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T and Tender documents may be downloaded from : <http://wbttenders.gov.in> Sd/-Executive Engineer, P.W.D Bardhaman Electrical Division, ICA- T2537(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD TENDER NOTICE

Executive Engineer, Bardhaman Electrical Division, P.W.D. invites online e-Tender for the work of: Renovation (Electrical Part) of the office of the Entomologist, FCRS, Kalna Road, Burdwan, Purba Bardhaman eNIT / NIQ No.- WBPWD/EEBD/ NIT-50/2024-25. Tender ID: 2025_WBPWD_809895_1. Bid submission start date(online): 31.01.2025 from 06:00 P.M. Bid submission closing date(online): 07.02.2025 upto 02.00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T and Tender documents may be downloaded from : <http://wbttenders.gov.in> Sd/-Executive Engineer, P.W.D Bardhaman Electrical Division, ICA- T2537(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD TENDER NOTICE

Executive Engineer, Bardhaman Electrical Division, P.W.D. invites online e-Tender for the work of: Renovation (Electrical Part) of the office of the Entomologist, FCRS, Kalna Road, Burdwan, Purba Bardhaman eNIT / NIQ No.- WBPWD/EEBD/ NIT-50/2024-25. Tender ID: 2025_WBPWD_809895_1. Bid submission start date(online): 31.01.2025 from 06:00 P.M. Bid submission closing date(online): 07.02.2025 upto 02.00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T and Tender documents may be downloaded from : <http://wbttenders.gov.in> Sd/-Executive Engineer, P.W.D Bardhaman Electrical Division, ICA- T2537(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD TENDER NOTICE

Executive Engineer, Bardhaman Electrical Division, P.W.D. invites online e-Tender for the work of: Renovation (Electrical Part) of the office of the Entomologist, FCRS, Kalna Road, Burdwan, Purba Bardhaman eNIT / NIQ No.- WBPWD/EEBD/ NIT-50/2024-25. Tender ID: 2025_WBPWD_809895_1. Bid submission start date(online): 31.01.2025 from 06:00 P.M. Bid submission closing date(online): 07.02.2025 upto 02.00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T and Tender documents may be downloaded from : <http://wbttenders.gov.in> Sd/-Executive Engineer, P.W.D Bardhaman Electrical Division, ICA- T2537(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD TENDER NOTICE

Executive Engineer, Bardhaman Electrical Division, P.W.D. invites online e-Tender for the work of: Renovation (Electrical Part) of the office of the Entomologist, FCRS, Kalna Road, Burdwan, Purba Bardhaman eNIT / NIQ No.- WBPWD/EEBD/ NIT-50/2024-25. Tender ID: 2025_WBPWD_809895_1. Bid submission start date(online): 31.01.2025 from 06:00 P.M. Bid submission closing date(online): 07.02.2025 upto 02.00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T and Tender documents may be downloaded from : <http://wbttenders.gov.in> Sd/-Executive Engineer, P.W.D Bardhaman Electrical Division, ICA- T2537(2)/2025

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Registered & Corporate Office: Bidyut Unnayan Bhawan
Plot No.-3/C, La-Block, Sector-III, Bidhannagar, Kol-700106

Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref No.: WBPDC/ Tender-Adv/24-25/SGTTP/CC-3074 Dated: 31.01.2025
NIT No.: WBPDC/SGTTP/NIT/E3267/24-25 Dated: 04.02.2025
"Comprehensive Bi-annual Maintenance Contract for Nineteen (19 nos.) numbers of ACs installed at Bidyut Unnayan Bhawan, Corporate Office, WBPDC".
NIT Document Download Start Date/End Date (in eportal): 04.02.2025 at 18:00 hrs./17.02.2025 at 10:00 hrs. Contact Person: Smt. Sulagna Dass, Manager (PS), M&C. Contact No.: 8240042058. E-mail: s.dass@wbpdcl.co.in
For details please visit: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> ICA- T2524(2)/2025

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Sagarighi Thermal Power Project
P.O. Monigram, P.S. Sagarighi, Dist. - Murshidabad, Pin - 742237

Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDC/ Tender-Adv/24-25/SGTTP/CC-3074 Dated: 31.01.2025
NIT No.: WBPDC/SGTTP/NIT/E3267/24-25 Dated: 18.01.2025
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, SgTTP, WBPDC from eligible Agencies/Companies in three (03) Part bid system for "Refrurbishment of Rotary Coal Nozzle Ring & Static Coal Nozzle Ring of Coal Mill ZGM123N of Stage-I, SgTTP". Tender Document Download Start Date: 28.01.2025 at 10:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 20.02.2025 upto 10:00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Jaydeep Kundu, Senior Manager (CC). Mobile: 8336903930. E-mail: jkundu@wbpdcl.co.in
For details please visit : <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> ICA- T2523(2)/2025

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Sagarighi Thermal Power Project
P.O. Monigram, P.S. Sagarighi, Dist. - Murshidabad, Pin - 742237

Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDC/ Tender-Adv/24-25/SGTTP/CC-3074 Dated: 31.01.2025
NIT No.: WBPDC/SGTTP/NIT/E3241/24-25 Dated: 06.01.2025
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, SgTTP, WBPDC from eligible Agencies/Companies in three (03) Part bid system for "High Pressure Water Jet Cleaning of Condenser Tubes & Lube Oil Cooler Tubes (2 sets) in coming Overhauling of Unit#1 at Stage-I, SgTTP during Aug. 2025, SgTTP". Tender Document Download Start Date: 27.01.2025 at 10:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 19.02.2025 upto 10:00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Jaydeep Kundu, Dy. General Manager (Engg). Mobile: 8336903930. E-mail: jkundu@wbpdcl.co.in
For details please visit : <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> ICA- T2521(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

District Health & Family Welfare Samity, Paschim Medinipur

Tender Notice

DH&FWS-Mid(W)/ASHA/2025/190 Dt. 31.01.2025

E-tenders are invited by Member Secretary, DH&FWS & CMOH, Paschim Medinipur on behalf of Governor of West Bengal related to "Procurement of ASHA H&NC Kits" from bonafide bidders/agencies/suppliers. Last date of Submission of Tender Documents: 15.02.2025 UPTO 5.00 P.M. Details will be available in the website of [www.wbttenders.gov.in](http://wbttenders.gov.in) under the Organisation District Health & Family Welfare Samity, Paschim Medinipur, [www.wbttenders.gov.in](http://wbttenders.gov.in)/tender & office notice board. Sd/- Chief Medical Officer of Health, Paschim Medinipur ICA- T2468(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Tender Notice of H&FW Deptt

Memo No. DH&FWS/ASN/2024-25/2372 dated: 31/01/2025

e-Tender is hereby invited from intending bidders for the "Construction of DVS shade of CMOH office, Anasol Paschim Bardhaman". Bid submission starting date: 05/02/2025 10:00 A.M. Closing date: 17/02/2025 at 12:00 P.M. Other details may be seen from the website: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> and office notice board. Sd/- CMOH, Paschim Bardhaman, Dept. of H&FW, Govt. of W.B. ICA- T2466(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

MOHABANI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (A STATUTORY AUTHORITY OF THE GOVT. OF WEST BENGAL)

P.O. KESHUPUR, DIST. PASCHIM MEDINIPUR, CONTACT : mbdaoffice@gmail.com 03227-291181

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No.: GREENCITY/01/MBDA/2024-25 (TENDER ID-2025_MBDA_809063)

E-tendering is invited for the Supply fitting fixing of 7-meter octagonal poles with 60W under Green-City Mission project from bonafide and resourceful contractors having relevant credential for similar work. NIT & Tender Documents may be for Viewing on and from 06-02-2025 at 12:00 Hours and Tender Documents downloaded and submitted on & from 07-02-2025 at 12:00 Hours. Closing of Downloading & Submission of the Bidding Documents on 21-02-2025 at 12:00 Hours. Details of NIT & Tender Documents may be downloaded and submitted from [www.wbtdenders.gov.in](http://wbtdenders.gov.in) Sd/- Executive Officer & Member Secretary, MBDA, ICA- T2464(3)/2025

THUMBNAILS

Three workers killed in wall collapse in Hyderabad: Three workers were killed in a wall collapse on a construction site in Hyderabad on Wednesday. Another worker was injured in the incident that occurred in LB Nagar. According to police, the incident occurred when the workers were engaged in digging a pit for the cellar of an under-construction building of a hotel. A compound wall in the same premises fell on the workers, burying them under the debris. Police and Disaster Response Force (DRF) personnel rushed to the spot and launched rescue operation. Bodies of three workers were pulled out from the rubble. A fourth worker was critically injured. He was shifted to a private hospital, where his condition was stated to be critical. The deceased were identified as Ramu (22), Veeralah (52) and Vasu (19). Dasarth was critically injured. They all belong to the same family.

T'gana govt faces objection over quotas for Madigas

Cong disciplinary committee issues a show cause notice to Mallana for criticising caste census

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 5 FEBRUARY

Objections have been raised against the Scheduled Caste categorisation announced by the Telangana Congress government as Manda Krishna Madiga, who spearheaded the movement, has opposed it.

He alleged that the forward castes within the SCs have been recognised among the most backward ones under the categorisation approved by the state government. He said Madigas should have received 11 per cent reservation but they were given only 9 per cent.

Meanwhile, the Congress, which also faced rebellion within the party over backward classes reservation served a show-cause notice to its MLC Teenmar Mallanna after he alleged that the caste census was a conspiracy to suppress BCs further.

Telangana Chief Minister



A Revanth Reddy is scheduled to meet party MLAs and key functionaries tomorrow to gear up for the upcoming local body polls now that the SC categorization and enhanced reservation for BCs have been sorted.

Manda Krishna Madiga, who heads the Madiga Reservation Porata Samithi, said: "The categorisation ignored the backwardness of the Madiga

gas along with the numbers. Instead, the castes were categorised according to political considerations. The castes that are most forward have been included in Group A, meant for the most backward castes among SCs."

He said this was done to benefit the Mala community, which wields political power. He blamed state health minister Damodar Rajanarsimha,

a Madiga himself, for failing to guard the interest of the Madigas.

It was Manda Krishna Madiga who had held a public rally with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, paving the way for SC categorisation. The judicial commission set up by the state government recommended that the 59 sub castes among the SCs in Telangana be divided into three groups. Madigas have been placed in the second group with 9 per cent reservation. The Congress disciplinary committee issued a show cause notice to party MLC Teenmar Mallana for criticising the state caste census report. He had alleged that the data was manipulated to bring down the reservation of BCs. He had also burnt a copy of the caste survey statement in the Assembly.

Mallana, however, continued his tirade against the caste census even after receiving the show cause notice.

Kerala HC rules ragging worse than vandalism, stays re-admission of accused veterinary students

AGENCIES
KOCHI, 5 FEBRUARY

A divisional bench of the Kerala High Court on Wednesday stayed the order of the single judge which allowed the re-admission of 18 students at the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences at Mannuthy who were implicated as accused in the suicide of junior student J. S. Sidharthan.

Sidharthan's body was found in the hostel toilet on 18 February, 2024, and it was alleged that he committed suicide.

Later, when it became a big issue, it was alleged he was a victim of ragging and assault by some of his classmates and seniors.

As many as 18 students were arrested in the case and

faced action including expulsion from the institute.

After some time in jail, these students later got bail, and in December 2024, a single bench of the High Court quashed the order expelling the accused students and allowed them to take re-admission at the Mannuthy campus.

The single bench also directed a fresh disciplinary inquiry against the accused. Deeply aggrieved by the order of the single judge, Sidharthan's mother filed a writ appeal before the division bench.

The division bench of Justice Amit Raval and Justice K.V. Jayakumar granted her leave to appeal.

It said that the mother should also be heard while the fresh disciplinary enquiry

was underway by the University.

The division bench, while staying the order of the single judge permitting the re-admission of the students at the campus in Mannuthy observed, "Students indulging in ragging are worse than those indulging in vandalism".

The appellant-mother argued that the single judge should not have permitted the students to take re-admission to the Mannuthy campus by showing leniency since such relief was not even sought in the writ petition.

The CBI, which took over the investigation, said 19 accused persons had committed grave offences.

The High Court has now posted the case to 4 March for further consideration.

DK Shivakumar calls for pressure on Centre to withdraw flawed NEP

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, 5 FEBRUARY

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday called for building pressure on the Union government and the University Grants Commission (UGC) to withdraw the flawed National Education Policy (NEP).

Addressing a conclave of higher education ministers from various states, Shivakumar stated: "The National

Education Policy rolled out by the Union government has many flaws. The Karnataka government has gone ahead and brought in some amendments. The output from this conclave must reach the Centre."

"Karnataka has been the pioneer in the field of education in the country. Students from North India have been belonging to the state for higher education for more than three decades. Karnataka has over 70 med-

ical colleges and 250 engineering colleges. Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh also have good colleges," he added.

"Our federal structure is unique and our Constitution offers many rights. There is diversity in language too. We should not be competing at the national level but at the international level. For this, we need to change the NEP. We need to bring in reforms at the university level too," he said.

Rat faeces and cockroaches found in NALSAR canteen

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, 5 FEBRUARY

A task force of the Telangana Commissioner of Food Safety, during an inspection at the canteen of the NALSAR University, one of the premier law schools in the country, came across shocking violations of hygiene.

The team found rat faeces and cockroach infestation in the store room, insect-infested muskmelon seeds, and food items without packing date, expiry date, or batch number. According to the Commissioner of Food Safety, the task force inspected the food establishments in the NALSAR University Canteen at Shamirpet the

FSSAI license was obtained at the registered address instead of the food preparation premises. There was no Food Safety Training and Certification (FoSTaC) trained supervisor. Pest control records and water analysis reports were not available.

Rat faeces and cockroach infestation were found in the

store room. Windows and doors of the food preparation area and dining area do not have insect-proof screens. The floor where food is prepared was found to be slippery. Temperature records were not maintained. Raw materials were kept on the floor without pallets. Muskmelon seeds used for gravy curries were found

to be insect-infested. Whole green gram (30kg) was found without a packing date, expiry date, and batch number. The raw rajma (90kgs) was also found to be not labelled.

The report was posted on the social media handle of the Commissioner of Food Safety, prompting worried parents to demand action.

EASTERN RAILWAY

Following E-tender is invited by the Divisional Engineer (IV), Divisional Railway Managers' Office, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building near Railway Station, Howrah-711101 from Tenderers having experience of similar nature of work and required Financial capabilities including those Registered with Irrigation/CPWD/SEB/MES or any public sector undertaking for the following work: **DEN/4/Howrah. Sl. No. 1, E-Tender No. 337, 2024-25 DEN/4/HWH. Description of work:** Operation, Maintenance, Repairing and Overhauling of RO (REOS) Plant including supply of chemicals for drinking water at Rampurhat and Pakur under jurisdiction of AEN/Rampurhat on turnkey basis for the period of 3 years for 2 plants. **Approx Cost:** Rs. 27,93,785.60, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 55,900/-, **Sl. No. 2, E-Tender No. 338, 2024-25 DEN/4/HWH. Description of work:** Operation, Maintenance, Repairing and Overhauling of RO (REOS) Plant including supply of chemicals for drinking water for the period of 3 years at Bolpur Shantiniketan under Jurisdiction of SSE/W/Bolpur Shantiniketan under AEN/Bolpur Shantiniketan. **Approx Cost:** Rs. 13,96,892.80, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 27,900/-, **Sl. No. 3, E-Tender No. 339, 2024-25 DEN/4/HWH. Description of work:** 1. Strengthening of Existing side pathway and replacement of corroded/perforated M.S. chequered plates by stainless steel chequered plates of gang way, side pathway, man refuse and tolly refuse of Br. No.-5F, 77.89,132,141,143,152,172 UP, 202 UP, 206 UP in SBG Loop and 190 A in main line section of Howrah Division & 2. Provision of Standard Bridge Boards for major Bridges in the section of Khana-Gumani under DEN/4/Howrah. **Approx Cost:** Rs. 1,26,74,164.22, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 2,13,400/-, **Sl. No. 4, E-Tender No. 340, 2024-25 DEN/4/HWH. Description of work:** Fabrication of Insitu Glued Joints under the Jurisdiction of DEN/4/Howrah. **Approx Cost:** Rs. 56,67,986.39, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 1,13,400, **Sl. No. 5, E-Tender No. 341, 2024-25 DEN/4/HWH. Description of work:** 1. Construction of LHS in lieu of LC Gate No. 30/E at Km 105/7-8 between Rampurhat- Adalaphari station in Rampurhat-Dumka in Howrah Division & 2. Construction of LHS in lieu of LC Gate No. 29/E at Km 109/7-8 between Rampurhat- Adalaphari station in Rampurhat- Dumka in Howrah Division. **Approx Cost:** Rs. 12,65,41,892.58, **Earnest Money:** Rs. 7,82,700/-, **Cost of Tender Form (Rs.): Nil** [For Sl. No. 1 to 5]. **Completion Period:** 36 (Thirty six) months from the date of issue of acceptance letter [For Sl. No. 1 & 2], 12 (Twelve) months from the date of issue of acceptance letter [For Sl. No. 4 & 5] and 06 (Six) months from the date of issue of acceptance letter [For Sl. No. 3]. In case the date of closing mentioned in the Notice Inviting Tender is declared a holiday/ bandh/ strike on any account, the date of closing tender online will not be changed as the application in the website of IREPS does not permit submission of any offer after closing date and time of the tender. However, opening of tenders online will be done next working day. **Closing date and time of Tender:** 24.02.2025 at 14.00 hrs. The details of tender are available at website www.ireps.gov.in. Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Tender document cost, in respect of E-tendering, should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only through above website. **NOTE:** Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) will not be accepted as EMD for tenders invited on IREPS (e-tender portal). No manual offer will be accepted. HWH-584/2024-25

Tender Notices are also available at websites: www.e.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at: [@EasternRailway](https://www.facebook.com/EasternRailway) [@easternrailwayheadquarter](https://www.facebook.com/easternrailwayheadquarter)

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

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:

E-Tender No. : JHS-ENGG-HQ-2025-07 Approx Cost : 21698144.45

Description of work : Virangana Lakshmbai - Provision of leaky flat roofs by providing APP Membrane in west colony Jhansi.

Earnest Money : 258500.00 [Date of closing Tender : 06/03/2025 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 06.03.2025 - For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in 217/25 (C)

[@CPRONCR](https://www.facebook.com/CPRONCR) [North central railways](https://www.facebook.com/Northcentralrailways) [@CPRONCR](https://www.facebook.com/CPRONCR) www.ncz.indianrailways.gov.in

HALDIA MUNICIPALITY

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan, Administrative Building, City Centre, Debbhog, Purba Medinipur - 721657, W.B.

Memo No - 677/HM/2025 Dated - 05/02/2025

E-TENDER NOTICE

Haldia Municipality invites E-Tender from reputed agencies having credential of similar/civil nature of job related with **NIT No - 1884 to 1897 (in 1st Call), NIT No - 1871 (in 2nd Call) & NIT No - 1784 (in 3rd Call)**. Complete details can be obtained from <http://wbntenders.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Officer Haldia Municipality

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender Notice

E-Tender Notice No. CEN00AGC0225

Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction), North Central Railway, Agra Cantt. for and on behalf of the President of India invites in **Single PACKET SYSTEM** open tender on prescribed forms on line (E-Tendering). Tender offer can be submitted on line up to 15:00 hours of 05.03.2025, on website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. The details of the tenders are as under:-

Description of work: Pre and post tamping track measurement survey using Trimble GEDO Vorsys trolley system between Agra Fort - Bandikui section 150 Km., Bhandai Flyover Etawah Bound Down Train (10Kms) and any other location in the jurisdiction of Agra/Construction Unit.

Approx Cost	Earnest Money	Completion Period
₹ 58.97 Lakhs (App.)	₹ 1,18,000/-	18 (Eighteen) Months.

Date of opening: 05.03.2025, Validity: 60 days.

Note: For complete details and submission of tender please see Indian Railway website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> 227/25 FA

[@CPRONCR](https://www.facebook.com/CPRONCR) [North central railways](https://www.facebook.com/Northcentralrailways) www.ncz.indianrailways.gov.in

TENDER

An Tender has been published vide N.I.T. No.-692 for some works under BEUP. For detail information, bona fide contractors are requested to see the NOTICE BOARD at Joynagar-1 Panchayat Samity.

Block Dev. Officer Joynagar-1 Dev. Block Baharu, South 24 Parganas

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

The District Engineer, Uttar Dinajpur Zilla Parishad invites % rate bids for civil nature of works for NIT No.: 241 / UDZP / 2024-25 to 245 / UDZP / 2024-25. Details information is available on Office Notice Board during office hours www.wbtenders.gov.in

Sd/- District Engineer Uttar Dinajpur Zilla Parishad

Memo No.-1735/3/OIC/OU, Date: 05-02-2025

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE B-907

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Bid Identification No. C.C.E.Dk.(R&B) 16/2024-25

E-mail id: sedklpww@gmail.com

Letter No. 279 Dt. 31-01-2025

The Chief Construction Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites Percentage Rate bids in double cover system to be received in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Building work as detailed below:

- Name of the work :** Building work.
- No. of works :** 01 (One) No.
- Estimated Cost :** Rs. 1.46 Crore (as given in Column No. 03 of table).
- Cost of tender paper :** Rs. 10,000.
- Class of contractor :** 'A' Class & 'B' Class (as given in Column No. 07 of table).
- Period of completion of work :** 07 (Six) calendar months (as given in Column No. 08 of table).
- Date and time of availability of bid document in the website :** From 07.02.2025 to 5.00 P.M. of 21.02.2025.
- Date of opening of bid :** 24.02.2025 at 11.00 A.M.

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal. www.tendersodisha.gov.in Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Chief Construction Engineer Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal

OIPR-34132/11/0026/2425

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE RAJ JAIPUR

V-15(49)PS/SAMGRI/Voice Logger/2024-25/940 DATED-23.01.2025

NOTICE INVITING BID

NIB NO. POL2425A0041

Bids for Drone & Digital Voice Logger of estimated value INR 1,91,50,000/- are invited from interested bidders up to 14.02.2025 at 11:00 am. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<https://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in>) (<https://ppp.rajjasthan.gov.in/>) of the state, and <https://www.police.rajjasthan.gov.in>

UIN: Drone POL2425GLO080101 Supdt. of Police Central Stores, PHQ, Raj. Jaipur. Tel-0141-2744289 Mail ID-sp.ctstore.pmw@rajpolice.gov.in

DIPR/C/1084/2025

West Bengal Forest Development Corporation Limited (WBFDCL), KB-19, Sector-III, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700106.

ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE

The undersigned publishes NITs for the project 'Carriage of Harvested produce 2024-25' on behalf of Ex-Officio DM, WBFDCL and DFQ, Bankura (N) Division, WBFDCL as follows:

NIT No.	Name of Project	Bid Submission Start Date	Last Date of Bid Submission
WBFOR/BNK/CF/CNT (e)-02(Carriage)/2024-25	Various coupes of Bellatore Range of Bankura (N) Division to Bellatore Depot of Bellatore Range.	06.02.2025	20.02.2025
WBFOR/BNK/CF/CNT (e)-01(Carriage)/2024-25	Various coupes of Bankura (N) Range of Bankura (N) Division to Belboni Depot of Bankura (N) Range.		
WBFOR/BNK/CF/CNT (e)-03(Carriage)/2024-25	Various coupes of Barjora Range of Bankura (N) Division to Barjora Depot of Barjora Range.		
WBFOR/BNK/CF/CNT (e)-04(Carriage)/2024-25	Various coupes of Sonamukhi Range of Bankura (N) Division to Sonamukhi Depot of Sonamukhi Range.	06.02.2025	15.02.2025
WBFOR/BNK/CF/CNT (e)-05(Carriage)/2024-25	Various coupes of Patrasayer Range of Bankura (N) Division to Patrasayer Depot of Patrasayer Range.		

Details of NITs can be seen at www.wbtenders.gov.in and www.wbfdcl.com

Sd/- DM, NFO, WBFDCL

BARANAGAR MUNICIPALITY

17, DASH BANDHU ROAD (EAST), KOLKATA-700035

CORRIGENDUM

1) NIT No.: WB/MAD / BM / PWD / NIT-101(eGF) / 2024-25 Dated: 09-01-2025, Tender ID: 2025_MAD_707094_3, Name of Work: Construction of Concrete Road inside Campus of Uttarayan Housing, Ward No.-14, Baranagar Municipality. The Last date of bid submission for the above-mentioned e-tender is hereby extended up to 10-02-2025 and Bid opening date will be 13-02-2025. For details please log on to www.wbtenders.gov.in

Sd/- Chairman

MORE TENDER ON PAGE 13

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

E-TENDER NOTICE

Open Tender Notice No: EL-CON-465a, Date: 30.01.2025. The Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/ Maintenance/CLW/Chittaranjan on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through the Indian Railways e-Procurement System (www.ireps.gov.in) for the execution of the following work listed below. These tenders can be uploaded on the mentioned website by 15:00 hours on the date specified for the work. The tenders will be opened immediately after 15:00 hours on the same day (Opening Date). **Sl. No.: [1]. Tender No.: EL-CON-465a. Description of Work:** Procurement of New 2 MVA DG Set for CLW/Chittaranjan. **Tender Closing/Opening Date: 21.02.2025. Approximate Value (Rupees): ₹ 3,36,25,383.84. Earnest Money/Bid Security (Rupees): ₹ 3,18,100/-, Completion Period: 8 Months. Validity of Tender: 60 Days. Cost of Tender Document (Rupees): Nil for downloading from IREPS portal & ₹ 10,000.00 for obtaining from Dy.CEE/M. Note: 1. The bidder must upload all necessary qualification documents and scanned copies of PAN/GSTIN on the IREPS portal. 2. The bidder must have a Class-III Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) to participate in the e-tender. 3. The work will be subject to applicable taxes, including GST, BOCWW (Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare), Income Tax and other statutory taxes as per regulations. 4. The definition of Similar nature of works applicable for the work as below: **The Similar Nature of work is - "Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of DG set of rating 1 MVA or above at 11 kV" OR "Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of DG set of rating 1 MVA or above at 750V" OR "Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 2 nos. of DG set of rating 500 kVA or above at 415V" OR "OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) of DG set/Engine/Alternator of minimum rating 630hp/500kVA". 5. For detailed information on the tender document and tender notice, visit the Railway website www.ireps.gov.in Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (M/J) [PR/4/796] CLW/Chittaranjan** Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways**

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE (Two Packet System)

Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction)-III, North Western Railway, Jaipur for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-Tender. Tenderer shall on-line submit their original/ revised offer before the date and time of closing of E-tender. **1. E-Tender Notice No.: NWR-SC-Civil-13641937 2. Name of work with location: Balance Works (Civil) involving construction of PEB Shed, watering facility, Drains, C&S roads, flooring, boundary wall/retaining wall & other miscellaneous works in connection with developing new coach car complex at Khatipura (Phase-II). 3. Approximate cost of work: Rs. 48,58,11,004.94 4. Earnest Money to be deposited: Rs. 25,79,100.00 5. Completion Period: 6 (Six) Months 6. Closing Date & Time of submission of online E-tender: 15.00 Hrs. on 28/02/2025 7. Website particulars where complete details of E-Tender can be seen: www.ireps.gov.in. Note: No manual tender will be accepted. [57-AJ/25]**

Follow us on: [@NWRrailways](https://www.facebook.com/NWRrailways) [@NWRrailways](https://www.facebook.com/NWRrailways)

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

TENDER Notice No.467/TRD/DNR/OT/24-25

The Divisional Railway Manager, E.C. Railway Danapur invites sealed open tender on behalf of the President of India for the following works:

Tender No. :TRD/DNR/OT/46/24-25, Name of work with its location : (A) Danyawan - Proposal for two new goods lines (750M) at DHWN station. (B) Sagarayan - SGYN - Provision of new goods line (750M) at SGYN station. 2. Approx cost of the work (NIT value) : ₹82,00,558.51, Earnest money to be deposited: ₹1,64,000/-, 4. Date & time for selling, submission and opening of tender: The tender has to be submitted on line on www.ireps.gov.in upto 12.00 hrs. on the date of opening i.e. 24.02.2025 and will be opened on the same day at 12.30 hrs. 5. 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.: Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria & tender documents can be seen from the CRIS website: <http://www.ireps.gov.in> & full details of notice can be seen on notice board of Sr. DEE (TRD)/E.C. Railway/Danapur. All corrigendum will be uploaded on website if required.

Divnl. Railway Manager/ ECR/Danapur

PR/02042/DNR/ETRD/IT/24-25/40

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Works Tender Notice No. 11-TMCC-WP-SM-2024-25 Dated 03.02.2025

On behalf of the President of India, Dy.CE/TMC, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur invites the following Works Tender:

Manufacturing, providing and fixing of wear plate on BCM/FRM/BRM machines as per RD50 specification and drawing/sample (in MT) & Manufacturing, providing and fixing of strips, screen side rubbers & complete set of screen mesh on BCM, FRM machines as per requirement (in Set) for period of two years.

Sl.No. 1:- Open tender No./due on: 11-TMCC-WP-SM-2024-25 due on 07.03.2025, Description of work: Manufacturing, providing and fixing of wear plate on BCM/FRM/BRM machines as per RD50 specification and drawing/sample (in MT) & Manufacturing, providing and fixing of strips, screen side rubbers & complete set of screen mesh on BCM, FRM machines as per requirement (in Set) for period of two years, as per attached Scheduled and Special Term & Condition of contract and Annexure. **Quantity Required:** As per attached Schedule, **Place of Work:** At working site of BCM/FRM/BRM machine in N.E.Railway, **Work Completion Period:** 24 Months, **Estimated Tender Value (Rs.):** 1,82,75,613.84, **Earnest Money (Rs.):** 2,41,400/- **Note:-** 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Procurement Tender is available in website on <http://ireps.gov.in> up to 15:00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. 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 class III Digital signature certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rates and any other financial implications, such tenders/offers shall be summarily rejected, for which Railway Administration shall not entertain any correspondence. 7. Tenderers are requested to read complete tender document carefully. 8. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 1.Dy. Chief Engineer/TMC-9794840218 2.SSE(TMC)/HQ-9794840293 **Asst. Executive Engineer/TMC CPROW-392 Gorakhpur**

Never travel on roof and foot boards.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

For & on behalf of the President of India Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (Construction), North Western Railway, Jodhpur Invites E-Tender against Tender No. S&T_C_JU_24-25 01 (Two Packet system). **Name of Work:** Supply of material and execution of indoor & outdoor work for provision of Electronic interlocking- MSDAC based Automatic Block Signalling system between Luni Jn and Bishanghari station in connection with doubling of LN-SMR-BLDI section of Jodhpur Division of North Western Railway. The work involves provision of new Electronic Interlocking at Sattana, Dudia, Dundara, Ajit, Bamsin, Rakhi, Mokalsar, Balwara, Bishanghari stations and Samdari Jn. along with Fifteen numbers of auto signalling huts and modification in existing MSDHA make EI at Luni Jn. Provision of MSDAC along with associated works like trenching & laying of signalling and Telecom cables in prefabricated ducts/DWG/GI pipes, supply-installation of point machines, Apparatus cases, Signals, Track circuit equipment, Earthing - material, Data loggers, ELD, Fuse alarms, fire alarms, Passenger Amenity Telecom items etc". **Approx Cost of Work:** ₹ 98,92,92,090.06 **Earnest Money:** ₹ 50,96,500/- **Date & time for submission up to on www.ireps.gov.in 28.02.2025 upto 15:00 hrs. Website particulars and Notice board location:** Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (Const.), Construction Unit, DRM Office, NWR, Jodhpur-342001. 154-AR/25

Sd/- MD, NBSTC

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-NIT-43 OF 2024-2025 MEMO NO. 101/BH-I PS DT. 04-02-2025

TENDER ID: 2025 ZPWB 011115 1 TO 6

Online tender is invited by the Executive Officer, Bhangan-1 Panchayat Samity, South 24 Parganas. **Number of works:** 06 (Six). Last date of submission of rates online: 18-02-2025 (up to 17 hours). Opening date of Tech. & Fin. Bids: 21-02-2025. Details including corrigendum (if any) will be available in the www.wbtenders.gov.in and office notice board.

Sd/- Executive Officer Bhangan-1 Panchayat Samity South 24 Parganas

Memo No. 274/3/DICO/S24Pg Date: 05-02-2025

NORTH BENGAL STATE TRANSPORT CORPORATION

ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender is invited for "Strengthening of work shop area including Construction of 2 (two) number service Pit and demolishing existing fountain structures at NBSTC, Central Bus Terminus Cooch Behar". e-NIT No.: NBSTC / 22 / CONSTN. (C) / CBT / COB / 2024-2025. Last date of bid submission is up to 17-00 hrs. on 20-02-2025. Details at <http://wbntenders.gov.in>

Sd/- MD, NBSTC

Deal with terrorism with a ruthless approach: HM Shah

Union home minister holds review meeting of security situation in Jammu and Kashmir

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 5 FEBRUARY

The Union Home Minister, Amit Shah asked all security agencies to tackle infiltration bids and acts of terror in Jammu and Kashmir with a ruthless approach, adding that the goal should be to completely uproot the existence of terrorists. He directed the security agencies in the region to be vigilant and continue to work in synergy to fully eliminate terrorism in J & K.

Shah, who chaired a review meeting in New Delhi on Wednesday over the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, said that the Union government was committed to completely wipe out terrorism from the region, and further



informed that due to its sustained efforts, the terror ecosystem in J&K has weakened significantly. He also lauded the efforts of all the security forces and agencies for the significant improve-

ment in all parameters of the security scenario in the region. The meeting was attended by the J&K's Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, Union Home Secretary, Director of the Intelligence Bureau, Chief

Secretary and the DGP of Jammu and Kashmir, along with senior MHA officials. At the meeting, the HM directed all security agencies to step up their fight against terrorism, aiming for the

'zero infiltration' goal.

Shah further pointed out that the narcotics network was providing support to infiltrators and terrorists to carry out their activities, while expressing the need to take prompt action against terror funding from the proceeds of narcotics trade with alacrity and rigour. He also directed the concerned agencies to make new appointments in the posts of Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) to facilitate the timely implementation of the three new criminal laws.

On Tuesday, Shah held another important review meeting on the security situation in the region, which was attended by the Chief of the Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi, the Home Secretary and other senior Army officials.

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, 5 FEBRUARY

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is "seriously considering" enacting a new law tentatively titled 'Overseas Mobility (Facilitation and Welfare) Bill, 2024' that will replace the "outdated provisions" of the Emigration Act 1983, the Parliamentary Committee on External Affairs stated in its fourth report that was presented to Lok Sabha on Monday.

"Keeping in view the contemporary global migration dynamics and the needs of Indian citizens, the Committee has over the years underscored the pressing need for a comprehensive legislative overhaul to replace the outdated provisions of the Emigration Act 1983. After much delay, the Ministry is seriously considering enacting a new law tentatively titled 'Overseas



Mobility (Facilitation and Welfare) Bill, 2024," the report by the Committee, which is chaired by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, mentions.

It adds: "The Ministry has further informed the Committee that the proposed draft is under consultation with line Ministries and will, thereafter, be put up for public consultations. The Committee desire that it should be consulted on the salient features of the Bill and the enactment of a revised act reflecting changed global migration realities should be done in a time bound manner

i.e. not later than one year."

Replying to a question in Lok Sabha on 11 November last year on the issue of compensation for Indian migrant workers, Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh had said that there are around 15 million Indian nationals abroad including unskilled workers, skilled workers and professionals.

"Ministry maintains the data in respect of Indian workers, holding Emigration Check Required (ECR) passports, proceeding for overseas employment through e-Migrate portal to any of the 18 notified ECR category countries," he said.

The report also details that the Ministry stated that in recent years, there has been a visible enhancement in India's standing as a global power with advances in economic, scientific and technological arenas.

Major administrative reshuffle in Haryana, 12 IAS, 67 HCS officers transferred

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, 5 FEBRUARY

The Haryana Government has made a major administrative reshuffle and issued posting and transfer orders of 12 IAS and 67 HCS officers with immediate effect. Additional Chief Secretary of Health and Family Welfare, Medical Education and Research and AYUSH Departments, Sudhir Rajpal has been given the charge of Additional Chief Secretary of Women and Child Development Department in addition to his present duties.

Amneet P. Kumar, Commissioner and Secretary of Women and Child Development and Archives Departments, has been posted as Commissioner and Secretary of Fisheries and Archives Departments. Ashima Brar, Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Secretary of Excise and Taxation Department and Managing Director of Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Ltd, has been posted as Commis-

sioner and Secretary of Cooperative Department and Managing Director of Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Ltd. Phool Chand Meena, Commissioner of Ambala Division, has been posted as Commissioner of Rohtak Division.

Shekhar Vidyarthi, Director General and Secretary of Archives Department, has been given the additional charge of Director General, Fire Services. Dushmantha Kumar Behera, Director General and Secretary of Development and Panchayat Department, has been given the additional charge of Transport Commissioner and Secretary of Transport Department. Anshaj Singh, Director General of Swarna Jayanti Haryana Institute for Fiscal Management and Commissioner, Rohtak Division, has been posted as Director General of Swarna Jayanti Haryana Institute for Fiscal Management and Commissioner of Ambala Division.

Vinay Pratap Singh, Director of Human Resources Department and Administrator of

Trade Fair Authority Haryana, has been given the additional charge of Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Special Secretary of Excise and Taxation Department.

Hitender Kumar, Managing Director, Cooperative Sugar Mills, Karnal has been posted as Joint Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, NIT, Faridabad. Subhash Chander, Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil), Sampla has been posted as Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil), Sonapat. Meetu Dhankar, Zonal Administrator, Haryana State Agricultural Marketing Board, Gurugram has been posted as Chief Protocol Officer, Gurugram.

Parveen Kumar, Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil), Julana, has been posted as Managing Director, Cooperative Sugar Mills, Jind. Jagdish Chander, Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil), Ratia has been posted as Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil), Badhra. Rajesh Kumar, Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil), Ellenabad has been posted as Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil), Fatehabad.

Nadda, Sachdeva, Malhotra visit Delhi BJP office amid voting for Assembly polls

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 5 FEBRUARY

BJP National President JP Nadda, accompanied by Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva and Union Minister Harsh Malhotra visited the Delhi BJP office on Wednesday amid voting for Delhi's 70 Assembly seats.

Polling for the Delhi Assembly seats and by-elections in one seat each in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh commenced on Wednesday morning, with voting starting at 7 a.m. under tight security.

Several BJP leaders cast their vote and exuded confidence in the BJP's win in the Delhi Assembly polls, saying that a double-engine government would be formed in Delhi.

These elections are high-stakes elections for AAP, BJP and Congress, as AAP is hoping to retain its power for the third term while the BJP is eyeing to regain power



after almost 27 years.

Meanwhile, BJPM P Manoj Tiwari cast his vote at a polling booth in Yamuna Vihar for the Delhi Assembly election on Wednesday. He slammed AAP, accusing them of looting Delhi.

"They (AAP) made Delhi sick. They looted Delhi. Now we will do work. Now Delhi is going to give us the oppor-

tunity," Tiwari told ANI after casting his vote.

"We are not distributing money. We are not distributing liquor... People of Delhi should come out of their homes and vote as much as possible," he added.

After casting his vote, BJP candidate from Karol Bagh assembly constituency Dushyant Gautam said, "People want change. The people of Delhi have seen examples of double-engine govt. Delhi - the heart of the country is on a ventilator under this (AAP) government... The people now believe that he (Arvind Kejriwal) lies only and does nothing; hence they want the BJP got this time."

The New Delhi seat sees a high-profile three-way contest with former Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal (AAP), BJP's Parvesh Verma, and Congress's Sandeep Dikshit (son of former CM Sheila Dikshit). The counting of votes will take place on 8 February.

Several schools in Noida receive bomb threats



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 5 FEBRUARY

Several prominent schools in Noida received bomb threats which later turned out to be hoaxes on Wednesday, weeks after Delhi schools were targeted in a similar manner.

The affected schools in Noida include Step By Step School, The Heritage School Noida, Gyanashree School, and Mayoor School. Upon hearing about the threats, parents rushed to these institutions to retrieve their children, but authorities assured them that there was no real danger and that the situation was under control.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Noida) Ram Badan Singh said: "We received reports about the threats on the emergency helpline number on Wednesday morning. Four schools which are Step By Step, The Heritage, Gyanashree, and Mayoor Public School received bomb threat emails."

Following this, law enforcement officials, including firefighters, bomb detection squads along with sniffer dogs were rushed to the

schools to conduct thorough inspections.

After extensive searches, the police confirmed that the emails were hoaxes, and no suspicious objects were found on any of the school premises.

The DCP further mentioned that the cybercrime branch has been assigned to track down the source of the threatening emails.

This incident follows a pattern of similar hoax threats in the last year as on 20 December, a private school in Noida's Sector 126 received a bomb threat email, while another school in Greater Noida faced the same situation on 17 December.

Manipur Speaker's tribunal to hear JD(U) MLAs' anti-defection case on 7 Feb

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
IMPHAL, 5 FEBRUARY

The Manipur Speaker's Tribunal has scheduled a hearing on 7 February regarding the disqualification plea against five Janata Dal (United) [JD(U)] MLAs who defected to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) shortly after the 2022 state assembly elections, according to legal representatives involved in the case.

The petition, filed by Manipur Congress vice-president Hareshwar Goswami, seeks the disqualification of the five legislators under the anti-defection law.

Speaker Thokchom Satyabrata Singh took up the matter on Tuesday and decided that it would be heard again on Friday, 7 February, according to Goswami's counsel, N Bhupendra Meitei.

The JD(U) had contested 38 seats in the March 2022 Manipur assembly elections and secured six victories. However, in a swift political realignment, five of its MLAs

-- Kh Joykishan, N Sanate, Md Achab Uddin, LM Khaute, and Thangjam Arunkumar - defected to the BJP, strengthening the ruling party's grip on the state legislature.

According to Meitei, only Kh Joykishan has submitted a counter-affidavit, while the other four MLAs have yet to respond.

"The Speaker has decided to take up the matter expeditiously, with the next hearing set for 7 February," he said.

The case against the JD(U) legislators is not an isolated one. The Congress recently filed separate disqualification petitions against four National People's Party (NPP) MLAs who, despite their party officially severing ties with the BJP-led government two months ago, continued to support the ruling coalition.

The outcome of these hearings could have significant implications for Manipur's political landscape, potentially altering the balance of power in the assembly and influencing future party dynamics.

India reaffirms its commitment to global pharmaceutical standardisation and regulatory convergence

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 5 FEBRUARY

India on Wednesday reaffirmed its commitment to global pharmaceutical standardisation and regulatory convergence.

Delivering the keynote address at the 15th International Meeting of World Pharmacopoeias (IMWP) here, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel highlighted India's role as the "Pharmacy of the World" and emphasised the importance of ensuring access to high-quality medicines globally.

She said the IMWP serves as a vital platform to foster international collaboration in pharmacopoeial science and regulatory harmonization.

The 15th International Meeting of World Pharmacopoeias (IMWP) was hosted by the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) under the aegis of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, in collaboration with the World Health



Organization (WHO).

On this occasion, Patel also released the IPC Newsletter 2024 and a special IPC video film, which showcase India's advancements in pharmacopoeial science and the Commission's efforts in ensuring high-quality pharmaceutical standards.

Punya Salila Srivastava, Secretary, Ministry of Health

and Family Welfare, underscored the significance of global partnerships in strengthening pharmaceutical quality standards. She reiterated India's efforts in aligning regulatory frameworks with international best practices and ensuring the availability of safe and effective medicines worldwide.

Dr. Rajeev Singh Raghu-

vanshi, Secretary-cum-Scientific Director, IPC, and Drugs Controller General (India), highlighted IPC's contributions in setting global benchmarks in pharmacopoeial science. He elaborated on IPC's initiatives, including the IP Online platform, which enhances accessibility and usability of Indian Pharmacopoeia standards. He emphasized the role of scientific advancements and regulatory cooperation in shaping global pharmaceutical standards.

Dr. Roderico H. Ofri, WHO Representative to India, commended India's leadership in pharmacopoeial standard-setting and emphasized the importance of regulatory harmonization in ensuring patient safety and public health.

The 15th IMWP, which commenced today, will conclude on February 7. The discussions held over these three days will set the stage for further strengthening global pharmacopoeial cooperation and enhancing pharmaceutical quality assurance.

Murdered Maha official's brother urges CM to prevent conspiracy to destroy evidence

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, 5 FEBRUARY

Dhananjay Deshmukh, the brother of murdered Massajog village sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh urged Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday, to ensure that an alleged conspiracy to make the mobile phone of one of the murder accused called Vishnu Chate, disappear along with the evidence it contains, does not succeed.

Dhananjay Deshmukh also questioned if the police will take responsibility if the evidence contained in

accused Vishnu Chate's phone is destroyed. He has also demanded that Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis must ensure that all the accused in the Santosh Deshmukh murder case are remanded in police custody.

"There is a lot of evidence in Vishnu Chate's mobile phone. There is a conspiracy to make the mobile phone disappear. It will not be enough to just file a case. Will the police and the administration take responsibility if the evidence is destroyed? The Chief Minister must ensure that all the accused are remanded

in police custody once again to find Vishnu Chate's mobile phone," murdered Massajog village sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh's brother Dhananjay Deshmukh said.

Meanwhile, a petition has been filed in the Aurangabad bench of the Bombay High Court against Maharashtra Food & Civil Supplies Minister Dhananjay Munde. In the petition filed by one Rajabhau Shriram Phad, it has been alleged that Munde concealed information about many things while filing his election nomination papers for the MLA elections from Parli assembly constituency in

Beed district in Maharashtra.

Munde mentioned two children in his affidavit to the Election Commission. However, the name of his wife Karuna Munde has not been mentioned, according to the petition. The petition also alleged that information about vehicles, flats, insurance policies, gold ornaments, as well as joint bank accounts, properties and pending court cases in Karuna Munde's name has been concealed. The Aurangabad bench has ordered notices to be issued to Dhananjay Munde. The next hearing on the petition

will be held on 20 February.

In a related development, Leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra legislative council and Uddav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena MLA Ambadas Danve has demanded that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) must investigate alleged financial relations between Dhananjay Munde and his aide Valmik Karad, who has been accused of murdering Massajog village sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh of the BJP.

"The financial relations between Dhananjay Munde and Valmik Karad should be probed by the ED," Danve said.

A. P. (COM) NO. 08 OF 2022
IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA
COMMERCIAL DIVISION
ORIGINAL SIDE
IN THE MATTER OF :
ADITYA BIRLA FINANCE LIMITED
M/s. RAKIB DRESSES & ORS
To.
1. M/s. RAKIB DRESSES, a Sole Proprietorship firm represented through Mr. Sirajul Purkait, having its place of business at B 2 81/134, Bidhanagar Road, Bye Lane Bidhanagar Rabinranagar, Kolkata, West Bengal-700 066, outside the jurisdiction of this Hon'ble Court;
2. MR. SIRAJUL PURKAIT, Son of Majid Purkait, residing at Talbagan, Fatema Masjid, Rabindra Nagar, Maheshtala M. Bidhanagar, Kolkata-700 066, outside the jurisdiction of this Hon'ble Court;
3. MRS. RUBAIYA PURKAIT, Care of Mr. Masud Jamadar, residing at Talbagan, Fatema Masjid, Rabindra Nagar, Maheshtala M. Bidhanagar, Kolkata-700 066.
Greeting : Whereas the abovesaid Petitioner has instituted a Section 9 application against you before The Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta.
Vide an order dated 28.01.2025 the Hon'ble Justice Shampa Sarkar, High Court at Calcutta has been pleased to fix the matter on 17.02.2025 and directed the respondents to be present on the returnable date.
Sd/-
For Registrar,
High Court (O. S.), Calcutta
S. S. & Associates, Advocates
10, K. S. Roy Road, 1st Floor, Kolkata-700 001

Form No. 3
See Regulation-15(1)(a) / 16(3)
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL
KOLKATA (DRT 3)
8th Floor, Jeevan Sudha Building
42-C, Jawahar Lal Nehru Road
Kolkata - 700071
Case No.: OA/76/2017
Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993
Exh. No.: 5269
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK
VS
IMTIAZ HUSSAIN
To:
(1) Imtiaz Hussain, 17-24-8F, Smith Lane, 53, Taltala, P.S. Taltala, Kolkata, West Bengal - 700013; also at 39, Sukanta Park, Pratulla Kanan, Kestopur, Kolkata - 700101

SUMMONS
WHEREAS, OA/76/2017 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/ Registrar on 26.11.2024.
WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under Section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 22,36,647.88 (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).
In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-
(i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;
(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;
(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;
(iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal;
(v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.
You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 27.03.2025 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 07.12.2024.
Signature of the Officer authorised to issue summons
sd/-
Registrar-in-Charge
Debts Recovery Tribunal-3, Kolkata

Deportation Drive

The deportation of illegal Indian migrants from the United States on a military aircraft marks a stark escalation in immigration enforcement under President Donald Trump's administration. This move, the first such deportation since Mr Trump's return to office, highlights a renewed effort to curb illegal migration, using military resources to expedite removals. It also signals a significant shift in how the US government perceives and handles unauthorised Indian immigrants. The fact that India has accepted the arrivals without much fuss suggests the matter was diplomatically resolved behind the scenes. At the heart of this policy is the administration's broader crackdown on illegal migration, particularly from South Asia. While deportation flights have historically been used for illegal migrants from Central and South America, the latest move extends this aggressive approach to Indian nationals, reflecting a shift in priority. The use of military aircraft suggests a heightened sense of urgency, aligning with Mr Trump's long standing stance that illegal immigration threatens national security and economic stability. For India, the situation presents a diplomatic challenge. While New Delhi has consistently opposed illegal immigration and affirmed its commitment to taking back verified Indian nationals, the optics of mass deportations can be problematic. It reinforces concerns about irregular migration from India and places pressure on Indian authorities to address the root causes that push people to seek unauthorised entry into the US. Economic hardships, lack of employment opportunities, and the lure of better prospects abroad remain driving factors behind such migration. Beyond the immediate political implications, these deportations also serve as a warning to potential illegal migrants. The US government has intensified border enforcement, making illegal entry increasingly difficult and risky. Deportations at this scale send a clear message that unlawful migration is not only unwelcome but also unsustainable. However, while deterrence may be a short-term goal, the reality is that many will still attempt dangerous routes through human smuggling networks, exposing themselves to exploitation and hardship. The issue also raises critical questions about legal migration pathways. The growing number of Indian nationals illegally in the US suggests that existing visa programmes may not be accommodating the demand for work opportunities abroad. If the US is serious about reducing illegal migration, expanding lawful employment and student visa options could be a more sustainable approach. Similarly, India must focus on creating economic opportunities at home to reduce the incentive for risky migration. Furthermore, this development underscores the shifting global approach to immigration enforcement. With increasing political pressure to secure borders, governments are resorting to harsher measures, often at the cost of humanitarian considerations. While no country is obligated to accept illegal migration, the methods used to address the issue must balance enforcement with fairness and dignity. The latest deportation flight is a clear indication that the Trump administration is intensifying its crackdown. For Indian policymakers, this is a moment to reassess migration policies, strengthen diplomatic engagement, and ensure that citizens seeking opportunities abroad do so through legal and secure channels.

Neglected again

Nation's strength is not just measured in its economic growth figures but in the quality of life it ensures for its people. Yet, year after year, India's budget allocations reflect a glaring imbalance ~ while infrastructure and other sectors receive attention, education and healthcare remain woefully underfunded. This disparity is not just an oversight; it is a fundamental failure in policy priorities that could have far-reaching consequences for India's future. Education has long been touted as the key to India's progress, but the reality on the ground tells a different story. Public spending on education remains at a mere 2.9 per cent of GDP, far below the 6 per cent target set decades ago. The consequences are stark ~ overcrowded classrooms, a shortage of 1.2 million teachers, and an outdated curriculum that fails to equip students with the skills needed for the future. In many government schools, the student-teacher ratio exceeds 50:1, making meaningful learning nearly impossible. Worse still, nearly 40 per cent of government-appointed teachers lack proper qualifications, deepening the crisis in learning outcomes. The pressure created by this broken system is crushing students. India now has one of the highest youth suicide rates in the world, with one student dying by suicide every 42 minutes. The reasons are not hard to find ~ crippling academic pressure, lack of mental health support, and a rigid education system that prioritises rote learning over creativity. Despite these alarming trends, investments in student well-being and reforms remain negligible. This crisis demands immediate intervention. Without structural reforms, increased funding, and a shift towards student-centered learning, India risks losing a significantly high number of youth to academic stress and unfulfilled potential. The story of India's healthcare sector is just as grim. While the government has increased allocations over the years, the system remains critically short of resources. India has only 1.4 hospital beds per 1,000 people ~ well below half the WHO-recommended standard of 3.5. In rural areas, where 70 per cent of the population lives, access to quality healthcare is even more dismal. The country faces a shortage of 2.4 million hospital beds, and the doctor-to-patient ratio remains far below global benchmarks. Adding to this burden is the high out-of-pocket expenditure on healthcare, which accounts for 62.6 per cent of total medical costs in India. For millions of families, a medical emergency means financial ruin. Yet, instead of urgently investing in public healthcare infrastructure, funds remain unspent due to bureaucratic inefficiencies and poor planning. While economic growth and infrastructure development are important, true national progress is also about ensuring that every child receives quality education and every citizen has access to affordable healthcare. If India continues to underfund these crucial sectors, it risks squandering its demographic dividend and stalling long-term economic progress. A truly strong nation is one that invests in its people ~ because a skilled, healthy, and empowered population is the foundation of any great power.

Budget Decoded

The changes in tax rates reflect the government's endeavour to make the private sector the growth engine of the economy. Since, private consumption was not showing expected growth because inflation and high rates of direct and indirect taxes had left the middle class with little disposable income, a tax break of Rs.1 lakh crore was provided, so that disposable incomes of the middle class may rise and consumption could receive a boost, which would, hopefully, reverse the trend of a falling GDP growth rate.

Budgets come and go leaving behind a sea of unfulfilled expectations of taxpayers. However, Budget 2025 will long be remembered as one of the few Budgets that warmed the cockles of middle-class hearts. In fact, before the Budget was presented, an impression was created that it would benefit the middle class immensely and at the beginning of the Budget Session, PM Modi sought special blessings of Goddess Lakshmi for the poor and middle class.

FM Sitharaman obliged, making incomes up to Rs.12 lakhs tax free ~ a benefit of Rs.80,000; for salaried individuals, who are entitled to standard deduction, income up to Rs 12.75 lakhs would be exempted from tax. This largesse is not for everyone; persons filing returns under the old tax regime will continue to be taxed as before. Also, lower tax rates will kick in from assessment year 2026-27, that is for income earned during financial year 2025-26.

Another positive is that taxpayers owning two houses that are not rented out may claim both to be self-occupied, which would save them from having to pay tax on notional rent receivable from the second house. TDS provisions have been amended so that there would be no TDS for interest pay outs up to Rs.1 lakhs and rent payments up to Rs.50,000 per month.

The increase in threshold for collecting TCS on foreign remittances from Rs 7 lakh to Rs 10 lakh, will benefit many households, that have children studying abroad.

The majority of other amendments in income-tax provisions are aimed at rationalisation and are not of much interest to laymen. Coming to indirect taxation, seven tariff rates have been removed for customs duty, leaving only eight tariff rates including the 'zero' rate.

However, in most cases where Basic Customs Duty has been removed or reduced, a cess has been imposed leaving the amount of duty payable unchanged.

A question that may agitate the minds of taxpayers could be as to why the old tax regime was not phased out for individuals, because the old scheme could be beneficial for a taxpayer only if he was entitled to deductions exceeding Rs 3,50,000.

Also, continuation of two taxation regimes unnecessarily complicates the filing process. The tax threshold of income-tax

Total Income (Rs.)	Tax at Existing Rates	Tax payable at Proposed Rates	Total Benefit (Rs.)
12 Lakhs	80,000	NIL	80,000
13 Lakhs	1,00,000	75,000	25,000
14 Lakhs	1,20,000	90,000	30,000
15 Lakhs	1,40,000	1,05,000	35,000
20 Lakhs	2,90,000	2,00,000	90,000
25 Lakhs	4,40,000	3,30,000	1,10,000

The table above shows that the benefit of lower taxes is not evenly spread out, which militates against the concept of equity

has been increased after a number of years in which we saw considerable inflation.

A better idea could be to link the tax threshold and tax deductions to the consumer price index, as done by many countries, so that no unnecessary burden is cast on taxpayers.

Then, despite rationalisation of direct tax provisions, a number of anomalies remain. For example, manufacturing companies pay tax @ 15 per cent, most other companies @25 per cent, but firms that run small businesses are taxed at a flat 30 per cent.

The Government has further complicated the taxation structure by a system of surcharges ~ individuals having an income exceeding Rs.5 crore pay surcharge @37 per cent, translating into a tax rate of 42.74 per cent, while companies with the same income pay a surcharge of 7 per cent, leading to an effective tax rate of 27.82 per cent. This anomaly is reflected in tax collections ~ in recent times, personal income-tax collection has consistently exceeded corporate tax collection.

It can be expected that such questions would be addressed in the new Income-tax Act that the Finance Minister has promised to bring in shortly.

The changes in tax rates reflect the government's endeavour to make the private sector the growth engine of the economy.

Since, private consumption was not showing expected growth because inflation and high rates of direct and indirect taxes had left the middle class

with little disposable income, a tax break of Rs 1 lakh crore was provided, so that disposable incomes of the middle class may rise and consumption could receive a boost, which would, hopefully, reverse the trend of a falling GDP growth rate. Reviewing the performance of the Government for Financial Year 2024-25, as against the budgeted expenditure of Rs.48.20 lakh crore, Revised Estimates (RE) put the total expenditure at Rs.47.16 lakh crore.

The total capital expenditure is estimated at Rs.10.18 lakh crore in RE 2024-25, against the budgeted figure of Rs.11.11 lakh crore.

Revenue and capital receipts were also slightly less than the original budgeted figures, showing a slight slowdown in the economy.

However, as a result of falling receipts and expenditure, the fiscal deficit was 4.8 per cent of the GDP, against a target of 4.9 per cent ~ which is not a bad thing.

Worryingly, for Financial Year 2024-25, interest payments at Rs 11.38 lakh crore, would amount to 20 per cent of the total expenditure, making them the biggest item of expenditure.

Debt receipts of Rs.15.18 lakh crore would overshoot the budget target of Rs.14.73 lakh crore, and so would external borrowings.

Closely following interest payments, Central Sector Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes would consume funds of Rs 15.13 lakh crore and Rs 4.15 lakh crore, respectively.

The present Budget contin-

ues this trend. Out of total expenditure of Rs.50.65 lakh crore, interest payments would account for Rs 12.67 lakh crore and the Government would borrow Rs 15.66 lakh crores, increasing the interest burden for future budgets.

Also, Central Schemes would consume Rs.21.64 lakh crore. The Fifteenth Finance Commission had recommended a review of Central Schemes, with axing of unviable ones.

However, no review is in sight, and a host of new schemes have been announced in the current Budget.

The Outcome Budget for 2025-26 is a lengthy document of around 280 pages which gives the financial outlay, outputs and outcomes statement, output and outcome indicators, and specific output and outcome targets but most importantly, omits to mention the achievement of targets set in Budget 2024-25.

In the final analysis, an efficient tax system along with a brake on profligacy can help the Government balance its books. A partial reform of the tax structure, by adjusting the minimum income liable to tax and lowering tax rates for small taxpayers has been attempted.

Concomitantly, rationalisation of GST, with a view to lower its incidence on the poor, should follow.

To reiterate, a complete review of the taxation structure should be done on priority because even in the third decade of the twenty-first century, Direct and Indirect taxes operate in different silos in India.

It is significant to note that most advanced countries have integrated direct and indirect taxes long ago.

The first report of the Tax Administration Reforms Commission, headed by Dr Parthasarthy Shome, submitted on 30 May 2014, suggested integration of the two Revenue Boards, but even this suggestion got lost in the turf wars of the finance ministry.

Government economists sitting in the rarefied environs of North Block, who double budget size every three years, could well heed the words of US economist Martin Feldstein: "Increased government spending can provide a temporary stimulus to demand and output but in the longer run higher levels of government spending crowd out private investment or require higher taxes that weaken growth by reducing incentives to save, invest, innovate, and work."

Bright prospects beckon for China-Europe ties

In a speech he delivered at this year's World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos last week, Vice-Premier Ding Xuexiang, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, reiterated China's support for economic globalization, and its resolve to continue to uphold multilateralism.

Such a stance, as well as the promise that "China's door of opening up will not be closed and will only open even wider" has injected certainty to boost the stability of the world at a time when the protectionist policies being adopted by the world's largest economy are expected to bring more uncertainties to trade, technology and the geopolitical landscape worldwide.

That's where China and Europe have common ground to strengthen their relations. It is the responsibility they have shared to uphold the global free trade system and other forms of multilateral cooperation that has continuously injected vitality into China-Europe ties. Ding's visit to Switzerland and the Netherlands from Jan 19 to 24, therefore, marks a good start for the mutually beneficial relations between China and Europe this year.

During Ding's visit to Switzerland, the two sides agreed to further promote their innovative strategic partnership based on the same position they share on upholding free trade and opposing protectionism. Swiss President Karin Keller-Sutter underscored that the suc-

CHINADAILY

cess story of the China-Switzerland free trade agreement shows that mutual benefit can be achieved through openness and cooperation. Since it came into effect in 2013, the Sino-Swiss FTA has played a positive role in promoting bilateral trade, and enterprises in both countries have greatly benefited from it. China is now Switzerland's third-largest trading partner, while Switzerland is China's sixth-largest in Europe.

Likewise, during Ding's visit to the Netherlands, the two sides agreed to uphold open cooperation and promote an open world economy, while expressing their firm support for multilateralism. Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof, during his talks with Ding, noted that the Netherlands is ready to work with China to safeguard free trade and promote openness and cooperation.

Bilateral relations hit a snag recently following the announcement that the Netherlands would impose stricter export controls on certain semiconductor manufacturing equipment and software. The move, which has unreasonably expanded the concept of national security, is believed to have been initiated under pressure from Washington to crack down on China's high-tech industry. Given the semiconductor industry is highly globalized, any abusing of export controls poses a serious threat to the stability of global industry and supply chains. That is why during his talks with his hosts, Ding expressed the hope that "the Dutch side will continue to provide a fair, equitable and nondiscriminatory business environment for Chinese companies ... and maintain stable and unimpeded global industry and supply chains".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

editor@thestatesman.com

Hurting America

SIR, Donald Trump has initiated what could escalate into a destructive trade war. His administration's tariffs on Mexico, Canada, and China will immediately disrupt the North American and global economies, jeopardising decades of economic integration that have fueled American and global prosperity.

These tariffs are not driven by legitimate trade disputes but serve as leverage for Trump's domestic political agenda, pressuring neighbouring countries for concessions they may not be able to provide. Ironically, the U.S. itself will suffer significant eco-

nomomic harm and a weakened global standing as a result.

Trump claims that the tariffs aim to combat the "major threat of illegal aliens and deadly drugs," including fentanyl. While his threats have already spurred Canada and Mexico to tighten border controls, these efforts would likely have continued without such extreme measures.

Moreover, there are limits to what these nations can realistically achieve ~ particularly Canada, which plays only a minor role in the irregular immigration and drug trade originating from Mexico. The legal justification for

Trump's move is dubious at best. He invoked the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, which grants the president authority to address extraordinary economic or security threats. However, this law has never been used to impose tariffs. Both Congress and the courts should act to block this misuse of executive power.

If they fail to intervene, the consequences will be severe. The tariffs will directly contribute to higher U.S. inflation and slower economic growth. Retaliatory measures from affected nations will compound these effects.

Trump appears to be waging that since Canada and Mexico are more reliant on trade than the U.S. they will quickly yield to pressure. However, he is not only threatening their economic well-being but also challenging their sovereignty and national pride.

The breakdown of North American free trade will be a serious blow to American consumers and key industries, including oil refining, automobile manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, and agriculture. Trump's trade actions against China, though less drastic, appear to be a prelude to more aggressive measures. Together, Mexico, Canada, and China account for nearly half of U.S. imports, meaning the estimated \$100 billion in additional tariff

costs will be far outweighed by the broader economic fallout. This trade war reflects a deeper problem in Trump's governance. He unilaterally decides which issues to prioritise, exaggerates threats, and applies blunt-force solutions. His approach to trade is reckless, but the consequences of his chaotic leadership extend far beyond economic policy.

Yours, etc., Amarjeet Kumar, Hazaribagh, 3 February.

NO FREEBIES

SIR, In his article "Reforms in states", Govind Bhattacharjee has

rightly said that the freebie culture is the greatest threat to achieving our goal of Viksit Bharat.

If the Centre is serious about achieving it by 2047, the freebie culture must be demolished by enacting the strongest law.

Democracy has become a toy for political leaders, they can use it in any way to deceive the voters.

We pay taxes to the government and the Chief Ministers and the Prime Minister are giving freebies for votes.

Yours, etc., Birkha Khadka Duvarseli, Siliguri, 4 February.

NUTRITION

SIR, According to data, around 35-40 per cent of children in rural areas in Maharashtra are underweight and the highest rate of malnutrition is found in north Maharashtra.

Lack of access to nutritious food is one of the major factors behind malnutrition. With this backdrop it is surprising to learn that the state government dropped eggs from mid-day meals.

Egg is a major source of protein and pulses are costlier than eggs, so eggs should remain a core part of mid-day meals. If any student does not want to eat it, he can skip it.

Earlier, states like Madhya Pradesh and Goa also made such decisions while it should be noted that a few states in southern India have added the number of eggs given to children to ensure protein requirements are met.

Such drastic decisions could prove detrimental to the families living below the poverty line.

Yours, etc., Bal Govind, Noida, 4 February.

From file notings to fine literature

AMITABHA BHATTACHARYA

The pen may be mightier than the sword, but why professional civil servants take to writing, especially after their retirement, perhaps like no other group of professionals, requires some introspection. Members of the All-India and central civil services, especially those from the IAS, have been writing all their working life, in the form of notings on files or drafting policy papers, executive orders, rules, regulations, and even legislations. But their outpourings in the form of books or essays, once freed from the shackles of conduct rules and oath of secrecy, are of a different texture altogether.

In India the higher civil services have been aspirational, attracting a fair share of the brightest university products. There has understandably been an old tradition of scholar-administrators. If we look at Bengal, ICS officers such as Ramesh Chander Dutt, Annada Sankar Roy and Ashok Mitra have contributed immensely through their scholarly and literary works. Administratively pecked at a lower order, Deputy Collectors like Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Nabin Chandra Sen and Dwijendralal Roy continue to be household names for their pioneering contribution to literature. In some form or the other, this tradition continues.

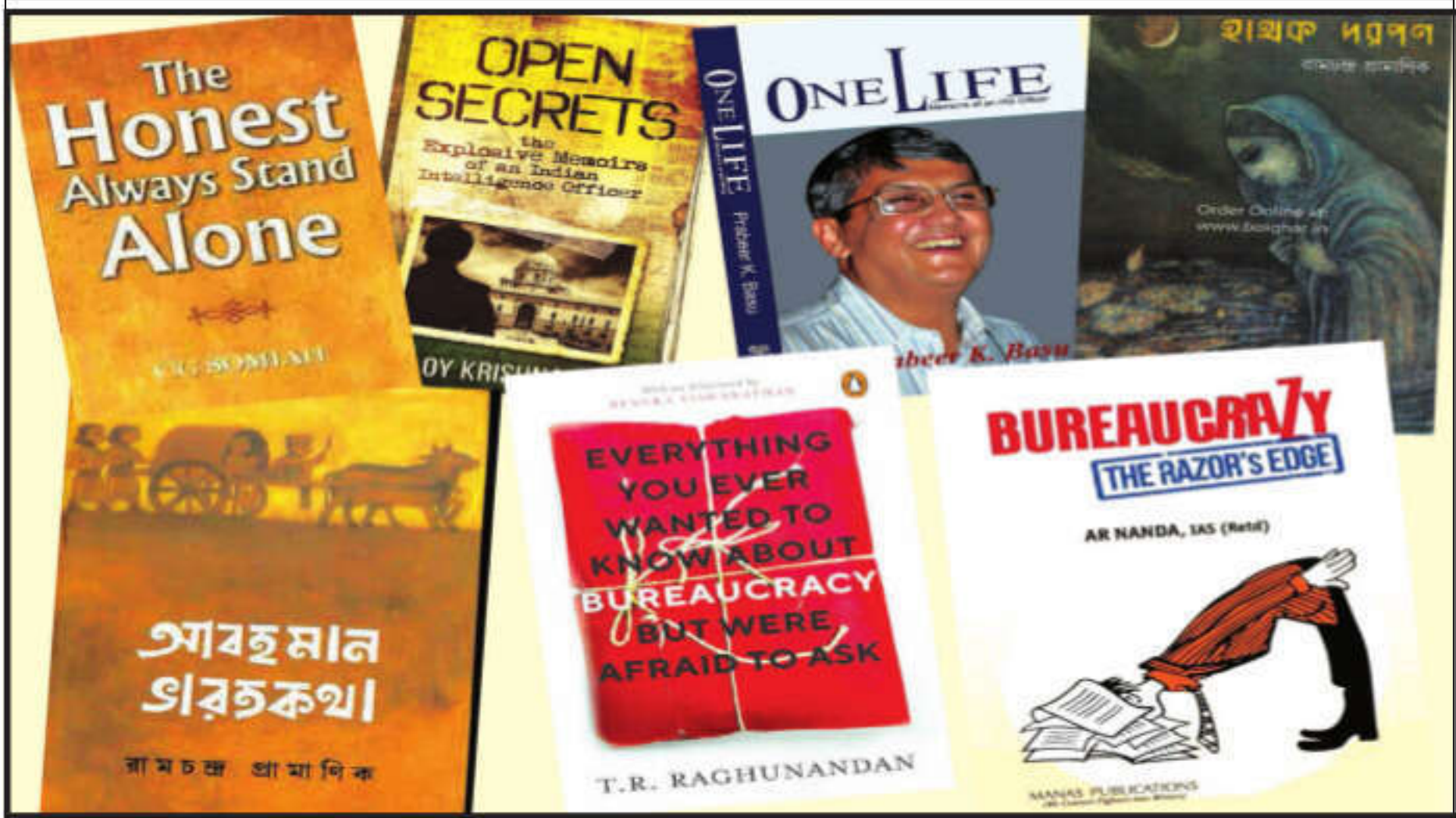
There may be many reasons for the continuity. Many of those belonging to the higher administrative strata are often propelled by the urge to express themselves to a larger readership, convinced that the wide experiences they had acquired during the discharge of their official duties - at the district, state and central levels - are important enough to be widely disseminated. Shouldn't hard earned leisure, after a life-long grueling routine, be enjoyed in a manner that would be mentally fulfilling too? For self-respecting civil servants, not

lobbying for a post-retirement sinecure or other financially remunerative engagements, there can be two pro-bono options - take to writing or involve with voluntary constructive work. For most, the former is often more convenient.

When I look at my friends and compatriots in Bengal where I hail from and erstwhile Andhra Pradesh where I had worked much of my life - I find their writings can be broadly categorized. The first category is of memoirs and recollections that are largely autobiographical. The second comprises books written on the basis of the author's expertise in a particular field. The third category consists of essays on diverse topics compiled in the form of a book, and the fourth of writings which are wholly literary in nature - poems, short stories, criticisms, plays and novels - often enriched by real life experiences.

In Bengal, especially in recent decades, some powerful literary figures have emerged. Besides Anita Agnihotri from the IAS, there are about half a dozen award-winning authors from the state civil services. Less known, but perhaps the most versatile and original amongst this crop, is Ramchandra Pramanik of the Indian Revenue Service, whose autobiographical work '*Hathak Darpan*', collection of short stories like *Abahaman Bharatkatha* and *Agunkhaki*, and plays like *Kalpaka* and *Akshahriday* are amongst the finest in their class. Alapan Bandyopadhyay's insightful essays collected in *Amlar Mon* (Mind of the Bureaucrat) and his co-edited work (with Anup Matilal) titled *Philosopher's Stone: Speeches and Writings of Sir Daniel Hamilton* deserve mention.

The story is somewhat different in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The outputs seem to be more focused and work-related. Two former Reserve Bank Governors, Y.V. Reddy and D. Subbarao, have brought out authentic tomes on



their tenures at the Bank which are widely read and appreciated. K. Sujatha Rao's book on our indifference to the public health system belongs to this exclusive category. (Among serving officers, T.V. Somanathan's works are of very high merit.)

But Subbarao's latest one on the lessons he had learnt from his career in the IAS is also a very readable account. Two former Chief Secretaries of Andhra Pradesh, K. Pradeep Chandra and K. Madhava Rao, had earlier authored books on their interesting lives. Narendra Luther's books on the heritage of Hyderabad are well known. But a tome like India: *The Road to Renaissance, A Vision and An Agenda* brought out by Bhimeswara Challa, who had served both in the IAS and in the United Nations, proposing 'a package of radical reform intended to shift the very epicentre of political and economic decision-making to the level where the people lead their daily lives' may be less focused, but it exhibits a

kind of enthusiasm that prompted Challa, at the age of ninety, to chronicle his frank views, without losing optimism about the nation's future. In similar vein, Parimal Brahma of the Indian Audit & Accounts Service, has been writing incessantly, airing many of his bold views.

What becomes evident is that most of the authors effuse hope, not despair. Despite projecting the ills that plague our governance system and machinery, sometimes with exaggeration and often with sarcasm, the central tenet, even for the most 'retired radicals', is a longing for a brighter future and a yearning for a more just and inclusive society.

Many such officers are mature enough to know that their outputs may not see a second edition, and a few would have been produced at the authors' own cost. The younger civil servants may not keep track of the plethora of books coming out in this genre. Only merit and readability will

decide how many of such books will survive the test of time.

Coming to specifics about those I know personally, authors like R.N. Prasher, Jawhar Sircar, Abhay Shukla and KJ Alphons are widely read. Irrespective of their political perspectives, they are first-rate writers. Who does not know of Upamanyu Chatterjee as a noted literary figure? Others of my acquaintance include Aloke Lal of the IPS, besides M. Ramchandran, Alexander Luke, Priyadarshi Dash, N.K. Raghupati, S. Bhalerao, S. Manoharan, P.K. Basu, (late) Keshav Desiraju, Satya Mohanty, and Bibhu Acharya from the IAS. I may have left out many others, but this example would only illustrate how intellectually fecund this class has been.

'Publish or perish' is a term used in academic circles. Is this going to be true for the higher civil servants too? This seems to be a healthy trend that deserves some applause.

(The writer is a retired IAS officer.)

Brute power of an imperial presidency

DANIEL DRACHE AND MARC D. FROESE

United States President Donald Trump has agreed to delay punishing tariffs on all exports from Canada and Mexico, which resulted in a threat of retaliatory tariffs from Canada.

Nonetheless, Canada's closest ally is all but tearing up the Canada-U.S.-Mexico trade deal negotiated only seven years ago. The rationale behind what the Wall Street Journal editorial board has called "the dumbest trade war in history" isn't even clear.

The pessimistic view is that if Canada doesn't give Trump everything he wants, he will bulldoze the country with more tariffs, sanctions on banks, enhanced border inspections and even a travel ban — everything he recently threatened to do to Colombia.

Canada's political class is scrambling because the U.S. has long been a cultural sibling and an economic partner. But now it is toxic, threatening and untrustworthy. Will Canada sign another trade deal with Trump in office? The chances recede the longer the tariffs remain in place.

It's never been more clear that Trump is obsessive, seldom a bluffer and always iron-fisted. He seems to have planned and executed this tariff bomb to cause maximum pain and chaos. Now he says the European Union is next on his list.

Trump is counting on his new majorities in U.S. Congress to ram through his radical right populist agenda, forcing other countries to play a role in his melodrama.

In response to Trump's charge that the U.S. subsidizes Canadian trade, former Conservative prime minister Stephen Harper pointed out that half of America's imported oil comes from Canada, and its price is

significantly discounted due to a lack of pipeline capacity. "It's actually Canada that subsidizes the United States in this regard," Harper said.

Nevertheless, Trump's preferred foreign policy tactic is to hit first with economic sanctions and negotiate later. With his near total grip on U.S. government, he can now achieve all his aims through tariffs.

Trump's vision for his imperial presidency is organized around an old idea: the revenue tariff. Before income taxes, border tariffs were the primary source of income for government. But back then, government did a lot less.

For example, America's 19th-century navy of wooden sailing ships was purchased with tariffs. But it would be impossible to fund modern-day health care, student loans and \$13 billion aircraft carriers with tariff revenues.

A recent study by the Peterson Institute for International Economics shows the math doesn't add up. Tariffs are levied on imported goods and are worth about US\$3 trillion. American income tax is levied on incomes and are worth more than US\$20 trillion. Government would have to be much smaller, and tariffs would have to be so high they would choke American trade, for tariffs to make economic sense.

And yet Trump has a broad mandate. In the summer of 2024, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Trump v. United States that presidents require a broadly defined "presumptive immunity from prosecution for ... official acts." This decision has given Trump the legal clout to force the entire federal government to answer to the president himself.

Trump is using his vast new mandate to wage multiple wars simultaneously. These wars against the guardrails of liberal democracy require the punishment of his enemies inside his own party.

Republicans who have voted against Trump legislation during his first term faced high-profile challenges in the primaries as he funded their opponents. Today, the war is waged against those who are insufficiently loyal, including the highest ranks of the Coast Guard and the FBI.

The war against the administrative state involves the mass firing of independent inspectors, federal lawyers and thousands of civil servants to be replaced by foot soldiers personally loyal to the leader.

The Trump administration has sent out "deferred resignation" notices that invite the entire civil service to resign. This is the tactic Trump's key adviser, Elon Musk, implemented at X, and it suggests a wave of firings will soon begin.

The trade war against Canada and Mexico is peculiar because neither country has expressed any willingness to abolish the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, which is among the achievements of Trump's first administration.

Nevertheless, the paranoid Trump seems to be convinced that he got a raw deal in 2018, and so he wants to scrap the whole treaty and negotiate something tougher that brings more jobs home.

In 2024, the cars that were ranked most "American" in terms of their content and final assembly were made by Tesla, Honda and Volkswagen. By comparison, the best-selling Dodge Ram 1500 pickup truck ranked No. 43 on the list. What Trump considers American and non-American isn't clear, even to voters.

A new Bank of Canada forecast predicts that American tariffs may reduce Canadian GDP by six per cent. The federal government is planning an enormous bailout package to compensate for widespread job losses like the one offered to busi-



nesses and individuals during the pandemic.

Unsurprisingly, Trump divides Canada's leadership. Alberta and Saskatchewan have publicly criticized the Team Canada approach. Alberta Premier Danielle Smith refused to sign the joint federal/provincial statement and played to her secessionist base.

Even so, former Alberta premier Jason Kenney recognizes the peril, arguing that Alberta needs to "be prepared to retaliate ... we can't be wusses about this; we have to have a spine."

Canada is an export-led economy based on natural resources. Its strength lies not in refusing to buy California wine or Florida orange juice. Its main sources of leverage are oil and gas, potash and uranium, rare earth minerals, timber products and hydroelectric power. But of all these, oil, uranium, and hydro-electric power are Canada's biggest guns.

It's not yet clear how effective the Canadian government's strategy will be. Previous rounds of retaliation after the steel and aluminium tariffs in Trump's first term did not drive him to the negotiating table. It's also unclear what the CEOs of Canada's branch-plant multinational corporations will

do when their loyalties are divided between Trump and Canada.

Furthermore, it's anyone's guess how much the dissent of western Canadian premiers has hurt Canada's case with Trump. Certainly, his preferred tactic is to divide and conquer.

Finally, it's unclear if Ontario Premier Doug Ford's "Captain Canada" approach will earn the respect or disdain of Republicans — although, ultimately, it doesn't matter what the rest of the American political class thinks because Trump and his inner circle are calling all the shots.

In practical terms, there is little Canada can do to address the false accusations that it's complicit in the illicit drug trade and in migrants crossing the border into the U.S. Facts don't matter to Trump. He will eventually come up with a demand, and if Canada doesn't give in, he will ramp up the economic pain.

Welcome to the post-liberal world order.

(The writers are, respectively, Professor Emeritus, Department of Politics, York University, Canada, and Professor of Political Science and Founding Director, International Studies Program, Burman University. This article was published on www.theconversation.com)

100 YEARS AGO

OCCASIONAL NOTE

As an initial step towards the general reduction of the cost of living it seems reasonable that the British Post Office should reduce the high rates now charged upon letters and postcards. In one sense the deputation which waited upon the Postmaster-General on Tuesday chose somewhat indifferent ground for its plea. The fact that the circulation of picture postcards in New Zealand has gone up by 25 per cent since the latest reduction in rates in calculated to turn the average administrator against the thought of inviting a similar revival in England. It is even better calculated to prompt a demand for higher pay from the harassed employees of the Post Office. But even at the risk—the certainty rather—of stimulating the picture postcard nuisance, the case for lower postal rates is overwhelming. When Great Britain leads the way in the matter of lower rates it is to be hoped that India will follow suit with the same alacrity as that displayed when the postage was increased.

NEWS ITEMS

YOUNG AUSTRALIA

SCHOOL BOYS TOUR IN EUROPE

(BRITISH OFFICIAL WIRELESS) LEAFIELD (OXFORD), FEB. 2.

ONE hundred and forty Australian schoolboys are at present in London. They have come under the auspices of the Young Australia League and will spend six months in Europe.

A busy programme in London has been fixed for the next few days, during which they will visit all the sights and be received by the King, the Prince of Wales, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Mayor of London, and other prominent personages. Next Monday they leave for Paris. After visiting the battlefields of the late war and the principal towns in France, Italy and Switzerland, the party will return to spend April and May in the British Isles.

"TARIFFS BY THE BACKDOOR"

LIBERALS AND NEW PROPOSALS

LONDON, FEB. 4.

"INDUSTRIES may henceforth secure protection if they prove to the satisfaction of the Board of Trade that their industries are suffering on account of unfair and abnormal competition, and also demonstrate that industries are managed efficiently and economically, but the period of protection will be limited by the Finance Bill in which such protection will be legalised. Moreover no applications will be considered relating to food and drink."

The foregoing summarizes a long White Paper which has been issued giving details of the Government's safeguarding of industries policy. The paper has received a mixed reception from the Press. Conservative organs welcome the "eminently reasonable proposals," which they say must satisfy all but the "most hidebound Free Traders," the exception being the Morning Post, which charges the Government with safeguarding not only industries but pledges and compromises of the Party, resulting in the likelihood that industries may suffer for conscience sake.

Liberal papers, however, angrily denounce what they describe as "Tariffs by the backdoor" and accuse the Government of a breach of pledge in not embodying proposals in a regular Parliamentary Bill.

BURNEY SCHEME

BRITISH EXPERIMENTAL SERVICE

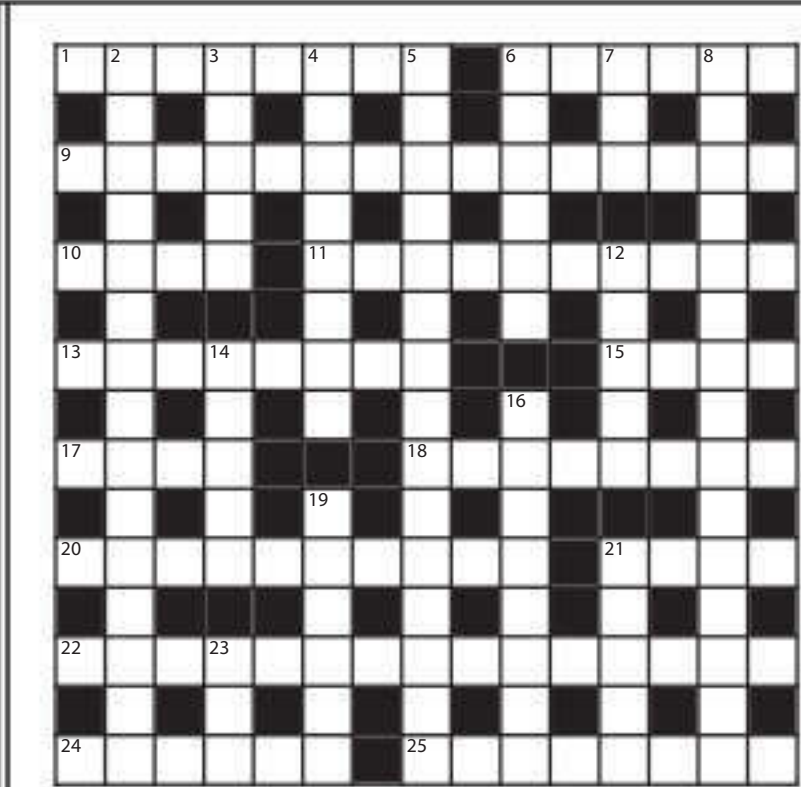
The official report of Sir Sefton Brancker's interview with the Bengal Chamber of Commerce (published exclusively in the Statesman on January 15) was issued yesterday.

Replying to questions Sir Sefton Brancker said, that the scheme which he had outlined had grown out of what was known as the Burney scheme. Commander Burney now had a contract to build one ship for which he was getting £300,000. But in his agreement it was provided that he would be allowed to have the ship at £150,000 if he could satisfy Government that he would employ it on an approved air line. He was working with Messrs. Vickers. Commander Burney's ship would be experimented together with the Government ship. But the Burney ship would be given back if Commander Burney could show that he had a company offering to take it over and to establish a service. There was no need for Calcutta to think of spending money at the moment. He wanted to explain the general programme and definitely to ear-mark a site for the mast.

Sir Willoughby Carey said that he thought that possibly politicians in Bombay would be willing to finance a scheme for themselves.

CROSSWORD

NO-293041



YETERDAY'S SOLUTION

I A T S D S I T
E O T A Y E H R
B A R N A B Y C A P T A I N
R I T N L I E I N W A I T
I C I N G L I E I N W A I T
A S U I T A B E A
T H E O I D G E N T I L E M A N
E E A H E L U E T
D E C O R A T O R I N D I A
A A H E E M
T A N G E L O H I D A L G O
A V U O E L U
R U D G E S A L V A T I O N
N A N E E N N T

ACROSS

- Name first victim after school pianist (8)
- Gratitude from Oscar-winner Tom? (6)
- Right to escape the Westminster madhouse? (9,6)
- Grunge band unconvincing here at last shows bite (4)
- Greatly increase receipts: that brings surprised reaction (6,4)
- Encounter worthless horse (4,4)
- Busy worker recoils at first drink (4)
- Bird or birds migrating west (4)
- Race that generates more than local interest? (8)
- Spar put in advertisement for e-mail manager (10)
- Price of round and capacious cups? (4)
- Unusual reproduction in earphones gets distorted (15)
- Commercial outlet in run-up to Christmas (6)
- Natural illumination in view across one French lake (8)
- DOWN
- Bananas in dull bag coming to fantasy realm (5-6-4)

- Beak to imprison one creating clamour (5)
- Mike secretly embracing the Italian racket in construction (8)
- Pacific group about to enter long-distance races (6,2,7)
- Nature walks for dogs (6)
- Some always gathered about noon (3)
- Lip-smacking snack? (7,8)
- Banned cricketer over his fruitless efforts in match? (5)
- Interwoven material mine that captivates the French (5)
- First Minister tense, doctor admits (8)
- 15 fuels explosive ability (6)
- Bookmarks upside down in Vile Bodies (5)
- Member starts with three old examples (3)

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

Trump's suggestion the US 'take over' the Gaza Strip is rejected by allies and adversaries alike

The US president's suggestion came at a White House news conference with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DUBAI, 5 FEBRUARY

President Donald Trump's proposal that the United States "take over" the Gaza Strip and permanently resettle its Palestinian residents was swiftly rejected and denounced on Wednesday by American allies and adversaries alike.

Trump's suggestion came at a White House news conference with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who smiled several times as the president detailed a plan to build new settlements for Palestinians outside the Gaza Strip, and for the U.S. to take "ownership" in redeveloping the war-torn territory into "the Riviera of the Middle East."

"The U.S. will take over

the Gaza Strip, and we will do a job with it too," Trump said. "We'll own it and be responsible for dismantling all of the dangerous unexploded bombs and other weapons on the site, level the site, and get rid of the destroyed buildings, level it out, create an economic development that will supply unlimited numbers of jobs."

The comments came amid a fragile ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, during which the militant group has been turning over hostages in exchange for the release of prisoners held by Israel.

Egypt, Jordan and other American allies in the Middle East have already rejected the idea of relocating more than 2 million Palestinians from Gaza elsewhere in the region. Following Trump's



remarks, Egypt's Foreign Ministry issued a statement stressing the need for rebuilding "without moving the Palestinians out of the Gaza Strip."

Saudi Arabia, an important American ally, weighed in quickly on Trump's expanded idea to take over the Gaza Strip in a sharply worded statement, noting that its long call for an independent

Palestinian state was a "firm, steadfast and unwavering position."

"The kingdom of Saudi Arabia also stresses what it had previously announced regarding its absolute rejection of infringement on the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, whether through Israeli settlement policies, annexation of Palestinian lands or efforts to dis-

place the Palestinian people from their land," the statement said.

Similarly, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese told reporters in Canberra, Australia, that his country has long supported a two-state solution in the Middle East and that nothing had changed.

"Australia's position is the same as it was this morning, as it was last year, as it was 10 years ago," he said.

Trump has already made waves — and upset longtime allies — suggesting the purchase of Greenland, the annexation of Canada and the possible takeover of the Panama Canal. It was not immediately clear whether the idea of taking over the Gaza Strip was a well thought out plan, or an opening gambit in negotiations.

Trump announces withdrawal from UN human rights body and halt to funding for Palestinian refugees

AGENCIES
UNITED NATIONS, 5 FEBRUARY

President Donald Trump announced Tuesday that the United States will withdraw from the top U.N. human rights body and will not resume funding for the U.N. agency helping Palestinian refugees.

The U.S. left the Geneva-based Human Rights Council last year, and it stopped funding the agency assisting Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, after Israel accused it of harbouring Hamas militants who participated in the surprise 7 Oct, 2023, attacks in southern

Israel, which UNRWA denies.

Trump's announcement came on the day he met with visiting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose country has long accused both the rights body and UNRWA of bias against Israel and anti-semitism.

Trump's executive orders also call for a review of American involvement in the Paris-based U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, known as UNESCO, and a review of U.S. funding for the United Nations in light of "the wild disparities in levels of funding among different countries."

The United States, with the world's largest economy, pays 22 per cent of the U.N.'s regular operating budget, with China the second-largest contributor.

"I've always felt that the U.N. has tremendous potential," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office. "It's not living up to that potential right now. ... They've got to get their act together."

He said the U.N. needs "to be fair to countries that deserve fairness," adding that there are some countries, which he didn't name, that are "outliers, that are very bad and they're being almost preferred."

Protests against Trump and Project 2025 are planned in cities across the US

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, 5 FEBRUARY

A movement to oppose the early actions of President Donald Trump's administration is taking off online, with plans to protest across the U.S. on Wednesday.

The movement has organized under the hashtags #buildtheresistance and #50501, which stands for 50 protests, 50 states, one day. Many of the protests are planned at state capitols, with some in other cities.

The movement has websites and accounts across social media. Flyers circulating online decry Project 2025, a hard-right playbook for Amer-

ican government and society, and include messages such as "reject fascism" and "defend our democracy." In a coffee shop just a block from Michigan's Capitol, organizers of a planned action there Wednesday pushed together tables, spreading out poster boards to write messages that read "No Deportations Ever!" and "Workers Unite!"

Kelsey Brianne, a key organizer of Michigan's rally, called it a "real grassroots effort." She learned about the movement Sunday night and has been coordinating speakers and safety protocols.

"I got involved because I knew that there was a need, and I knew what I could do,"

Brianne said Tuesday. "But also I want to look back at this time and say that I did something and I didn't just sit back."

Trump has signed a series of executive orders in the first couple of weeks of his new term on everything from trade and immigration to climate change. As Democrats begin to raise their voice in opposition to Trump's agenda, protests have also begun.

On Sunday, thousands of people marched against Trump's plan for large-scale deportations in Southern California, including in downtown Los Angeles, where protests shut down a major freeway for hours

Sweden's worst mass shooting leaves at least 11 dead, including the gunman

AGENCIES
OREBRO, 5 FEBRUARY

Sweden's worst mass shooting left at least 11 people dead, including the gunman, and at least five seriously wounded at an adult education centre west of Stockholm.

The gunman's motive hadn't been determined by early Wednesday as the Scandinavian nation — where gun violence at schools is very rare — reeled from an attack.

Officials said Wednesday that three women and two men, all with gunshot wounds, underwent surgery at Orebro University Hospital. All were in serious but stable condition after being admitted to the hospital with life-threatening injuries. Another woman was

treated for minor injuries and was stable.

Jonas Claesson, regional director of health and medical services, said that two of the gunshot victims were in intensive care Wednesday. All of the victims are over age 18, officials said. No other patients related to the shooting were admitted to Orebro University Hospital overnight.

The school, called Campus Risbergsga, offers primary and secondary educational classes for adults age 20 and older, Swedish-language classes for immigrants, vocational training and programmes for people with intellectual disabilities. The school is on the outskirts of Orebro, which is about 200 kilometres (125 miles) west of Stockholm.



Justice Minister Gunnar Strömmer called the shooting "an event that shakes our entire society to its core." King Carl XVI Gustaf and Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson ordered flags to be flown at half-staff at the Royal Palace and government buildings.

The king and Queen Silvia were in Orebro and would

visit the school district and attend a memorial service in the city, the palace said. Kristersson and Strömmer would also be there. Soccer teams Degerfors IF and Orebro Syrianska will wear black armbands at a preseason match on Wednesday evening and hold a minute's silence before kickoff, Degerfors said.

The shooting started Tuesday afternoon after many students had gone home following a national exam. Students sheltered in nearby buildings, and other parts of the school were evacuated following the shooting.

Authorities were working to identify the deceased. Police said that officers discovered the gunman dead at the school when they arrived. It was unclear how the gunman died.

Roberto Eid Forest, head of the local police, said that the school's large premises meant it took a long time for officers to search the campus to ensure there were not any more victims. Police heard gunshots when they arrived and initially thought they were being fired upon, he said.

Congo calls rebels' ceasefire declaration 'false communication' as reports of fighting continue

AGENCIES
GOMA, 5 FEBRUARY

Congo's government on Tuesday described the unilateral ceasefire declared by Rwanda-backed rebels in eastern Congo as "false communication," while the United Nations noted reports of heavy fighting with Congolese forces in the region.

The M23 rebelson Monday announced the ceasefire on humanitarian grounds after pleas for the safe passage of aid and hundreds of thousands of displaced people.

But "all we are waiting for is the withdrawal of the M23,"

Congo's government spokesperson Patrick Muyaya told journalists.

The M23 last week seized control of Goma, a city of 2 million people at the heart of a region home to trillions of dollars in mineral wealth. It remains under rebel control.

The M23 had been reported to be gaining ground in other areas of eastern Congo and advancing on another provincial capital, Bukavu, in South Kivu.

On Tuesday, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric told journalists they had reports of heavy fighting in South Kivu, though "we don't have any reports of the M23 moving



closer to Bukavu."

The M23 rebels are backed by some 4,000 troops from neighbouring Rwanda, according to U.N. experts. That's far more than in 2012, when they briefly captured Goma then withdrew after international

pressure. The M23 are the most potent of the more than 100 armed groups active in Congo's east, which holds vast deposits critical to much of the world's technology.

Congo's government has said it is open to talks to resolve

the conflict, but that dialogue must occur within the context of previous peace agreements. Rwanda and the rebels have accused Congo of defaulting on previous agreements.

Regional leaders are meeting Friday and Saturday in Tanzania to discuss the conflict.

Also Tuesday, Congo's interior minister, Jacquemain Shabani, said the death toll in last week's fighting had reached 2,000, asserting that bodies had been put into one or more mass graves. Shabani called them "victims of massacres perpetrated by the Rwandan occupation army."

Philippine vice president impeached by House, faces Senate trial as political battle rages

AGENCIES
MANILA, 5 FEBRUARY

The lower house in the Philippines impeached Vice President Sara Duterte Wednesday, accusing her of a wide range of crimes that included plotting to assassinate the president, large-scale corruption and failing to strongly denounce China's aggressive actions against Filipino forces in the disputed South China Sea.

The move by legislators in the House of Representatives, many of them allies of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., deepens a bitter

political rift that involved the two highest leaders of one of Asia's most ram-bunctious democracies.

Marcos has boosted defense ties with his country's treaty ally, the United States, while the vice president's father, Rodrigo Duterte, nurtured cozy relations with China and Russia during his stormy term that ended in 2022.

At least 215 legislators in the lower house signed the impeachment complaint against the vice president, significantly more than the required number to allow the petition to be rapidly transmitted to the Senate,

which would serve as a tribunal to try the vice president. House of Representatives Secretary-General Reginald Velasco told a plenary House meeting in the body's last session before a four-month recess.

Among the signatories of the impeachment complaint was the president's son, Rep. Sandro Marcos, and cousin, House Speaker Martin Romualdez. The petition urged the Senate to shift itself into an impeachment court to try the vice president, "render a judgement of conviction," remove her from office and ban her from holding public office.

LEISURE

10 MINUTE CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Clear dessert (5)
 - Transactions (5)
 - Prance (5)
 - Caring profession (7)
 - Irked (7)
 - Barrier of shrubs (5)
 - The main focus of attention (6,5)
 - Italian food (5)
 - Cut of beef (7)
 - Bright red (7)
 - Urges (5)
 - Liabilities (5)
 - Gem (5)
- DOWN**
- Obliterate (7)
 - Truck (5)
 - Hearing range (7)
 - Scots landowner (5)
 - Unintentional (11)
 - Man-eating monster (4)
 - Applaud (4)
 - Passage (7)
 - Quick look (7)
 - Skin on fruit (4)
 - Agreement (4)
 - Supercilious (5)
 - Composure (5)

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS

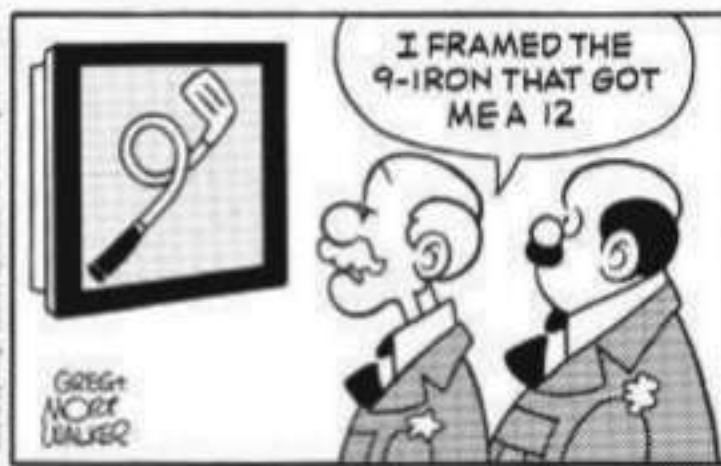
- Stalk
- Heaping
- Store-keeping
- Suds
- Liberate
- Far and

DOWN

- Thud
- Uncles
- Thrice
- Autonomous
- Paranoia
- Boon
- Secrete
- Berth
- Risible
- Alight
- Host
- Elbow
- Parka
- Nuthatch
- Alfredo
- Notional
- Inhumane

By arrangement with The Independent

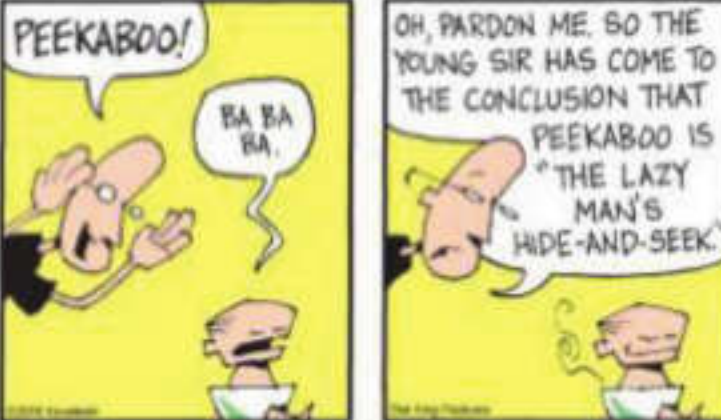
BETLE BAILEY/Mort Walker



RED EYE/Bill Yates & Mel Casson



DADDY DAZE/John Kovalski



NEED TO KNOW

Ambulance
FD Block Association (Amb)
9830452536, 9830181286
Happy Calculators 24400160
City Point Nurses Centre
2567-4113, 9831142623
People's Relief Committee
2280-4943/9444

24 hrs Medical Oxygen Delivery
BOC India Ltd. 9831277777

Blood Banks
Ashok Laboratory 24720333
Central Blood Bank 23510619



SCRABBLE® GRAMMS

PAR SCORE 320-240
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

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Life Care 2284-6940
Peoples Blood Bank
2455-5164/ 5557
RK Mission Seva Pratishan
2475-3636/39

Police/Fire
Lalbazar (Police Control Room) 22143230
S.P. (North 24-Pgns) 25423005
S.P. (South 24-Pgns) 2479-3333/1311
Bhawani Bhawan
24791761/9, 24791933
Fire Service Station Salt Lake: 2357-5293;

Howrah 2666-8111; Behala 2497-6285

Civic Services
Kolkata Municipal Corporation: 2286-1000
Water: 2543-1602

Calcutta Telephones
Charged Number Announcement
1951, 1952, 1953

Taxi Refusal
SMS 575756: Complaint and registration

Police Toll Free No. 1073
Transport Deptt. No. 6451-6718

CESC Fault Reporting
1912 and 4403-1912

Trains
Howrah Station Old Complex
1331/1332 (Auto Telephone Numbers), 1310, 2638-7412/3542/2581 (manual).
Sealdah: 2350-3535/3537
Shalimar Station: 2668-1121, Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway: 139.



SUDOKU
Concepts Sudoku
By Dave Green

Difficulty Level: ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that no row, no column and no 3x3 box contains the same number. The difficulty level increases through the week.

Opposition demands fresh elections in Pakistan

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf gets ready to hold nationwide protests on 8 February

AGENCIES ISLAMABAD, 5 FEBRUARY

A strong opposition alliance is emerging as Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) gets ready to hold nationwide protests on 8 February, the first anniversary of last year's "rigged" general election in the country. Posing a fresh challenge to the government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, PTI has announced anti-government protest rallies in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Swabi, Peshawar and Lahore, stating that 'Black Day' will be observed across the country on 8 February. PTI claims that it was on 8 February in 2024 that the will of the people and their

support for party founder and former Prime Minister Imran Khan was bulldozed by the country's military establishment. As per sources in the party, there are plans to launch a massive anti-government campaign across the country on the day with a fresh call to release Khan and other political prisoners who PTI claims have been falsely accused of being involved in 9 May, 2023 riots and other cases. The opposition parties, demanding an immediate dissolution of assemblies and announcement of fresh elections, have begun strategising their next move and challenge the "authenticity" of the ruling government. Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) leader Fazl-ur-Rehman, along with the top



PTI leadership and other parties, is pressing Shehbaz Sharif to step down and announce fresh elections. On Tuesday, PTI leader and former National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser hosted dinner for opposition leaders where a joint call was made for holding early

elections in the country as it was asserted that the present government has come into power through rigged elections and illegal practices during the general polls. "The current government no longer represents the people of Pakistan," said Qaiser. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi,

who served as 18th Prime Minister of Pakistan (2017-2018), also called for joint efforts to "protect constitutional rights" of the people of Pakistan. "Opposition parties have reached a consensus during the meeting to demand fresh elections and release political prisoners", said Abbasi, a former senior member of Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) who now heads the Awam Pakistan Party (APA). The leaders, who held a joint press conference, called for an end to what they termed as "fascism". Experts reckon that challenging times lie ahead of the ruling coalition as its main ally, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), is also unhappy with the government's performance. Palestinians refer to their

Palestinians fear a repeat of their 1948 mass expulsion in the wake of Trump's remarks on Gaza



AGENCIES JERUSALEM, 5 FEBRUARY

Palestinians will mark this year the 77th anniversary of their mass expulsion from what is now Israel, an event that is at the core of their national struggle. But in many ways, that experience pales in comparison to the calamity now facing in the Gaza Strip — particularly as President Donald Trump has suggested that displaced Palestinians in Gaza be permanently resettled outside the war-torn territory and that the United States take "ownership" of the enclave. Palestinians refer to their

1948 expulsion as the Nakba, Arabic for catastrophe. Some 700,000 Palestinians — a majority of the prewar population — fled or were driven from their homes before and during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war that followed Israel's establishment. After the war, Israel refused to allow them to return because it would have resulted in a Palestinian majority within its borders. Instead, they became a seemingly permanent refugee community that now numbers some 6 million, with most living in slum-like urban refugee camps in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the Israeli-occupied West Bank. In Gaza, the refugees and their descendants make up around three-quarters of the population. Israel's rejection of what Palestinians say is their right of return to their 1948 homes has been a core grievance in the conflict and was one of the thorniest issues in peace talks that last collapsed 15 years ago. The refugee camps have always been the main bastions of Palestinian militancy. Now, many Palestinians fear a repeat of their painful history on an even more cataclysmic scale. All across Gaza, Palestinians in recent days have been loading up cars and donkey carts or setting out on foot to visit their destroyed homes after a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war took hold 19 Jan. The images from several rounds of mass evacuations throughout the war — and their march back north on foot — are strikingly similar to black-and-white photographs from 1948.

US Senate confirms Pam Bondi as attorney general, putting Trump ally at Justice Department's helm

AGENCIES WASHINGTON, 5 FEBRUARY

The Senate confirmed Pam Bondi as U.S. attorney general Tuesday evening, putting a longtime ally of Donald Trump at the helm of a Justice Department that has already been rattled by the firings of career employees seen as disloyal to the Republican president. The vote fell almost entirely along party lines, with only Sen. John Fetterman, a Pennsylvania Democrat, joining with all Republicans to pass her confirmation 54-46. Bondi, a former Florida attorney general and corporate lobbyist, is expected to oversee a radical reshaping of the department that has been the target of Trump's ire over the criminal cases it brought against him. She enters with the FBI, which she will oversee, in turmoil over the scrutiny

of agents involved in investigations related to the president, who has made clear his desire to seek revenge on his perceived adversaries. Republicans have praised Bondi as a highly qualified leader they contend will bring much-needed change to a department they believe unfairly pursued Trump through investigations resulting in two indictments. "Pam Bondi has promised to get the department back to its core mission: prosecuting crime and protecting Americans from threats to their safety and their freedoms," said Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D. But Bondi has faced intense scrutiny over her close relationship with the president, who during his term fired an FBI director who refused to pledge loyalty to him and forced out an attorney general

who recused himself from the Justice Department's investigation into potential ties between Russia and his 2016 presidential campaign. While Bondi has sought to reassure Democrats that politics would play no part in her decision-making, she also refused at her confirmation hearing last month to rule potential investigations into Trump's adversaries. And she has repeated Trump's claims that the prosecutions against him amounted to political persecution, saying the Justice Department "had been weaponized for years and years and years, and it's got to stop." Sen. Peter Welch, D-Vt., praised Bondi as "accomplished and competent" but said his "grave concern is really about President Trump and what he is clearly demanding."

Remains of all 67 victims of the midair collision near DC recovered as NTSB probes altitude data

AGENCIES ARLINGTON, 5 FEBRUARY

The remains of all 67 victims of last week's midair collision of an American Airlines flight and an Army helicopter near the nation's capital have been recovered, authorities said Tuesday. All but one has been identified. Meanwhile the NTSB said it was examining new data that could put the helicopter above its 200-foot (61-metre) flight ceiling. The airport's air traffic control screen — relying on radar sensors and other data — had it at 300 feet (91 metres), the agency said. However that figure would have been rounded to the nearest 100 feet, according to authorities. Investigators said they need to get more information from the still-submerged Black

Hawk to verify the data. The jet's flight recorder showed its altitude as 325 feet (99 metres), plus or minus 25 feet (7.6 metres). Earlier in the day, crews working in choppy conditions raised a number of large pieces of the jetliner from the Potomac River, including the right wing, the center fuselage and parts of the forward cabin, cockpit, tail cone and rudder. "Our hearts are with the victims' families as they navigate this tragic loss," officials said in a joint statement from the city and federal agencies involved in the search and recovery, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Navy dive teams and Washington police and fire crews. The chief medical examiner will be working to positively identify the final set of remains, officials said.



The collision occurred last Wednesday night as the plane was about to land at nearby Ronald Reagan National Airport, killing everyone on board both aircraft. Authorities said early on that they expected to recover the remains of everyone who died, and they are now focusing on retrieving the jet and hope to recover the helicopter later

this week. On Monday salvage crews were able to pull one of the two jet engines from the river, along with large pieces of the plane's exterior, Col. Francis B. Pera of the Army Corps of Engineers said. Sixty passengers and four crew were on the American Airlines flight from Wichita, Kansas, including figure skaters

returning from the 2025 U.S. Figure Skating Championships there. The Black Hawk was on a training mission. Army Staff Sgt. Ryan Austin O'Hara, 28, of Lilburn, Georgia; Chief Warrant Officer 2 Andrew Loyd Eaves, 39, of Great Mills, Maryland; and Capt. Rebecca M. Lobach, of Durham, North Carolina, were aboard. Federal investigators are trying to piece together the events that led to the collision. Full investigations typically take a year or more, but they hope to have a preliminary report within 30 days. Wednesday's crash was the deadliest in the U.S. since 12 Nov, 2001, when a jet slammed into a New York City neighbourhood just after takeoff, killing all 260 people on board and five on the ground.

EU ready for tough trade talks with US, says Ursula von der Leyen

AGENCIES BRUSSELS, 5 FEBRUARY



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said that the European Union (EU) is prepared for tough negotiations with the US to safeguard its economic interests. Her remarks came after US President Donald Trump announced plans to impose tariffs on imports from the EU. Speaking on transatlantic trade relations, von der Leyen underscored the deep economic ties between the two sides, noting that millions of jobs depend on the partnership, Xinhua news agency reported. "European companies in the US employ 3.5 million Americans, and another million American jobs depend directly

on trade with Europe. The whole trade volume between us is \$1.5 trillion," she told a conference of EU ambassadors. She stressed that both sides have much at stake. "There are jobs, businesses, and industries here and in the US that rely on the transatlantic partnership. So we want to make it work," she said. While advocating cooperation, von der Leyen made it clear that the EU is prepared

for tough negotiations when necessary. "We will be ready for tough negotiations where needed and to find solutions where possible to work out any grievances and to set the foundations for a stronger partnership," she said. She reiterated that the EU remains open and pragmatic in achieving its objectives but will resolutely defend its economic interests. "We will always protect our

own interests, however and whenever that is needed. This will always be the European way," she said. Earlier the European Commission criticised US President Donald Trump's tariff imposed upon three countries, saying they disrupt global trade and are harmful to all, and vowing to hit back if targeted. "The European Union (EU) regrets the US decision to impose tariffs on Canada, Mexico, and China," an EU spokesman was quoted by local media. He highlighted the importance of "open markets and respect for international trade rules," saying they are essential for strong and sustainable economic growth. "Tariffs create unnecessary economic disruption and drive inflation. They are hurtful to all sides," he added.

Iran praises US for cutting foreign aid funding as it looks for a Trump message on nuclear talks

AGENCIES TEHRAN, 5 FEBRUARY



Iran's government seems to be welcoming some recent decisions by the United States — even though they happen to come from a man Iranian operatives have allegedly been plotting to assassinate. President Donald Trump's moves to freeze spending on foreign aid and overhaul, maybe even end, the U.S. Agency for International Development have been lauded in Iranian state media. The reports say the decisions will halt funding for opponents of the country's Shiite theocracy — pro-democracy activists and others supported through programs as part of U.S. gov-

ernment's efforts to help democracy worldwide. At the same time, Iranian officials appear to be signaling that they are waiting for a message from Trump on whether he wants to negotiate over Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear program. At stake are potentially billions of dollars withheld from Iran through

crushing sanctions and the future of a program on the precipice of enriching weapons-grade uranium. And even when signing an executive order to reimpose his "maximum pressure on Iran" on Tuesday, Trump suggested he wanted to deal with Tehran. Meanwhile, ordinary Ira-

nians worry what all this could mean for them. On Wednesday, Iran's currency, the rial, plunged to a record low of 850,000 to \$1 after Trump's order, showing the ongoing economic volatility they face. A decade ago, it stood at 32,000 rials to \$1. "It encourages hard-liners inside Iran to continue repressions because they feel the U.S. would have less capability in supporting Iranian people who seek freedom," said Maryam Faraji, a 27-year-old waitress in a coffee shop in northern Tehran. The state-run IRNA news agency said that "cutting the budget of foreign-based opposition" could "affect the sphere of relations" between Tehran and Washington.

Third attempt to auction off the home of Myanmar's ousted Aung San Suu Kyi fails to draw any bidders

AGENCIES YANGON, 5 FEBRUARY

A renewed attempt to auction off the family home of Myanmar's imprisoned former leader Aung San Suu Kyi was unsuccessful Wednesday as the prospect of paying tens of millions of dollars for a property in a country embroiled in a civil war failed to attract any bidders. It was the third attempt to sell the lakeside property where Suu Kyi had been held under house arrest for nearly 15 years. It's widely viewed as a historical landmark of her nonviolent struggle against military rule for which she won the Nobel Peace Prize. In the previous attempt at auction last August, the court-ordered asking price was \$142 million; on Wednesday it was reduced by \$1 million, to \$141 million. Suu Kyi's democratically

elected government was ousted by the military in February 2021. She is now serving a combined 27-year sentence after being convicted of a string of criminal charges that supporters say have been fabricated to discredit her. Since then, resistance to the military government has grown and the country is now in the midst of a brutal civil war. The court-ordered auction followed a bitter decades-long legal dispute between Suu Kyi and her brother, Aung San Oo, who has sought an equal division of the property. Each time the house has gone up for auction its price has been reduced, but there has yet to be a bidder. In March, the asking price was 315 billion kyats, about \$150 million at official rates, and the second was in August with 300 billion kyats, more

than \$142 million. On Wednesday, the opening asking price for the 1.9-acre (0.78-hectare) lakeside property in Yangon was set at 297 billion kyats. That's about \$141 million at official rates, or about \$66 million at black-market rates, which better reflect the real value of the kyat. Wednesday's auction was held in front of the closed gates of the property, which has served as an unofficial party headquarters and a political shrine for the country's pro-democracy movement. While living there, Suu Kyi hosted visiting dignitaries including U.S. President Barack Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Like the previous auctions, it took less than a minute for a district court official to emerge and announce

there had been no bidders and end the proceedings. "The auction is unsuccessful as there is no bidder," the official, who did not identify herself, announced outside the gate. The two-story colonial-style building on Inye Lake in Yangon, the country's largest city, was given decades ago by the government to Suu Kyi's mother, Khin Kyi, after her husband, independence hero Gen. Aung San, was assassinated in July 1947. Suu Kyi, 79, remained there after her 2010 release from house arrest until moving in 2012 to the capital, Naypyitaw, to serve in parliament. She became the nation's leader after a 2015 general election. According to legal procedures, the court will continue to handle the auction process, but the details are not yet known.

Trump says he's exploring option to send jailed US criminals to other countries: President Donald Trump said Tuesday that he was exploring whether he can move forward with El Salvador's offer to accept and jail violent American criminals in the "most severe cases" even as he and Secretary of State Marco Rubio both say it raises clear legal issues. Rubio reached an unusual agreement with Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele a day earlier that the Central American country would accept U.S. deportees of any nationality, including American citizens and legal residents who are imprisoned for violent crimes. "I'm just saying if we had a legal right to do it, I would do it in a heartbeat," Trump told reporters Tuesday in the Oval Office. "I don't know if we do or not, we're looking at that right now." ■ AGENCIES

<p>পিতা-মাতা/অভিভাবকের অনুসন্ধানের জন্য বিজ্ঞপ্তি</p> <p>শিশুর বিবরণ</p> <p>নাম: হেটিক পান, বয়স: ১১ বছর (জন্ম: ২৭.০৩.২০১৪), লিঙ্গ: পুরুষ, গ্রাফির দিন: ২৪.০৭.২০২৪, বর্তমান অবস্থান: মিউজার হোম, বয়েজ হোম, ইউনিট-৪, ৬, কপাল রোড, কলকাতা-৭০০০২৯, উচ্চতা: ১৭০.১ সে.মি, গায়েব রং: ফস, পরনের বেশাব: নীল টি-শার্ট ও কালো ফুল পাট, খাবার ও তরকারি সহ জি.ডি.ই. নম্বর: ২১১৭, তারিখ: ২৯.০৭.২০২৪। যোগাযোগের বিশদ বিবরণ: ডিস্ট্রিক্ট চাইল্ড প্রোটেকশন ইউনিট, কলকাতা, দিকানা: শূভা বিল্ডিং (সপ্তম তল), ২য় এডিনিউ, ডি.এম.-৩, সেক্টর-১, কলকাতা-৭০০০৬৪। আইসিএ-ডি ২৭০ (৩)/২০২৪</p>	<p>পিতা-মাতা/অভিভাবকের অনুসন্ধানের জন্য বিজ্ঞপ্তি</p> <p>শিশুর বিবরণ</p> <p>নাম: হেটিক পান, বয়স: ০১.১২.২০০৮, লিঙ্গ: পুরুষ, গ্রাফির দিন: ০৪.০৭.২০২৪, বর্তমান অবস্থান: মিউজার হোম, বয়েজ হোম, ইউনিট-৪, ৬, কপাল রোড, কলকাতা-৭০০০২৯, উচ্চতা: ১৭০.১ সে.মি, গায়েব রং: ফস, পরনের বেশাব: নীল টি-শার্ট ও কালো ফুল পাট, খাবার ও তরকারি সহ জি.ডি.ই. নম্বর: ২১১৭, তারিখ: ০৪.০৭.২০২৪। যোগাযোগের বিশদ বিবরণ: ডিস্ট্রিক্ট চাইল্ড প্রোটেকশন ইউনিট, কলকাতা, দিকানা: শূভা বিল্ডিং (সপ্তম তল), ২য় এডিনিউ, ডি.এম.-৩, সেক্টর-১, কলকাতা-৭০০০৬৪। আইসিএ-ডি ২৭০ (৩)/২০২৪</p>	<p>INFORMATION WANTED</p> <p>This is the photograph of Aparna Roy (Biswas), Father's Name: Samir Biswas, Husband's Name: Samir Biswas, of Baitampur, PO-Baita, PS-Chakdaha, Dist.-Nadia, State-West Bengal, who has been missing since 18.11.2024 at about 08.00 hrs. from Residential area, Description of this missing person is : Age-29 Years, Complexion-Yellow Churidar, Height-5 Feet, Wearing-Yellow 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.</p> <p>ICA- D 259 (3)/2025</p>	<p>পিতা-মাতা/অভিভাবকের অনুসন্ধানের জন্য বিজ্ঞপ্তি</p> <p>শিশুর বিবরণ</p> <p>নাম: তুহা হালদা, বয়স: ২২.০২.২০০৩, লিঙ্গ: পুরুষ, গ্রাফির দিন: ০৪.০৭.২০২৪, বর্তমান অবস্থান: হোম কলকাতা ফাউন্ডেশন, টাইলিস ইন্টারন্যাশনাল সেন্টার ফর মেস, ৪২, রাসা রোড (দক্ষিণ), ১ম ফেজ, কলকাতা-৭০০০৩৩, উচ্চতা: ১৬২ সে.মি, গায়েব রং: ফস, পরনের বেশাব: ফুল হাওয়া জেঞ্জি ও ফুল পাট, খাবার ও তরকারি সহ জি.ডি.ই. নম্বর: ১৬১৭, তারিখ: ২৯.০৭.২০২৪। যোগাযোগের বিশদ বিবরণ: ডিস্ট্রিক্ট চাইল্ড প্রোটেকশন ইউনিট, কলকাতা, দিকানা: শূভা বিল্ডিং (সপ্তম তল), ডি.এম.-৩, সেক্টর-১, সউলেক সিটি, কলকাতা-৭০০০৬৪। আইসিএ-ডি ২৬৯ (৩)/২০২৪</p>
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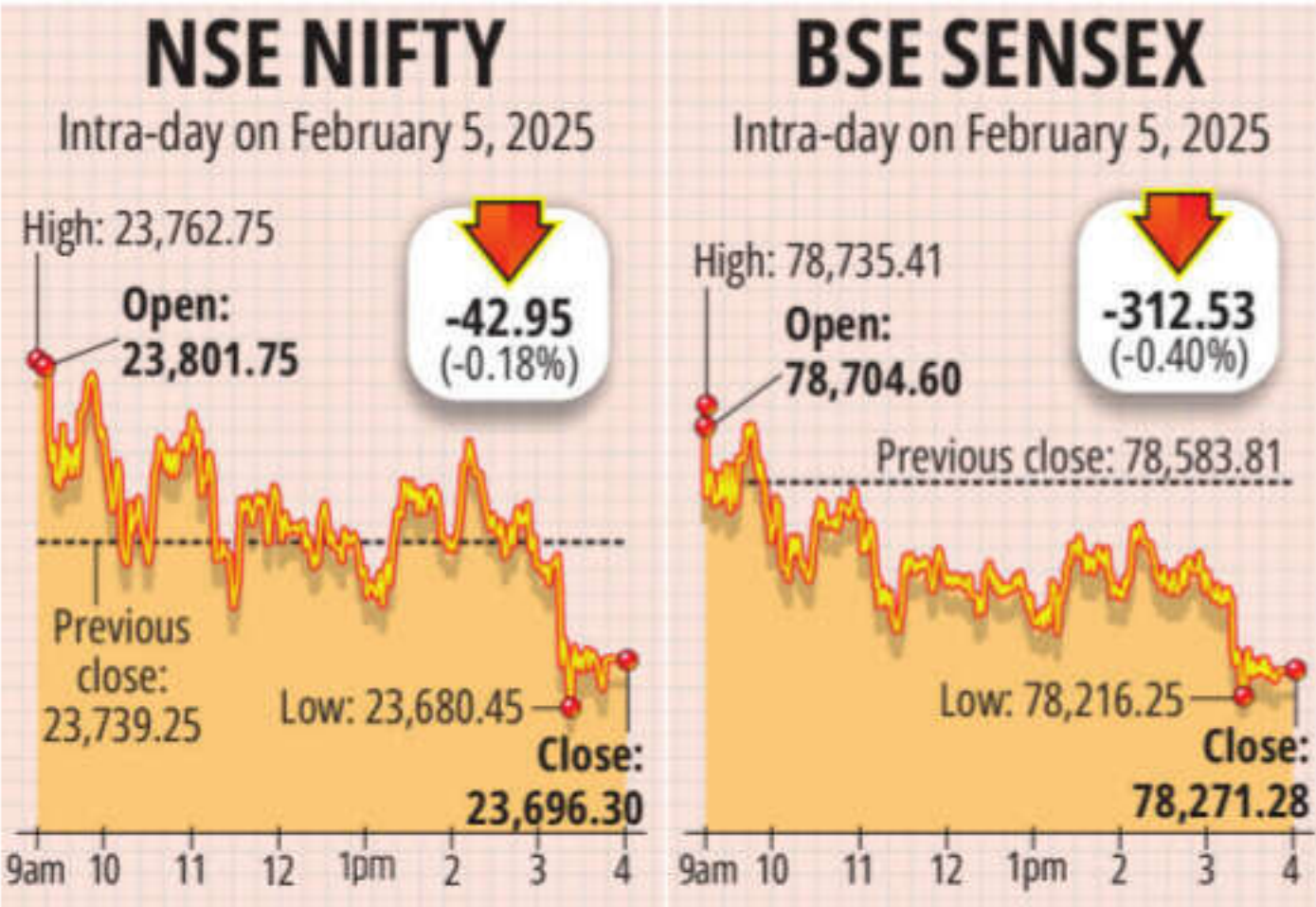
THUMBNAILS

ITI Bharat Consumption Fund: ITI Asset Management Company Ltd (ITI AMC) today announced the launch of ITI Bharat Consumption Fund, an open-ended thematic fund which will follow the consumption theme. The scheme would predominantly invest in equity and equity related securities of companies engaged in consumption and consumption related activities or allied sectors. The scheme opens for subscription on 6 February and closes on 20 February.

Zepto becomes world's second most downloaded mobile app in 2024: Indian quick commerce startup, Zepto, became the world's second most downloaded mobile app in the foods and drinks category in 2024, data released by the Sensor Tower said. McDonald's, the US fast food chain, was the most downloaded mobile app, the report said. Other Indian companies in the category were food and grocery delivery companies Zomato at number five and its competitor Swiggy at number nine. Zepto's rival Blinkit was the tenth most downloaded app in the category. The category also included fast food and fast casual restaurants, restaurant order and delivery, other food delivery services, dining and listing, reviews and reservations and dining and restaurant apps.

Market closes lower due to losses in consumer stocks

Among others, Nifty PSU Bank, Metal, OMCs & Media indices ended higher by over 1pc each



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 5 FEBRUARY

The stock market closed lower on Wednesday due to losses in consumer stocks amid weak earnings. At close, Sensex declined 0.4 per cent, shedding 312 points to close at 78,271, while the Nifty settled 0.18 per cent lower, losing 43 points to end at 23,696.30.

The market was dragged down by losses in consumer

stocks amid weak earnings.

Broader markets remained resilient, with the BSE MidCap and SmallCap indices gaining 0.7 per cent and 1.4 per cent, respectively. Throughout trading session, Nifty reached a high of 23,807.3 and a low of 23,680.45 while the Sensex exhibited a trading range between 78,735.41 and 78,216.25. On Nifty, the gainers were Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (2.97 per cent), Hindalco Industries (2.85 per cent), Apollo Hospitals Enterprise

(2.44 per cent), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (2.07 per cent), and Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone (1.71 per cent). While on the losing side were Asian Paints (3.36 per cent), Titan Company (2.97 per cent), Nestle India (2.20 per cent), Hindustan Unilever (1.93 per cent), and Britannia Industries (1.90 per cent). The Bank Nifty concluded the session at 50,157.95, having reached an intraday high of 50,522.15 and a low of 50,215.45.

Among the sectors, all settled in the green barring Nifty FMCG, Realty, Auto, and Consumer Durable indices, which ended lower by up to 1.85 per cent.

Among others, Nifty PSU Bank, Metal, OMCs, and Media indices ended higher by over 1 per cent each. The rupee weakened to 87.4875 against the U.S. dollar before closing at 87.4650, down 0.4 per cent on the day.

Among the individual performances, paint industry giant Asian Paints share tanked over 3 per cent as the company reported disappointing Q3 FY25 results. Shares of Force Motors surged 6 per cent following the release of its January sales data, signaling a strong performance in the commercial and utility vehicle segments.

MTNL shares jumped nearly 18 per cent as optimism around its asset monetization plans for FY26 fueled a sharp rally.

Shares of food delivery aggregator Swiggy fell 4 per cent ahead of its quarterly results announcement.

Brokerage firm Angel One soared over 6 per cent after the company released its January business update. The company in its business update announced that its client base has increased 48 per cent year-on-year to 3.01 crore in January 2025.

RBI likely to cut repo rate by 25 basis points for 1st time in 5 years



AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 5 FEBRUARY

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in all likelihood, is set to cut the repo rate by 25 basis points for the first time in almost five years, aligning with the Budget's objectives of stimulating economic activity while managing a prudent fiscal position, which provides comfort on currency and inflation fronts, industry experts said on Wednesday.

The central bank last reduced the repo rate by 40 basis points to 4 per cent in May 2020, to help the economy tide over the crisis following the Covid-19 pandemic. Currently, the repo rate stands

at 6.50 per cent.

Given the Union Budget's emphasis on reviving consumption to support economic growth, the RBI might consider turning the policy rate cycle.

Additionally, the government's balanced borrowing plan and efforts to enhance liquidity could support a favourable environment for such a rate cut, said Shishir Bajjal, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India.

A rate cut will be beneficial for the real estate sector as it will make borrowings more affordable for home buyers and reinstate consumer sentiment, particularly in the

lower and mid-income segments.

It will also potentially enhance liquidity in the banking system making it easier for developers to access financing for their projects.

According to Bajaj Broking Research, the potential rate cut is coming after the domestic rate-setting panel has kept the policy repo rate unchanged for the last 11 consecutive meetings - after raising it by 250 bps between May 2022 and February 2023.

The Union Budget prioritises consumption and fiscal discipline, leaving room for the central bank to stimulate growth. With GDP growth slowing to a seven-quarter low of 5.4 per cent in Q2 FY25, a rate cut seems imminent, said the report.

RBI's recent liquidity measures aim to stabilise the financial system, reinforcing expectations of monetary easing.

The central bank's MPC shifted to a neutral stance in October last year, providing flexibility in policy decisions. Economists expect no change in this stance in February, with a shallow rate cut cycle anticipated.

"While the RBI ensures sufficient liquidity, a CRR cut is unlikely in the next policy announcement, as the central bank maintains a supportive financial environment," the report mentioned.

Centre of Excellence in Chip Design launched

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 5 FEBRUARY

A National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Chip Design was inaugurated on Tuesday at its Noida campus by Mr S. Krishnan, Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

This initiative, established in association with SoC Team up Semiconductors Pvt Ltd, a DPIIT-recognised startup, marks a significant step toward advancing India's semiconductor design and development capabilities.

The launch of the NIELIT Centre of Excellence in Chip Design is in line with the government of India's vision of semiconductor technology capabilities and furthering India's emergence as a global leader in Electronics and IT.

The new Centre of Excellence is poised to address the growing demand for skilled professionals in the semiconductor and chip design industries by offering state-of-the-art facilities for research, innovation, and training in VLSI (Very Large-Scale Integration) and Chip Design.

With a vision to become a global leader in semiconductor innovation, it aims to advance VLSI and chip design while empowering India as a hub for cutting-edge electronics and IT. By fostering world-class education, research, and industry collaboration, the Centre seeks to drive innovation and develop a highly skilled talent pool to meet global semiconductor demands, strengthening India's position in the global electronics and IT sectors.

During the inauguration, Mr Krishnan toured the Cen-

tre's cutting-edge facilities, including the Project Lab and Smart Classroom. The Project Lab will serve as a hub for collaboration on innovative chip design projects among students, professionals and researchers. Meanwhile, the Smart Classroom, equipped with advanced teaching aids, will provide an immersive learning experience for students.

A special demonstration of VLSI-based Intellectual Property (IP) was also conducted, underscoring the Centre's commitment to advancing the design and development of intellectual properties in the semiconductor sector. The demonstration highlighted the Centre's role in building a strong knowledge base in VLSI and cultivating a pool of talent to meet the growing needs of the industry.

Ashwini Vaishnaw meets OpenAI's Sam Altman, discuss collaboration

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 5 FEBRUARY

IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw met OpenAI CEO Sam Altman and discussed India's strategy of creating the entire AI stack - GPUs, model, and apps.

The minister wrote on X that Altman was willing to collaborate with India on all three. The minister further said that the OpenAI CEO appreciated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of democratising technology. During the meeting with Altman, Vaishnaw while referring to Chandrayaan 3 mission appraised Altman on how India had sent a mission to the moon at a fraction of the cost that many other countries did.

"Why can't we do a model which will be a fraction of the cost that many other countries do? So yes, innovation will

bring that cost down," he asked, committing to build a lost-cost AI model.

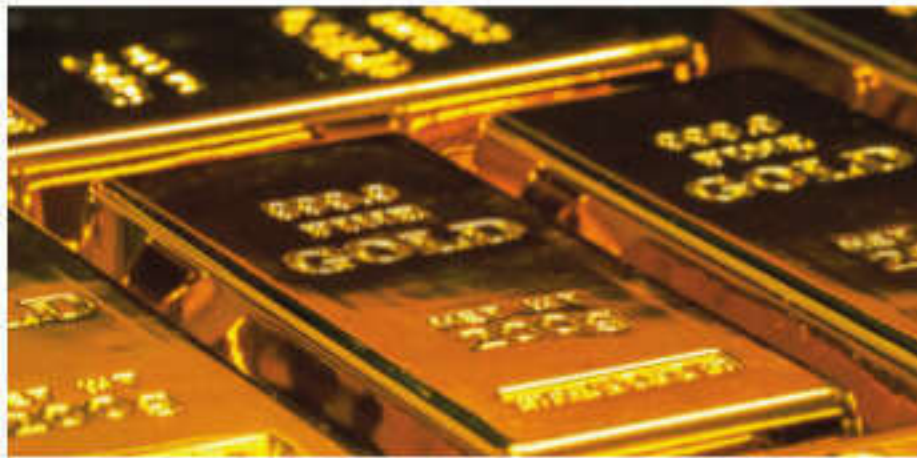
Within the applications in healthcare, in education, in agriculture, in weather forecasting, in disaster management, in transportation, multiple different things India is working on, he said.

During the meeting, which had many startups in audience, Vaishnaw requested the startup community to come up with unique solutions.

The Minister shared a clip of his interaction with Altman and the startup group. In the video the minister said, "We are very soon starting a kind of open competition (for AI)."

Earlier, speaking at the India Today-Business Today Budget Roundtable, the minister said India will have its first foundational Artificial Intelligence model in at maximum 10 months from now.

Global gold demand spikes by 1 pc to a record high of 4,974.5MT in 2024



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 5 FEBRUARY

The World Gold Council (WGC) on Wednesday said the global gold demand including over-the-counter (OTC) trading rose by 1 per cent to a record high of 4,974.5 metric tonnes in 2024.

It said the central banks have sped up buying in the fourth quarter.

Notably, the spot gold prices rose by 27 per cent last year, which is the most since 2010, as investors chose the

metal to hedge against global risks and as the US Federal Reserve slashed interest rates.

In 2024, the central banks, a major source of gold demand, have bought over 1,000 tonnes of the metal for the third year in a row.

WGC highlighted that the National Bank of Poland was the largest such buyer, adding 90 tonnes to its reserves.

Gold prices hit another all-time high on Tuesday, driven by safe-haven demand after China retaliated with tariffs on the United States

in response to President Donald Trump's trade levies.

WGC in its quarterly report highlighted that last year's investment demand for gold rose 25 per cent to a four-year high of 1,180 tonnes, mainly because outflows from physically-backed gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs) dried up for the first time in four years.

Indicating a major shift in appetite for different products, investment demand for bars rose 10 per cent, while coin buying fell 31 per cent.

Notably, the WGC said that the gold jewellery consumption, the biggest category of physical demand, fell 11 per cent in 2024, while mine production was steady and recycling rose 15 per cent.

The WGC expects jewellery demand to remain under pressure and recycling to rise further this year due to high prices.

Indian stock market witnesses spike in participation of women investors: NSE

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 5 FEBRUARY

Indian stock markets has been witnessing spike in the participation of women investors since the calendar year 2022, a report by the National Stock Exchange (NSE) said.

Women's share in new individual investor registrations has been gradually increasing, reaching just below 25 per cent as of December 2024, report by the NSE said.

"Female participation in individual investor registrations has shown a gradual increase since CY22, to slightly shy of a quarter as of December 2024," it said.

As per the report, Delhi (30



percent) has the highest female representation in stock market participation.

It was followed by Maharashtra (28 per cent) and Tamil Nadu (27.7 per cent).

These states have a higher share of female investors than the national average of 24.1 per cent in CY24.

On the other side, those lagging in terms of women's par-

ticipation are Bihar (15.6 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (18.4 per cent), and Odisha (19.7 per cent) recording a female investor base below 20 per cent of total individual registrations in their

respective regions.

The NSE report further observed the growing dominance of young investors in the Indian stock market.

The proportion of investors aged below 30 years has risen significantly from 22.7 per cent in 2018 to 39.9 per cent in 2024, making them the largest investor group.

The share of mid-aged investors (40-49 years) has dropped from 20.1 per cent in 2018 to 15.6 per cent in 2024. Similarly, the percentage of investors over 50 years has declined from 26.2 per cent to 15 per cent in the same period. Even the 31-39 age group has seen a decline, though less significant compared to older age groups.

Tata Power to set up small modular reactors to generate electricity

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, 5 FEBRUARY

Tata Power Company Ltd. has announced that it envisaged to set up small modular reactors (SMRs) across India in order to generate electricity from nuclear fission, informed Tata Power's CEO & Managing Director, Praveer Sinha. However, he did not reveal the amount likely to be invested.

"We are keen to participate but are awaiting more clarity on the amendments to the Atomic Energy Act & Civil Liability For Nuclear Damage

Act," Sinha asserted.

Earlier, the government had voiced its plans for active partnerships with private players to set up SMRs. The government had also promised amendments to the Atomic Energy Act and Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act to encourage private investments in the nuclear energy sector.

"We are actively considering it, but it's subject to what policy directions, what amendment in the Atomic Energy Act are made, and how it provides us the opportunity to get into SMRs and

nuclear reactors," Sinha said. He informed that initially Tata Group companies like Tata Steel and Tata Motors could be potential customers for the company's nuclear power.

"We are also quite gung-ho about it but of course, it requires policy support as well as cost-efficient technology, which is effective to generate power at an affordable tariff," Sinha said. The interaction with him reveals that Tata Power plans to package its nuclear power as part of its clean energy solution to the commercial



and industrial sector.

It may be recalled that in Budget 2025, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced the launch of a Nuclear Energy Mission for the research and development of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) with an out-

lay of Rs 20,000 crore. She had mentioned that at least five indigenously developed SMRs would be operational by 2033 and had set a target of 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047. Incidentally, India has plans to deploy around 50 small modular

nuclear reactors, mostly to replace captive coal-fired thermal power plants, in order to achieve a net-zero emission goal by 2070.

"Small nuclear plants need stringent approvals and the approval process usually takes about 24 months while reactor construction takes around five years after approval. Today SMR projects are becoming very common in various parts of the world. With many new technologies coming in, we should be in a position to implement them much faster in the country," Sinha said.

Sinha expected peak power demand in India to overtake 2024's 250 gigawatts to about 265 to 270 GW due to an expected "intense" summer. A Tata Consulting Engineers (TCE) official had stated in August 2024 that the Department of Atomic Energy's (DAE) 220-Megawatt electric (MWe) Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) is being redesigned using 3D design platforms to develop what is being called the Bharat Small Modular Reactor. The idea is to achieve a high degree of standardisation to replace old captive coal-

fired thermal power plants used by steel, aluminium, copper and the cement industries.

"We are going to take the old design of the PHWR and then reconfigure and redesign it to be modular, scalable and safety-aligned to post-Fukushima standards," TEC's MD & CEO Amit Sharma had said in August 2024.

TEC has been associated with DAE for several decades, with an 85 per cent market share in engineering services in the nuclear sector and is implementing several power projects.



'PM Modi to attend Advantage Assam 2.0 Summit in Guwahati'

The Prime Minister will attend and see the Jhumoir extravaganza on 24 February

AGENCIES

GUWAHATI, 5 FEBRUARY

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced on Wednesday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will arrive at Guwahati airport at approximately 5 pm on February 24, and would attend the Advantage Assam 2.0 Summit.

"The Prime Minister will attend and see the Jhumoir on February 24. On February 25 he will attend the Advantage Assam conclave from 11-30 am to 1-30 pm," CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

The Chief Minister further mentioned that, apart from the Prime Minister, several Union Ministers will also be part of the Advantage Assam conclave which will be held in Guwahati.

"During my recent Delhi visit I met Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and discussed about Kaziranga Elevated



Corridor, Majuli-Jorhat bridge and reviewed the Jorhat-Dibrugarh road, discussed Numaligarh-Gohpur tunnel, ring road and other projects," the Assam Chief Minister said.

Meanwhile, Assam Minister Pijush Hazarika on Wednesday attended the

preparatory review meeting of 'Jhumoir Binondini', the grand Jhumoir extravaganza, which will take place in the presence of Prime Minister Modi on 24 February.

"Discussed key aspects of preparations for a successful celebration of Assam's vibrant culture," Pijush Haz-

arika said.

Earlier, CM Sarma met PM Modi on Monday at Parliament House, according to a statement from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

As per the statement, in the course of the meeting, CM Sarma expressed his heartfelt gratitude on behalf

The Chief Minister further mentioned that, apart from the Prime Minister, several Union Ministers will also be part of the Advantage Assam conclave which will be held in Guwahati.

of the people of Assam to PM Modi for approving a urea plant in Namrup, terming the decision of the Central Government as a 'game-changer in the state's developmental journey.'

The upcoming Advantage Assam 2.0 Summit also came up for discussion, with the Chief Minister acknowledging the valuable guidance he received from the Prime Minister and also the mega Jhumur performance to be staged a day before the investment and infrastructure summit, said a statement.

Bangladesh resumes visa and consular services in Agartala after 2-month suspension

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

AGARTALA, 5 FEBRUARY

The Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Agartala has announced the resumption of visa and consular services from 5 February, ending a two-month suspension imposed after a security breach at the mission.

The services were halted on 3 December, a day after a group of protesters stormed the mission premises in response to the arrest of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das in Dhaka.

The incident led to the suspension of three police personnel responsible for security at the diplomatic office while Bangladesh's Assistant High Commissioner in Agartala, Arif Mahamad, was summoned to Dhaka for discussions on the breach.

The protests were fueled by allegations that Chinmoy Krishna Das, a well-known spiritual leader in Bangladesh,

had been wrongfully detained.

His arrest sparked outrage among Hindu groups in both Bangladesh and India, particularly in Tripura, where historical and cultural ties with Bangladesh remain strong. The demonstrators, some of whom managed to enter the mission premises, demanded his immediate release and accused the Bangladesh government of religious persecution.

Following the incident, security at the diplomatic office was reviewed, and authorities took strict action, including reinforcing personnel deployment. To ensure smooth operations, the Tripura Police and Border Security Force (BSF) have increased vigilance around the High Commission.

Despite the tensions, the mission has now resumed normal operations. "All visa and consular services of the Bangladesh Assistant High Commission will resume

on February 5," Md Al Amin, First Secretary at the mission, confirmed in a notice issued on Tuesday.

Tripura, which shares an 856-km border with Bangladesh, sees a significant number of visa applicants daily as many locals travel to Bangladesh for business, medical treatment, and cultural exchanges. The temporary closure had caused disruptions for those dependent on these services.

Tripura, for long, had deep historical ties with Bangladesh, dating back to the 1971 Liberation War, when the state served as a crucial refuge for millions of Bangladeshis fleeing the conflict.

In recent years, economic and cultural cooperation has grown, with Agartala serving as an important hub for cross-border trade and connectivity projects, including the India-Bangladesh Maitree Bridge.

Police checking identity cards of voters in Milkipur assembly bypolls: Akhilesh Yadav



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

LUCKNOW, 5 FEBRUARY

Samajwadi Party's President, Akhilesh Yadav has alleged that in the Milkipur by-election, police officers were trying to intimidate the voters by checking their identity cards.

Posting a picture on social media X, he wrote that the Election Commission should immediately take cognizance of the photographs related to the news which reported that the police of Ayodhya, including important police officers, were engaged in checking the ID card of voters in Milkipur.

Senior Superintendent of Police of the district, Rajkaran Nayyar has responded to Akhilesh Yadav's post. He said that it was being alleged by some political parties that the police of Ayodhya were checking the ID card of voters in Milkipur. He said the allegation was completely wrong,

while informing that the officers spoke to agents of political parties and have solved their problems. "The viral picture on social media is misleading," the SSP asserted.

On the other hand, SP's MP from Faizabad (Ayodhya), Awadhesh Prasad said that EVMs were not working at many places in Milkipur and booth agents were chased away from booths and fake voting has been held in many places.

Leader of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly and SP leader Mata Prasad Pandey, said: "The BJP government knows that it has lost the election and hence is not allowing people to vote, threatening them and driving our polling agents from some polling booths. It is against democracy. The police administration is working as BJP workers, and DM, SDM, SP are all trying to win this seat in any way on behalf of the government."

K'taka to decide on allowing Class 10 girls to wear hijab for exams; convey decision to SC

AGENCIES

BENGALURU, 5 FEBRUARY

Karnataka Home Minister G. Parameshwara stated on Wednesday that the government will hold a meeting to decide whether to allow Class 10 students in the state to wear the hijab while attending exams and will convey its stance to the Supreme Court.

When asked whether any discussion had taken place regarding allowing female students wearing hijabs to appear for exams, HM Parameshwara said: "A meeting on this matter has not been held yet, but we will conduct one."

When asked whether the government could decide while the hijab issue is still before the Supreme Court, he responded, "It is not about making a decision despite the case being in the Supreme Court. We need to make our own decisions and also communicate our stance to the court. We must present our opinion based on the current situation, and we will do so."

The government in Karnataka is treading cautiously in connection with the matter of allowing students to wear exams wearing the hijab.

During the tenure of the previous BJP government, the hijab crisis made international news and created a furore in the state.

While answering a question on whether the government will allow female students wearing the hijab to attend exams, Home Minister G. Parameshwara said on Tuesday: "We need to discuss the matter in detail and after discussions we will take a decision in this regard."

Tripura CM Manik Saha highlights cooperatives as path to economic growth and stability

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

AGARTALA, 5 FEBRUARY

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha has underscored the crucial role of cooperative societies in driving economic development, reducing unemployment, and curbing militant activities in the state.

Speaking at the state-level conference on "Promotion and Development of Cooperatives" at Rabindra Satabarsiki Bhavan on Tuesday, Saha emphasised the need to expand the cooperative movement for socio-economic uplift.

Currently, nearly nine lakh people in Tripura are

engaged with cooperatives in some capacity. The chief minister expressed optimism that this number could rise to 20-30 lakh, significantly bolstering the state's economy and improving livelihoods. "With a population of around 40 lakh, the potential for cooperatives is immense," Saha remarked, highlighting the sector's untapped opportunities.

He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for strengthening India's cooperative ecosystem since 2014, leading to substantial nationwide growth in the sector.

वरीय पुलिस अधीक्षक का कार्यालय
पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर
लापता: आवश्यक सूचना



सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि आवेदक रुपेश कुमार ठाकुर के द्वारा अपने पिता जोगेन्द्र ठाकुर, उम्र-करीब 60-65 वर्ष के गुमशुदगी के संबंध में संबंधित थाना सिदगोड़ा में लिखित आवेदन दिया गया है। जिसमें आवेदक के द्वारा अपने पिता जोगेन्द्र ठाकुर, उम्र-करीब 60-65 वर्ष, पिता-स्वयं राम खेलावन ठाकुर, पता-बारीडीह बस्ती, बागुन नगर टी0ओपी0, एफ रोड, थाना-सिदगोड़ा, जिला-पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर जो दिनांक-06.01.2025 को करीब 06:30 बजे अपने घर से ड्यूटी जाने के लिए निकले थे लेकिन अपने घर वापस नहीं लौटे हैं। आवेदक एवं इनके परिवार के द्वारा अपने स्तर से काफी खोजबीन किया गया परन्तु कुछ पता नहीं चल सका है।

गुमशुदा पुरुष जोगेन्द्र ठाकुर
उम्र-60-65 वर्ष।

गुमशुदा पुरुष का इलिया निम्न प्रकार है :- उम्र-60-65 वर्ष, कद-05 फीट 01 इंच, रंग-गोरा, पहनावा-काला जैकेट, काला टोपी, लाल रंग की गमछी, गैर ब्राउन कलर का तथा काला चप्पल, नाथ-हिन्दी

अनुरोध है कि यदि उपरोक्त हुलिये के संबंध में किसी प्रकार की जानकारी प्राप्त होती है तो इसकी सूचना वरीय पुलिस अधीक्षक के कार्यालय में निम्नांकित फोन नम्बर पर सूचित करें।

वरीय पुलिस अधीक्षक, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर : 0657-2431006
पुलिस अधीक्षक नगर, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर : 9471190203
पुलिस उपधीक्षक, (मु0-01) : 9431706581
थाना प्रभारी, सिदगोड़ा : 9431706508

वरीय पुलिस अधीक्षक, पूर्वी सिंहभूम, जमशेदपुर।

PR.NO.345820 Police(24-25):D

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE FOR DATE AND TIME EXTENSION

The Date and Time extended for NIT No. 39 / PMGSYIII / MLD / SE / RRNMU / MALDA / 2024-25 / DISTRICT CODE-11 Date: 06-01-2025 for SL No. 11, 12 & 14, NIT No. 40 / PMGSYIII / UD / SE / RRNMU / MALDA / 2024-25 / DISTRICT CODE-15 Date: 06-01-2025 for SL No. 8 & 10, NIT No. 42 / PMGSYIII / MSD / SE / RRNMU / MALDA / 2024-25 / DISTRICT CODE-13 Date: 06-01-2025 for SL No. 6 & 15, for WBSRDA, Malda, Uttar Dinajpur & Murshidabad, up to 13-02-2025 at 17-00 hrs. All interested bidders are requested to see corrigendum notice in the e-procurement portal of PMGSY namely <https://www.pmgsytenderswb.gov.in>

Sd/-
SE, RRNMU, Malda Circle
P&RD Department, Govt. of West Bengal

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE No. CEN00AGC0325

Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction), North Central Railway, Agra Cantt for and on behalf of the President of India invites in **TWO PACKET SYSTEM** open tender on prescribed forms on line (E-Tendering). Tender offer can be submitted on line up to 15:00 hours of 28.02.2025, on website <http://ireps.gov.in>. The details of the tenders are as under:-

Tender No : E-Tender Notice No.CEN00AGC0325

Description of work : Miscellaneous work i.e FOB (12 No.), cover over shed, store shed, earthwork on platforms in AF BKO section.

Approx. Cost : Rs. 41.07 Cr. (App.)	Earnest Money in Rs. : 22.03,700/-
Completion Period : 18 (Eighteen) Months	Date of opening: 28.02.2025
Validity : 90 days	

Note: For complete details and submission of tender please see Indian Railway's website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> 237/25(AS)

[g] North central railways **@** www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in **[X]** **@** CPRONCR

EASTERN RAILWAY

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Asansol Division, Station Road, Asansol, Pin-713301 invites open e-Tender through IREPS portal vide website www.ireps.gov.in for awarding the contract. Details of which are as: **Category of Auction:** Leasing of space in Parcel Van-per round trip (both ways), **e-Auction Catalogue No.: C-3-PARCSAN2002. Train No.: 15625/15626** Deogarh-Agartala-Deogarh Weekly Express. **Date of Auctions start:** 20.02.2025 at 11.00 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-319/2024-25

Tender Notices are also available at websites : www.e.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

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T E N D E R

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
Executive Engineer, .W. Division, Palghar
E- Tender Notice No.141 For 2024-2025

Online-Tender (E-Tender) "B-1" Form For teh Work Invited by the Executive Engineer, P.W. Division, Palghar. Government of Maharashtra Electronic Tender Management System from the Registered Contractors in appropriate class of Public Works Department of Maharashtra State

This tender notice contains 03 (Three) works and their details can also be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-tendering Portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in> and sub portal www.mahapwd.gov.in

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Excluding G.S.T.)	Fund lead
1	Construction of Internal Cement Concrete Road at Dapoli Tal Dist Palghar.	Rs. 49,21,320/-	प्रधानमंत्री खनिज क्षेत्र कल्याण योजना
2	Construction of Road from Dapoli Bus Stop to Umroli Bridge Tal Dist.Palghar	Rs. 96,91,991/-	ठेव अंशदान काम
3	Construction of Dapoli Gaon to Unroli Bridge Tal.Palghar Dist. Palghar	Rs. 97,45,257/-	ठेव अंशदान काम

The Executive Engineer P.W.Division, Palghar Reserves right to Accept or Reject any offer. Conditional offers will not be accepted.

All registered contractor should note.

Above E-Tender Available Date: 06/02/2025 to 20/02/2025
E-Tender Opening Date 24/02/2025
No. P.W./Palghar/Tender/772

Office of the Executive, Engineer P.W. Division, Palghar, Bandhnam Bhavan, Near Dhavle Hospital, Boisar Palghar Road, Tal. Dist. Palghar 401 404.
Date: 27 JAN 2025

SD/-
(S.P.Patil)
Executive Engineer
P.W. Division, Palghar

TPCODL
TP CENTRAL ODISHA
DISTRIBUTION LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Tata Power and Government of Odisha)

TP CENTRAL ODISHA DISTRIBUTION LIMITED
A Joint Venture of Tata Power and Govt. of Odisha,
1st Floor, Anuj Building, Plot No.29, Satya Nagar,
Bhubaneswar, Odisha - 751007

NOTICE INVITING TENDER: NIT No: TPCODL/2024-25/NIT/22

Bids are invited from eligible bidders for the following tenders:

Sl. No.	Tender Enquiry No.	Tender Description
1	TPCODL/P&S/1000001902/2024-25	SITC of 100TB Storage (50 TB + 50 TB) Usable
2	TPCODL/CCG/1000002006/2024-25	Rate Contract for Supply of Single Phase Smart Meter along with Boxes
3	TPCODL/P&S/1000002003/2024-25	Rate Contract for Power Transformer Refurbishment work at PSS
4	TPCODL/P&S/1000002008/2024-25	Rate Contract for Supply of Miscellaneous Items (Utensils, Stationery and Others) for 2 years
5	TPCODL/P&S/1000002009/2024-25	Rate Contract for Supply of Electronics Items (Mobile, TV, Home Appliance and Others) for 1 year
6	TPCODL/P&S/1000002019/2024-25	SITC of Clad rack warehouse at Bhubaneswar Store of TPCODL.

For more details like bid due date, EMD, tender fee, bid opening date etc. of the Tenders, please visit "Tender" section at TPCODL website <https://www.tpcentralodisha.com>. All tenders will be available on TPCODL website w.e.f. from dtd. **06.02.2025**. Future communication / corrigendum to tender documents, if any, shall be available on TPCODL website.

Govt. of Bihar

BMSICL | Bihar Medical Services & Infrastructure Corporation Limited,
3rd floor, Swasthya Bhawan, Behind IGIMS, Sheikhpura,
Adjacent to State Health Society, Patna 800014,
Phone/Fax: +91612 2283287, +91612 2283288

(Notice Inviting E-Bids)

Re-Tender for the Procurement, Rate Contract and Supply of Medical Equipment for different Govt. Health Institutions of Bihar.

Notice Inviting Re-Tender No.-BMSICL/2024-25/ME-403
(Only through E-Tender on website: <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)

The Bihar Medical Services and Infrastructure Corporation Limited, Patna invites e-bids from interested parties for Procurement, Rate Contract and supply of Medical Equipment for different Government Health Institutions of Bihar as listed below:-

Sl. No.	Equipment Name
1	Negative Ionizer/Air purifier

Tender Schedule

Re-Tender Reference No.	BMSICL/2024-25/ME-403
Date of Pre-Bid Meeting	18 th February 2025 at 15:00 Hrs in Conference hall of BMSICL, 3 rd Floor, Swasthya Bhawan, IGIMS Campus, Sheikhpura, Patna (Bihar) All Pre-bid queries to be submitted through e-mail onbmsictenderequipment@gmail.com Upto 20 th February 2025 till 17:00 Hrs. (Note:- No Pre-bid queries would be entertained after the above mentioned dead line)
Last date and time of submission of online bids	11 th March 2025 upto 17:00 Hrs.
Last date and time for submission of original documents of EMD.	12 th March 2025 upto 14:00 Hrs.
Date, Time and Place of opening of Technical Bid	12 th March 2025 (at 15:00 Hrs.) on the website of https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in the office of BMSICL
Date and time of opening of financial Bids	To be announced later on https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in
Validity of Tender	180 Days
Cost of the tender document	Rs.11,800/- (Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred Rupees only) Non-refundable.
Tender Processing Fee	Rs 590/- (on the website of https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

1. To participate in E-Tendering the tenderer will have to be registered with E-Tendering service provider. For this help desk – junction services limited RJ complex, 2nd Floor, Canara Bank, Campus, khajipura, Ashiana road, P-5-Shastri Nagar, Patna-800014, Toll Free No.-18005726571, Email-ID: eproc2support@bihar.gov.in can be approached.

2. Any queries and questions regarding the tender should be addressed to MD BMSICL (either through letter or through e-mail: md-bmsicl-bih@nic.in and/or bmsicl.equipment@gmail.com or contact no. 0612-2219634/35) up to 7 days before of closing of online bid registration.

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

GM (Procurement)
BMSICL, Patna

PR. No.18814 (B & C) 2024-25

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

EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender No.: EL-MLDT-E-Tender-338 dated: 04.02.2025. Open E-Tender notices are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G), Eastern Railway, Malda Town Office, Divisional Railway Manager/Eastern Railway/Malda Town Office Building, P.O.: Jhaljhalia, Dist: Malda, Pin: 732102 (West Bengal) from firms/Agencies/Contractors of repute having experience & financial solvency for the following works: **Name of the work:** Augmentation of Elec. sub-station, electrical assets with other ancillary work under jurisdiction of SSE/E/G/Malda Town. **Tender Value:** Rs. 62,22,039.49. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 1,24,500/- **Cost of Tender Document:** Nil. **Date & Time for submission of e-Tender:** From 10.02.2025 to 15.30 hrs. of 24.02.2025. **Website particulars & Notice Board:** Website: www.ireps.gov.in, Notice Board: Sr. DEE(G)/Eastern Railway Office/ Malda Town. Tenderers are requested to go through the detailed Tender Notice & document on the website www.ireps.gov.in. No manual offer will be accepted in any circumstances.

MLD-212/2024-25
Tender Notices are also available at websites : www.e.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in
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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 provision of Modular Catering stalls under Special Minor Unit (SMU) over Asansol Division. Details of which are as under:-
Auction Catalogue No. Catg-GMU-SMU-25
Seq. No.: AA/1. Lot No./Category: Catg-ASN-BSKH-SMU-90-25-1. **Description of work:** Provision of Catering Services through Modular Catering stall (Size 10'x6'=60 Sq. Ft.) at Basukinath (Category-E) Railway station on Platform No. 2 near Foot over Bridge under Platform Shed for a period of 05 (Five) years. Earmarked for Minorities. **E-Auction Date/Time:** 14.02.2025 at 13.30 hrs. **Seq. No.: AA/2. Lot No./Category: Catg-ASN- CRJ-SMU- 89-25-2.** **Description of work:** Provision of Catering Services through Modular Catering stall (Size 10' x 6'= 60 Sq. Ft.) at Chittaranjan Railway station on Platform No. E-4 for a period of 05 (Five) years. Earmarked for OBC (Women). **E-Auction Date/Time:** 14.02.2025 at 13.50 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 scheduled given .
ASN-316/2024-25
Tender Notices are also available at websites : www.e.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in
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Laws that help

Active citizenry is a Constitutional duty, says Srinivas Madhav

The 75th anniversary of the Indian Constitution presents a unique opportunity to emphasise the importance of Article 51A, which outlines the Fundamental Duties of every citizen. The realization of Article 51A requires a nationwide initiative to instil the principles of active citizenry as a civic responsibility, thereby strengthening constitutional ideals such as justice, equality, and fraternity.

Recent incidents across the country, however, have highlighted a disturbing trend: the increasing prevalence of bystanders who prioritize recording an incident of crime or an accident on their phones over offering assistance or even dialling emergency numbers like 112 or 100. These situations demand urgent attention.

Many crimes happen on streets where bystanders remain mute spectators and do not intervene. It is often assumed that citizens have become unconcerned and lost empathy.

Fortunately, this is not entirely true.

Bystanders can generally be categorized into two groups: those indifferent or paralyzed by fear, and those who feel empathy but are held back by the "bystander effect" - a psychological phenomenon where everyone assumes someone else will step in to help, and finally, none acts. This assumption often results in no one taking responsibility, leaving the victims alone without assistance.

Another obstacle is "pluralistic ignorance," where people interpret others' inaction as a sign that no help is needed. Sadly, this mute inaction also gives the perpetrator a sense of approval.

Active Bystander Intervention Training (ABIT) helps individuals recognize and overcome invisible barriers, empowering them to intervene safely. An active bystander is someone who not only observes a situation but also takes action to help, intervene or at least reduce the violence. A short one- to two-hour session can teach individuals how to recognize psychological barriers like the bystander effect and pluralistic ignorance. It equips them with skills, such as assessing the situation, distracting the perpetrator, involving others, documenting and reporting incidents.

Active bystandership does not always require physical intervention. Sometimes, simply calling for help, intervening verbally or mere offering support can make a significant difference.



For example, bystanders often hide emotions even when they witness deadly crimes - fear, worry, concern, or anger. Expression of emotions by a simple shout, or calling others' attention to the situation can break the collective inertia, prompting action from others.

Similarly, when someone is being harassed, simply asking for the time or directions can create awareness and signal observation, potentially helping to protect the victim. Or drop something or start a casual conversation with the victim or harasser to disrupt the situation. For example, accidentally spilling a tea cup or asking, "Excuse me, can you help me with this?"

The United States White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault highlights ABIT as one of the most promising prevention strategies. Under the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (2013), schools receiving federal funding are mandated to include

BIT in their prevention programs.

France's Article 223-6 of the French Penal Code mandates individuals to assist someone in danger if they can do so without significant risk to themselves. Failure to act can lead to penalties of up to five years imprisonment and a fine of 75,000.

Germany's Section 323c of the German Criminal Code (Strafgesetzbuch) requires bystanders to provide reasonable assistance during emergencies. Failure to comply can result in fines or imprisonment for up to one year, while Good Samaritan protections safeguard those who act in good faith.

Germany's high rates of bystander intervention reflect the effectiveness of such legal obligations combined with public awareness.

A 2023 meta-analysis (National Institutes of Health, USA) of 45 studies concluded that ABIT programmes reduce assault rates by 15–30 per cent in com-

munities and campuses, with effects lasting up to two years post-training. The study noted that 70 per cent of participants felt more confident intervening after ABIT, while 54 per cent reported actually intervening in real-life scenarios. India may consider adopting similar legislation to encourage proactive citizen involvement while providing safeguards to protect those who seek help.

Applications of ABIT: ABIT has the potential to address a wide range of societal challenges, including crimes against women and children, ragging and bullying in educational institutions, human trafficking and drug abuse, as well as terrorism and public safety threats.

By teaching practical tools such as distracting, shouting, seeking help or forming groups, ABIT empowers citizens to take action and prevent harm. To inspire confidence and a proactive

attitude among children, stories of child bravery awardees are integrated into training sessions. The motto "We can save others" fosters a stronger sense of community responsibility than the self-preservation mindset of "Save yourself."

Fundamental Duties and Nation-Building: ABIT aligns with the Fundamental Duties enshrined in Article 51A of the Indian Constitution, particularly Clause (e) - "promoting harmony and renouncing practices derogatory to the dignity of women" and Clause (i) - "safeguarding public property and abjuring violence".

We can instil a culture of mutual respect and proactive citizenship by introducing ABIT in educational institutions and workplaces. This can significantly reduce violence, promote gender equality and build a more empathetic society.

Active Bystandership in Action: There

are many success stories that highlight the power of active bystandership. When Indian cricketer Rishabh Pant was involved in a serious car accident, his car veered off the road and burst into flames, it was two bystanders, Rajat Kumar and Nishu Kumar, who witnessed the accident in the dark and heroically pulled him from the burning vehicle and rushed him to the hospital.

Brahm Dutt, an e-rickshaw driver in Delhi, thwarted the kidnapping of two girls by simply questioning both the kidnapper and the girls about their relationship. The conflicting answers gave him a crucial clue.

In Hyderabad, five bystanders saved a woman from a knife attack, demonstrating the power of collective action. Bal Krishan used his rifle to repel militants in Jammu, protecting his village from harm. In Goa, Nayan, a local, saved a Dutch tourist, ensuring her safety and upholding India's global image.

These stories are a testament to the inherent goodness and responsibility of Indians. With proper training and awareness programs on active bystandership, we can empower more individuals to fulfil their Fundamental Duties and stand as protectors of their communities.

Good Samaritan Law in India: According to section 134A of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, a Good Samaritan is a person who, voluntarily comes forward to administer immediate assistance or emergency care to a person injured in an accident, or crash, or emergency medical condition, or emergency situation.

The Central Motor Vehicles (12th Amendment) Rules, 2020, which came into force from 29 September 2020, recognize certain rights for them.

Good Samaritans can leave immediately after taking the accident victim to the hospital. They do not need to disclose their name, mobile number, address or other personal details to anyone. They can disclose their personal details only if they agree to be a witness. Those who disclose their personal details can also ask for a certified letter from the hospital detailing the help they have provided. Details of these rights should be displayed at the entrance of every hospital. Every year, the Department of Transport may also give a Good Samaritan Award and a cash prize.

474 people die every day due to road accidents in India. If we can take the victim to the nearest hospital immediately at the time of the accident, instead of thinking that our responsibility is complete by calling for an ambulance, we can save some of these lives.

(The writer is a Transparency and Equality Advocate and Author. The opinions expressed are personal.)

Decay in Pakistan's legal profession

Pakistan's legal system perpetuates privilege more than it serves justice, says Ahsan Jehangir Khan

In Pakistan, becoming a lawyer has never been free from navigating a labyrinth of class divides and systemic inefficiencies. The system was never equitable, and its failings have deepened over time. Today, once a student finishes high school and opts to pursue a career in law, two distinct paths emerge: the three-year University of London (UoL) programme — a degree as much about privilege as legal education — or the five-year local law programme, a commitment often made out of necessity, not choice. The former equips you to dazzle elite firms; the latter, with one exception, prepares you for the grind of litigation in the district courts and beyond.

Let's begin with the UoL graduates: polished, articulate, and trained in legal systems far removed from the realities of Pakistan. The only comparable cohort among local law graduates is from Lums, who are in fact better rounded, with training that combines academic rigour, practical exposure, and an understanding of both local and international legal frameworks. UoL and Lums alumni stand out in critical thinking, research, and English fluency, securing them top-tier jobs.

In contrast, local law graduates, besides the chosen few from Lums, are churned out as statute-spouting

machines, their education rooted in rote memorisation and devoid of analytical depth.

Many UoL and Lums graduates see the mess, leave, and thrive in jurisdictions where the law is respected. Since they land cushy jobs and secure their futures, this piece is not about them. This is about the majority: local law graduates, particularly first-generation lawyers, from institutions the world has never heard of, struggling to navigate a profession that is seen as a 'kala-coat' mafia. For these students, the finish line is not a top-tier firm or a glamorous Supreme Court or Islamabad High Court clerkship; it is a desk (or corner) in a district court chamber, handed down by a 'senior' who reminds them daily of their inferiority.

Litigation is presented as the only career option because the Pakistan Bar Council, responsible for setting the standards of legal education, remains entrenched in its old-school mentality. Populated by a generation steeped in rote learning and adversarial litigation, it views modern legal avenues as alien, pursued only by those who can afford international training.

Ironically, the children of the council's elders are immune from this thinking. For everyone else, the council feels that a lawyer who does not appear in court is not a lawyer at all. Never mind that the world has moved on to arbitration and mediation. In Pakistan, if you are not shuffling papers in a courtroom or grovelling before a judge, you are doing it wrong.

For first-generation lawyers, training begins with survival. They join chambers not for mentorship but exploitation. 'Mehnat' (hard work), they are told, will make them great, as if greatness is forged in the fires of unpaid labour.

Their first mentor? The chamber clerk, or munshi, who teaches them



how to ask for adjournments and grease the right palms. Over time, they learn the unwritten laws of flattery, fear, and shortcuts in district courts. Efficiency, innovation, and integrity are not part of the syllabus. Nor is basic legal drafting — just go to the tens of photocopiers at the courts premises and get a sample plaint, written statement, or complaint.

Enter the bar associations and provincial bar councils, the bastions of democracy and fraternity. Here, elections are

less about service and more about securing future clients. Officeholders are not about lawyer welfare or regulation but influence, their roles riddled with inertia and political machinations. Together, these entities ensure that Pakistan's legal fraternity remains a pressure group, not a profession.

Judges, of course, are not always seen as innocent bystanders. Many ascend to the bench with the backing of these very bar associations and councils, and their gratitude is evident.

They are seen to favour bar leaders and 'senior' counsel while dismissing 'junior' lawyers. The term 'junior lawyer' itself is a tool of subjugation. Once admitted to the bar, you are a lawyer, period. Yet, in Pakistan, it is not your skill or merit that defines you; it is your surname, your connections, and how often the judge has seen you at weddings or on the golf course.

Before we look at why the 26th Amendment has come about, why it will inevitably be protected by a

constitutional bench, and why the Supreme Court is apparently toothless, we must first confront the decay of the legal profession itself. The problem begins in law schools, where students are taught to memorise rather than think; it snowballs into a judiciary that rewards the powerful. What remains is a profession that no longer serves justice but perpetuates privilege.

The writer is a lawyer. (Dawn/ANN)



ISL: FC Goa gun for second position, Odisha FC chase maiden playoffs spot

Big rewards at stake as in-form Goa take on a difficult challenge from the team from the east

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE MARGAO, 5 FEBRUARY

FC Goa will be eager to displace Jamshedpur FC from the second spot on the points table when they lock horns with Odisha FC in an Indian Super League (ISL) clash at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Margao on Thursday.

FC Goa are currently at the third spot with 33 points, just one point behind Jamshedpur FC, who are sitting pretty at the second position.

Goa are aiming for a third league double against Odisha FC, since they had won the reverse fixture by a 4-2 margin on January 4. FC Goa have won seven out of the 11 encounters against the Juggernauts against the ISL. This makes them only one of the two teams in the league history, besides Mohun Bagan Super Giant (against East Bengal FC), to stay unbeaten against a single opponent after facing them over 10 times.

In their previous clash, FC Goa lost 1-3 to Jamshedpur FC, which snapped their 12-game-long unbeaten run that comprised eight triumphs. The Gaurs will be eyeing to avoid consecutive defeats in the same season for the first time since April last year, when they were defeated by Mumbai City FC twice.

Odisha FC, on the other hand, have momentum in their side, since they won their last away game by 3-2 against Bengaluru FC, and then drew 2-2 at home against NorthEast United FC. Prior to the match against the Blues, the Sergio Lobera-coached side was on a three-game-long winless streak on the road (D2L1). The Juggernauts have previously managed



back-to-back away wins only twice, between November-December 2024 and December 2023-February 2024. FC Goa are placed third in the points table with 33 points from 18 matches, as they have won nine encounters and drawn six times. They will want to surpass the second-placed Jamshedpur FC

(34), whereas Odisha FC are also three points (25) adrift the sixth-placed Mumbai City FC (28). FC Goa have emerged victorious in all three home matches against Odisha FC, scoring exactly three goals in each encounter.

Odisha FC have scored the second-most goals in the ISL (36), averaging two strikes

per game thus far. Diego Mauricio leads their charts by finding the back of the net nine times, followed by Jerry Mawihmingthanga (5), Mourtada Fall (4).

Mourtada Fall has recorded 21 blocks this season, making him one of only two players to surpass 20 blocks (alongside Alex Saji - 23). Fall is three

blocks away from equaling the record for most in a single ISL season by an Odisha FC player (24 - Steven Taylor, 2020-21). FC Goa coach Manolo Marquez encouraged his team to rediscover their form after their 3-1 loss to Jamshedpur. "We need to play in the way that we were doing, at least, to be com-

petitive like in the previous games," Marquez was quoted as saying in a release from ISL.

The two teams have faced each other 11 times in the ISL, with FC Goa winning seven times and four games producing draws. An average of 3.27 goals has been scored in this fixture.

ISL: East Bengal defender Hijazi Maher ruled out for rest of season



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, 5 FEBRUARY

East Bengal FC suffered a major setback ahead of the crucial final phase of the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 season, as defender Hijazi Maher has been ruled out for the remainder of the campaign due to a knee injury.

The club confirmed Maher's absence dealing a blow to their already struggling season. "After evaluating Hijazi's medical reports, we can confirm that the defender will miss the remainder of the season due to a knee injury," East Bengal posted on 'X'.

The 27-year-old center-back sustained the injury during a training session late last year, just before East Bengal's goalless draw against

Mumbai City FC. Despite initial hopes of a recovery, medical assessments have now confirmed that Maher will not return before the end of the season.

His absence leaves East Bengal's defense vulnerable as they continue their uphill battle to climb the league table. Maher has been one of East Bengal's most reliable players this season, featuring in 13 matches and contributing two crucial goals, both of which helped the team secure victories against Punjab FC and Kerala Blasters FC.

With East Bengal currently placed 10th in the standings with just five wins in 18 matches, losing a key defender at such a stage is a massive blow. East Bengal will next face Chennaiyin FC at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on Saturday.

Bangalore Strikers blow away Chennai Singams

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE THANE, 5 FEBRUARY

Bangalore Strikers rode a superb batting display by openers Ajaz Shaikh and Saroj Paramanik to humiliate Chennai Singams by nine wickets in a totally one-sided Indian Street Premier League (ISPL) encounter at the Dadoji Kondadev Stadium in Thane on Wednesday evening.

Chasing a difficult target of 88 runs, the Strikers swept past the victory post with ease, losing just one wicket along the way and 2.4 overs to spare.

Bepari was the top scorer with 47 runs off just 28 balls. His innings included five boundaries and two sixes.

Paramanik remained unbeaten on 26 runs off 16 balls, with 1 boundary and 2 sixes.

The duo made short work of the seemingly challenging target as they navigated the Chennai bowling with ease, putting together an opening stand of 83 runs. By the time



Bepari was caught near the boundary while going for another big shot, the issue was almost decided in the Strikers' favour.

Earlier, Sumeet Dhekale plundered 40 runs off 25 deliveries to propel Chennai Singams to a challenging total of 87/5. Dhekale's unbeaten stay at the crease

was studded with four hits to the fence.

The Singams were off to a poor start as opener Jagannath Sarkar was sent back to the dugout by Farman Khan before even a single run had been scored.

With Prashant Gharat also losing his wicket in the third over, Chennai were in trouble

at 16-2. However, Sumeet Dhekale joined Ketan Mhatre in the middle and the duo brought the innings back on track with a 28-run stand.

Mhatre scored 20 runs off 18 balls and provided much needed stability at one end of the pitch even as Dhekale tried to increase the run rate from the other.

CHAMPIONS IN ACTION



Action during the Indian Super league clash between defending champions and current league Mohun Bagan Super Giant and Punjab FC at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata on Wednesday evening. Mohun Bagan are well on their way to successfully the League Shield title as they are currently at the top of the points table and enjoy a big lead over second-placed Jamshedpur FC. MOUL Mondal

Jugraj Singh: From water boy at Attari border to becoming HIL top scorer

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, 4 FEBRUARY

The sport of hockey has changed many lives, producing rags-to-riches galore. From the rural heartlands of Punjab and Uttar Pradesh to the tribal enclaves of Jharkhand and Odisha, many youngsters have used hockey to change their own lives and those of their families.

Jugraj Singh is the latest inspiring story of how a teenager, who used to once sell Indian flags and water bottles to tourists at the Attari-Wagah border near Amritsar to support his family, became the top-scorer of the recently-concluded Men's Hockey India League (HIL).

The young drag-flicker Jugraj represented eventual champions Shrachi Rath Bengal Tigers in the HIL and scored a hat-trick in the final against Hyderabad Toofans.

Born in Attari, Punjab, Jugraj's journey has been one of perseverance and grit. When his father, who served as a



porter in the Indian Army, fell ill, Jugraj took on the responsibility of earning for his family at a young age.

Recalling those challenging days, Jugraj says, "I never once

questioned why I was doing it. At that time, my family was my top priority, and I knew that my hard work was the only way to support them and ensure we had food on the

table.

"Selling water bottles and flags was my way of supporting my family when we had no other income. I believed that hard work, in whatever form,

would pave the way for my future, and it did," he was quoted as saying by Hockey India in a release on Tuesday.

Despite these early challenges, Jugraj's passion for hockey, inspired by his elder brother, never wavered as he began playing hockey at the age of seven. "My brother played hockey in our village, but when our father's health deteriorated, he gave up the game to take on our father's job. However, he encouraged me to never stop playing and pushed me to excel in the sport. He deserves all the credit for where I am today."

Jugraj's perseverance culminated in an outstanding performance during his first-ever HIL season, where he netted 12 goals and played a pivotal role in his team's triumph. His memorable hat-trick in the final against Hyderabad Toofans was the icing on the cake. Reflecting on the moment, Jugraj said, "Scoring a hat-trick in a final is something every player dreams of. I didn't

plan it, but once I scored two goals, I felt in my zone and went for the third. Winning the top-scorer award in my maiden HIL season is a huge personal milestone, which I'll cherish for a lifetime."

The 28-year-old defender made full use of the HIL as a platform to showcase his talent. "I knew the HIL was a big opportunity for me to show what I'm capable of. I wanted to prove that I could be a reliable goal-scorer and penalty corner converter not just for the Shrachi Rath Bengal Tigers but also for the Indian team. This tournament has given me the perfect stage to demonstrate my skills."

Jugraj attributes his success in HIL to his meticulous preparation and dedication to self-improvement. "I always focused on reading the opposition goalkeepers before each match, which helped me convert penalty corners. I have made it a point to learn from every tournament, every game, and every player, whether senior

or junior. I constantly work on improving myself, and will continue to do so till the day I'm playing hockey."

As he looks forward to the upcoming international tournaments, Jugraj is keen to carry his form into the upcoming FIH Pro League in Bhubaneswar. "The HIL has given me a massive confidence boost. I am in good form, and if given the opportunity, I will carry this momentum into the FIH Pro League and give my absolute best for the Indian team. It's a big tournament, and I want to keep pushing my limits."

Jugraj's journey from the Attari-Wagah border to becoming one of India's top hockey talents is a powerful testament to the importance of resilience and perseverance.

"I've faced my share of obstacles, but I've always believed that hard work can overcome anything. I will continue to work hard as long as I have the strength to play for my India because this country

has given me everything."

He also expressed gratitude to his Shrachi Rath Bengal Tigers captain, Rupinder Pal Singh, for trusting him with crucial penalty corners in the HIL, saying, "Rupinder's faith in me allowed me to prove my worth on the field. He guided me throughout the tournament, and I owe a lot of my success to his mentorship."

Looking ahead, Jugraj has set ambitious goals for himself in hockey. His eyes are firmly fixed on achieving success at the biggest stages. I want to win Gold at the World Cup, Asian Games, and the next Olympics, where he hopes to help India complete a hat-trick of medals after winning bronze in Tokyo and Paris. "I am motivated to keep improving and delivering for the Indian team on the biggest stages. I want to win Gold at the World Cup, Asian Games, and the Olympics. That's my next big goal, and I will continue to work hard and prepare myself for these challenges."



