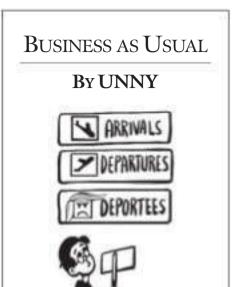
National Expression of the Indian Expression

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 20 PAGES

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Trump says US should take over Gaza, allies say no



US President Donald Trump with Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House on Tuesday. Reuters

AAMER MADHANI, TIA GOLDENBERG & ZEKE MILLER WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 5

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump suggested that displaced Palestinians in Gaza be permanently resettled outside the wartorn territory and proposed the US take "ownership" in redeveloping the area into "the Riviera of the Middle East".

Trump's brazen proposal Tuesday appears certain to roil the next stage of talks meant to extend the tenuous ceasefire between Israel and Hamas and secure the release of the remaining hostages held in Gaza.

The provocative comments came as talks are ramping up CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RELATED REPORTS PAGE 16

during the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj Wednesday. ANI PAGE 8 NOBEL LAUREATES ESTHER DUFLO, ABHIJIT BANERJEE IN RESEARCH TEAM Wide gap between 'street maths' and 'school maths', shows study

PM AT MAHA KUMBH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi offers prayers at the Sangam

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

CHILD VENDORS can mentally calculate complex market transactions in seconds but struggle with simpler abstract maths taught in schools, while their school-going peers excel at academic maths but fail at basic real-world calculations, reveals a new study by a team of researchers including Nobel laure-



THE STUDY points to the long road ahead, including finding ways for the school curriculum, teaching and assessment to connect with real-life skills.

ates Esther Duflo and Abhijit Banerjee that exposes a stark disconnect in India's mathematics education.

The team set out to investigate whether mathematics skills acquired by children in realworld settings transfer to the classroom and vice versa. For this, the researchers worked with 1,436 child vendors in Delhi and Kolkata markets and 471 schoolchildren, and found that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

8,000 candidates join PM internship scheme in 4 months since its launch

AANCHAL MAGAZINE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

JUST ABOUT 8,000 candidates have taken up offers in the pilot project of the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme till the middle of January, sources involved in the process said. The pilot

PAGE 1

ANCHOR

OMKAR GOKHALE

& AJOY SINHA KARPURAM

WITH THEIR laptop allegedly

stolen and decades of research

data destroyed during an alleged

eviction attempt by their house

owner's son in Nagpur in 2018,

Dalit scholars Dr Kshipra

Kamlesh Uke and Dr Shiv

Shankar Das say the only option

MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, FEB 5

phase was launched in October, cepted offers to join the internwhile the scheme itself was announced in the Union Budget for 2024-25 last July.

Of the 1.27 lakh internship opportunities listed by 280 companies in the first phase, partner companies made 82,077 internship offers to 60,866 candidates. Of these, 28,141 candidates ac-

ship as on January 29, 2025, according to a Lok Sabha reply by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs on February 3.

Sources told *The Indian Exp*ress that only about 8,000 candidates have joined the internship programme in the first phase. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

damages for intellectual property loss

they had was to "fight it out". It was a fight that would end up in the courts, which sat in judgment on a fundamental question of law: does 'damage to property' in the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act include intellectual property (IP)?

On January 24, a Supreme Court bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and S C Sharma ruled in their favour, upholding a Bombay High Court order of 2023 that expanded the definition of 'damage to property' in



A military aircraft carrying illegal Indian migrants deported from the US lands at the Amritsar airport on Wednesday. PTI

US plane brings back 104 deported Indians, most from Gujarat, Punjab and Haryana

33 each from Gujarat and Haryana, 30 from Punjab; 25 women, 12 minors

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR & ADITI RAJA AMRITSAR, VADODARA, FEB 5

A UNITED States military C-17 aircraft carrying 104 deported Indian nationals from Haryana, Gujarat, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra landed at Amritsar airport Wednesday afternoon. The flight, which de-

parted from San Antonio, Texas, Tuesday afternoon, also had 11 crew members and 45 US officials on board.

Officials told The Indian Express that the highest number of deportees — 33 each — are CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

FULL COVERAGE

Working on law for safe migration: MEA to panel Mobility (Facilitation and

Welfare) Bill, 2024', to establish

an enabling framework which

will promote "safe, orderly and

regular migration for overseas

port presented in Lok Sabha by

the Parliamentary Standing

Committee on External Affairs,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

This has emerged from a re-

employment".

ECONOMY

INDIA SHOULD BE

AMONG LEADERS OF

SAM ALTMAN PAGE 15

AI REVOLUTION, SAYS

SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

AT A time when the first batch of illegal Indian immigrants were deported from the US under the Trump 2.0 administration, the Indian government is "seriously considering" enacting a new law, tentatively titled 'Overseas

'Congress is only reason why Modi has not been



defeated yet'

RAM GOPAL YADAV SAMAJWADI PARTY'S RAJYA SABHA MP

MANOJCG NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

IN LOK Sabha on Tuesday, Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav demanded "strict punitive action" against those responsible for the January 29 Maha Kumbh stampede.

In an interview, the party's Rajya Sabha MP Ram Gopal Yadav, Akhilesh's uncle, tells The Indian Express why he thinks the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh is concealing the death toll figures, and talks about the state of the INDIA bloc, among other issues. Excerpts:

What makes the Opposition think that the toll of the Kumbh stampede is higher and that the UP government is concealing the actual figure?

Nobody believes the government. The people who witnessed the stampede also think it is a lie. The government has not yet released any figures. Thousands of people have approached the lostand-found counter and some people connected to my family say around 15,000 people are running from pillar to post to find their near and dear ones.

With the figures that (Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha) Mallikarjun Kharge Saab provided in the House, it is CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RESULTS TO BE DECLARED ON FEBRUARY 8

Delhi Decides

60.44% total turnout, North East Delhi highest at 66.25%

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE 70 Assembly constituencies of Delhi, where the AAP is seeking a third consecutive term while the BIP is hoping for a comeback after 27 years, saw a total turnout of 60.44 per cent, according to Election Commission data available at midnight Wednesday. Polling started at 7 am and continued till after 6 pm in some areas.

The Capital had recorded a turnout of 62.59 per cent in the 2020 Assembly polls, and 58.69 per cent in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

On Wednesday, the highest turnout was recorded in North East district, which saw 66.25 per cent polling, while South East district recorded the lowest turnout at 56.31 per cent.

According to the EC's districtwise data at midnight, the turnout was 59.09 per cent in Central Delhi, 62.40 per cent in East, 57.13 per cent in New Delhi, 59.55 per cent in North, 60.70 per cent in North West, 63.94 per cent in Shahdara, 58.16 per cent in South, 61.09 per cent in South West, and 60.76 per cent in West.

Among constituencies, North East Delhi's Mustafabad had the highest turnout at 69 per cent while Mehrauli in South West Delhi recorded the lowest turnout at 53.04 per cent.

While the Capital's total electorate adds up to about 1.56 crore, there are over 2 lakh first-time voters. A total of 699 candidates contested the elections, the results of which will be declared CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal with his family at a polling booth in New Delhi constituency on Wednesday. Amit Mehra



DELHI



for: Better roads. clean water, a remedy for pollution

AAP & BJP face off over claims of fake voting, distribution of money near booths

PAGES 3, 4 & 5

Most exit polls give BJP edge, AAP says never right

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

MOST EXIT polls on Wednesday predicted a sweep for the BJP in the Delhi Assembly elections. while three projected AAP's return to power, and another two showed a close contest Interestingly, many of the polls showed that the Congress may open its account, after drawing a blank in the 2020 elections.

The exit polls are projections made by election survey agencies based on interviews of voters **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



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16th February, 2025

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Dalit scholars Dr Kshipra Kamlesh Uke and Dr Shiv Shankar Das won the compensation case on January 24. Express

How Dalit couple argued own case, won

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 epaper.indianexpress.com

FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM Delhi Decides

on February 8. Polling took place at 13,766 stations across the 70 constituencies in the Capital.

In the 2020 Assembly elections, the AAP had won 62 of the 70 seats, with the remaining eight seats going to the BJP.

The high-stakes Assembly elections in the Capital saw a shrill campaign, with the AAP, BJP and Congress announcing a slew of poll sops — including for women and the youth — in their bid to outdo each other.

While the Delhi Chief Electoral Officer said polling was conducted in a "peaceful" manner, the AAP alleged that voters were inconvenienced in several of its strongholds. It also accused the BJP of distributing money in many areas, a charge that the BJP denied.

In a statement, the Delhi CEO said: "DEOs and DCPs were made responsible for detecting and responding to any complaints or fake news emerging on social media to nip the misinformation bloom in the bud. The DEOs/DCPs through their official social media platforms gave timely responses to allegations and apprehensions

was adopted towards the use of money power in the elections. 88.56 crore worth of precious crore from the 11 districts in Delhi," it added.

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, Delhi Chief Minister Atishi, AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal, Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and Union Ministers S Jaishankar and Hardeep Singh Puri were among the early voters on Wednesday.

been asked to provide details about the number of youngsters

ber of offers made, the accepted

offers, and the number of joinees

This is probably because they were not ready to go to the location offered for the internship," said the source.

The second round of the scheme started on January 9. Partner companies are posting new as well as editing unfilled internship opportunities.

To improve the acceptability of the scheme, sources said the government is now planning to give details of the company, the internship opportunity and the exact location (along with geotagging) so that candidates know a priori how far they have to travel. Earlier, such details were not provided upfront to candidates. These changes may be introduced in the next phase of the scheme. Earlier, these details were kept anonymous, with only the internship's description made visible to the candidate, without specifying the company's name at the application stage.

Further, the age limit is also likely to be relaxed (at present, youth in the 21-24 age group are eligible) at both ends. Further around 49 companies from sectors such as hospitality, tourism, healthcare have also been added to the list as they were considered to be labour intensive.

Among the 280 companies offering internships under the scheme are Reliance Industries, TCS, HDFC Bank, and also unlisted entities including luxury auto makers like Mercedes-Benz.

Explaining why few youth have joined the programme, when unemployment is a big issue, a person involved in the process said, "A lot of youngsters who are applying are not eligible. They are still studying or overage. So those things are being looked at, whether the changes should be made accordingly in the scheme. Even the portal is developing and details such as geolocation, company name, and detailed internship description will be added to the portal at the time of application itself."

To get a clearer picture of the scheme's on-ground status, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, the nodal ministry for the scheme, is also learnt to have asked for an updated dataset from the firms. Each firm involved in the scheme has

raised on social media."

"A zero-tolerance approach Enforcement agencies have made seizures worth Rs 235.78 crore since the announcement of the Delhi elections on January 7. The seizures include Rs 46.48 crore cash, Rs 5.39 crore worth of liquor, Rs 88.36 crore worth of drugs, Rs metals, and freebies worth Rs 6.98

President Droupadi Murmu,

• 8,000 join PM internship scheme engaged in the scheme, the num-

> in each company, sources said. The criteria for education and age might also get tweaked as most candidates termed to be ineligible were either overage or were currently studying in an educational institution. Youth applicants aged 21-24 years who have passed high school, higher secondary school, have a certificate

from an ITI, hold a diploma from a polytechnic institute, or are graduates with degrees such as B.A., B. Sc., B. Com, BCA, BBA, B.Pharma are eligible to apply under the scheme. Reservation structure is also provided to be the same as government jobs for SCs, STs, OBCs and disabled in the intern-

The scheme aims to provide

ship scheme.

internships to one crore youth in top 500 companies over five years. Under the scheme, an amount of Rs 4,500 will be provided per month by the Government of India through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) with an additional Rs 500 offset to be provided by the company's CSR (corporate social responsibility) funds. The government will also provide a one-time grant of Rs 6,000 per annum for incidentals to cover miscellaneous expenses incurred by the selected

candidate during the internship. The internship scheme was a part of the Prime Minister's Package for Employment and Skilling announced in FY25 Budget with an overall outlay of Rs 2 lakh crore. The package was allocated Rs 12,000 crore for this financial year, out of which Rs 10,000 crore was allocated to the Ministry of Labour and Employment for the three Employment Linked-Incentive schemes and Rs 2,000 crore was provided to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs for the internship programme.

In the revised estimates for 2024-25, the amount allocated for the internship scheme was scaled down to Rs 380 crore. For 2025-26, an amount of Rs 10,831 crore has been provided for the internship scheme in the Budget including Rs 59.77 crore of capital outlay.

Most exit polls give BJP edge, AAP says never right

These may vary widely from the actual results. In the 2020 Delhi polls, most exit polls got their predictions wrong. Exit polls went wrong in the Lok Sabha elections and, more recently, in the Haryana Assembly polls too.

The exit polls on Wednesday were not linked to television channels. Prominent agencies like Axis My India and Today's Chanakya said they would release their projections on Thursday.

In 2020, the AAP won 62 of the total 70 seats, with the remaining eight going to the BIP.

On Wednesday, two exit polls, by Matrize and D V Research, showed a close contest between the BJP-led NDA and AAP. Matrize put BJP+ at 35-40 seats, AAP at 32-37, and Congress at 0-1. D V Research predicted 36-44 seats for the BJP and allies, and 26-34 seats for the AAP.

Six exit polls predicted a BJP victory, including a landslide win by some. Chanakya Strategies said the BJP and its allies were likely to get 39-44 seats, AAP 25-28, and Congress 2-3 seats. P Marq gave the BIP+ 39-44 seats, AAP 21-31 seats, and Congress 0-

People's Pulse put the BIP+ tally at 51 to 60 seats, with the AAP at 10-19 seats, and Congress

at 0-1. People's Insight gave the BJP+ 40-44 seats, AAP 25-28 seats, and Congress 0-1 seats. Poll Diary had similar numbers with BJP+ at 42-50 seats, AAP at 18-25, and Congress at 0-2 seats.

The JVC exit poll said the BJP and its allies would get 39-45 seats, the AAP 22-31 seats and the Congress 0-2.

Three other agencies, however, predicted the AAP's return to power. Mind Brink Media said the AAP would get 44-49 seats, BJP 21-25, and Congress 0-1. Wee Preside gave 46-52 seats to AAP, 18-23 to BJP and 0-1 to Congress. KK Surveys and Strategies put the AAP's likely seat tally at 44 and the BIP at 26.

While the BJP welcomed the exit polls' projections, the AAP rejected them. "Be it 2013, 2015 or 2020, exit polls have never been right about the AAP. Every time, the AAP has stormed to power with a massive mandate, and this time will be no different," AAP chief spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar said in a statement.

"We welcome the results being shown by the exit polls but... on February 8, our victory will be more spectacular than what the exit polls have shown today," Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said.

• Wide gap between 'street maths' and 'school maths', shows study

the first cohort could do complex mental maths for sales but struggled with the same problems in textbook format, while the latter was good at textbook maths but failed at practical market calculations.

All children covered in the study were under the age of 17 years, with most in the age group of 13 to 15 years. Further, the working children considered for the study were either currently enrolled in school or had been in school earlier.

Only 1% of schoolchildren could solve practical market problems that over one-third of working children managed easily. The study showed that working children use efficient mental shortcuts while schoolchildren rely on slow, written calculations. "These findings point to a

broader failure of pedagogical practices in India to make usable connections between intuitive and formal understanding of mathematical ideas," note the researchers from MIT, Harvard University and other institutions in their paper published in *Nature* journal, analysing this gap between street smarts and school smarts in mathematics.

The study has been carried out by a team at The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, comprising economists Duflo and Banerjee, Swati Bhattacharjee, Raghabendra Chattopadhyay, Alejandro J Ganimian, Kailash

Rajah and Elizabeth S Spelke. Speaking to *The Indian Express* on the findings, Duflo said: "The

school system is too narrowly siloed. There is home knowledge and then there is school knowledge and the two are not talking to each other, which is bad for school learning and also bad for recognising a lot of talent that's already out there and we're missing... a way to rethink the curriculum is to link the two. In the early grades, that can be through games, activities in groups. The key problem here is that kids are taught an algorithm to solve a problem. They are taught that this is how you are supposed to solve a problem. Then they half understand the algorithm, so when they try to apply it, it doesn't quite work out."

To assess children and how adept they are at street maths and school maths, the surveyors purchased "unusual quantities" of two goods from children working in markets — like 800 gm of potatoes at Rs 20 per kg and 1.4 kg of onions at Rs 15 per kg. They found that most children could do the maths associated with their jobs, often mentally and with no paper aids. However, the same children struggled with school mathematics.

So, for instance, of the 201 children in Kolkata from whom enumerators for the study purchased "unusual quantities" of two goods — not familiar quantities or round amounts for which they may have learnt the costs by rote — 95%, 97% and 98% children correctly answered the total amount due and the amount to be returned in three transactions.

In contrast, when they were given problems that are used for NGO Pratham's Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), only 32% could solve division of a three-digit number by a onedigit number, and only 54% could solve two subtractions of one two-digit number from another. Almost all these children had attended second grade when subtraction is taught.

ference was not one of difficulty between the two types of arithmetic problems, since the market transactions are more complex and "involve several operations" compared to the written arithmetic problems on ASER. Similarly, of the 400 children

The study noted that the dif-

working in markets in Delhi, 96% 99% and 97% succeeded in three market problems by their second To see if maths skills in school transfer to real-world situations.

200 non-working schoolchildren in Delhi were surveyed. They were found to be able to solve school-type arithmetic problems with "high accuracy" when given unlimited time and paper.

A total of 56% of non-working children could clear the division

exercises as presented in school compared to only 15% of the working children in Delhi. In contrast, when they were given hypothetical market problems, only around 60% could calculate the amount due in transactions These children were found to rely heavily on pen and paper and

used strategies that involved several steps to solve a problem. On how these findings compare with other countries, Duflo said there are not many studies of this kind, except for an old one on five out-of-school Brazilian children who showed they could

calculate well.

"What this is similar to is...in my country, France, students do very badly on PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment). One of the reasons that has been invoked is that PISA has a lot of practical questions that's not how French students are taught maths. They're taught maths in this very abstract way and they are unable to apply them. Different school systems are different. The Singapore maths system insists on perpetual back-and-forth between practical problems and more theoretical problems precisely to try and avoid this problem Whether or not they're successful, I don't know. It doesn't seem to be unique. It is perhaps more acute in countries like India or

France that have very abstract

curricula." she said.

• US plane

from Gujarat and Haryana, followed by 30 from Punjab. Three passengers are from Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh each, while two are from Chandigarh. The deportees include 25 women and 12 minors, with the youngest just four years old. Forty-eight individuals are below the age of 25. The deportations come amid

increasing US immigration enforcement measures, primarily targeting individuals who entered the country illegally or overstayed their visas. Before the flight landed,

Punjab Police had made elaborate arrangements at the airport. "We discussed it in a meeting chaired by the CM today. He instructed the Punjab government to receive them in a friendly manner, Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav said. CM Bhagwant Mann had ear-

lier said they would provide al possible help to the individuals. Officials said that those from Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh would be sent home by road, while those from Gujarat,

Maharashtra, and UP are likely to

be flown back. In Gujarat, a police officer told The Indian Express that those from the state will likely arrive in Ahmedabad on a private airline from Amritsar. "The state home department is coordinating the transfer and arrival of the deportees after the formalities and basic screening are completed in Amritsar itself.... They will arrive

Sources said that among the deportees from Gujarat, seven are minors. "When Indians were deported from Vatry airport earlier, they were allowed to return home, and police recorded their statements. That was done to investigate the role of local agents. However, this time, since the US has returned them, we will try to understand what route they took and the nature of their entry and stay in the US," said an official.

in Gujarat on Thursday."

Law coming for safe migration

headed by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, on Monday.

On the committee's specific query about the proposed Emigration Bill 2023, its current status and objectives, the report says, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has submitted that the proposed legislation on **Emigration** [Overseas Mobility (Facilitation and Welfare) Bill, 2024] seeks to replace the Emigration Act of 1983 with a view to facilitate the circular mobility of people intending to emigrate for overseas employment.

"It aims to establish an enabling framework which will promote safe, orderly and regular migration for overseas employment. The proposed draft is under consultation with line Ministries. After the internal consultations draft will be put up for public Consultation for 15/30 days thereafter it will be followed up by Inter Ministerial Consultations along with the Draft Cabinet Note on revised draft," the report quotes the MEA as submitting. Keeping in view the "contem-

porary global migration dynamics and the needs of Indian citizens", it says that 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 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 desires 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," the report says.

An update on the progress made in this regard may be submitted to the House panel within three months, it says.

The MEA has also told the parliamentary panel that the Protector of Emigrants collaborates closely with Indian embassies and consulates to support Indian emigrants in multiple ways, ensuring their welfare and wellbeing, grievances redressal, and addressing issues related to overseas employment, the report

The ministry said that Indian missions/consulates spread awareness amongst emigrants and issue advisories for prospective emigrants. These awareness activities such as advisories equip emigrants with information on safe migration practices, registered recruiting agents, valid foreign jobs, ways to avoid fraudulent recruiting agencies.

It said that they address grievances filed by emigrants on issues like mistreatment, contract discrepancies, and non-payment of wages by foreign employers or any cheating by registered recruiting agents. In cases of exploitation or distress, the embassies work for the rescue and repatriation of affected emigrants. It also assists the family members, relatives by informing them about the emigrant's safe return and any required follow-up actions in India.

These efforts help in safe and legal mobility of Indian migrant workers, especially in countries where high migration is taking place and where Indian workers are more vulnerable to exploitation, the MEA has told the panel.

The House panel report is especially relevant as the Trump administration has identified about 20,000 Indian illegal immigrants as part of its mass deportation plan. Indians comprise about 725,000 illegal migrants — the biggest group outside of Central and Latin America.

• 'Cong is only reason why Modi has not been defeated' possible that the toll is even power in Telangana and It had been decided during the

claims but could not manage the

higher. The government made tall

What were these tall claims?

Firstly, they changed the name of the Kumbh. There is no mention of Maha Kumbh in religious scriptures. Kumbh took place every 12 years and Ardh Kumbh every six years. For ages, people have been flocking to Kumbh Melas without any invitation as it is a matter of faith and belief. But this time, the government spent crores on advertisements. Nobody had heard of Amrit Snan before. Nobody had heard of Maha Kumbh before. So much so that one 'sarkari sadhu' said those who don't make it to the Maha Kumbh are anti-nationals.

When you talk like this, you should have made arrangements to manage the crowd. When you invite someone, it is your responsibility to ensure the safety of that person. If the Chief Minister wanted to play host, then it was his responsibility to ensure that people didn't face any hardships.

The SP-Congress combine performed better than expected in last Lok Sabha polls. But the BJP bounced back in the subsequent bypolls in UP. How are you seeing the Milkipur bypoll?

The BIP did not make a comeback. They did not allow people to vote. Could the BJP have ever won a (Muslim-dominated) seat like Kundarki? Similarly, in Milkipur, they have started voter suppression. Yadavs and Muslims are not being given voter slips. Akhilesh Yadav was not allowed to hold a rally, wrong coordinates were provided to his helicopter.

What is the status of the INDIA bloc? Top leaders of the coalition have not met since the Lok Sabha elections ...

Lok Sabha elections that in every state INDIA partners would support the party best placed to defeat the BJP. For instance, we are supporting the AAP in Delhi but that does not mean we are against the Congress.

In Haryana, the Congress seemed to be in a position to defeat the BJP but why did none of the INDIA bloc parties openly support it like they have backed the AAP in Delhi?

The AAP sought five seats from the Congress in Haryana and we were told we would be given one. While they agreed upon the seat that very evening they fielded Vinesh Phogat. What can we do if the Congress does not learn its lessons? Had there been a joint Akhilesh-Rahul campaign, they would have won 20 seats but ended up with just six.

Do you think the Opposition has lost its momentum after reducing the BJP to 240 seats in the Lok Sabha polls? What can I say? Congress ki arrogance nahi hoti, toh desh ki yeh

stithi thodi hoti (had the Congress not been arrogant, would the country's condition have been how it is now)? In Bihar, Tejashwi (Prasad

Yadav) would have become CM in 2020 itself but they (Congress) did not agree. They fought 70 seats and won just 19 while the RID and other alliance partners had a strike rate of 53-54%. Had Tejashwi been CM, the Opposition would have won 30 Lok Sabha seats in Bihar and Modi would not have become PM. They do not understand, I wonder who their advisors are.

We all want the Congress to win seats in states where they are strong ... In Himachal Pradesh, they are in government but they got zero seats. In Chhattisgarh, where they were in power, they got nothing. Despite being in

nahin paaye, uske karan sirf Congress hai (The Congress is the only reason why Modi ji has not been defeated). Every other (IN-DIA bloc) party except the RID performed well. What should Congress do as

Karnataka, the BJP performed bet-

ter than them. Toh jo Modiji hat

the largest Opposition party? The elder in the house has more responsibility. But they don't even talk. During the Haryana elections, I asked Akhilesh if we got any seats. He said, They are not

even talking.' If they stake claim

to form the government tomor-

row, they cannot do without us but they do not talk to the leader of a party that has 37 MPs. In UP, they have nothing but we gave them seats as we did not want them to allege we do not want to defeat the BJP. They will not be able to open their account

in the Assembly polls if we do not support them. In Delhi, where they do not have even a single seat, they should have spoken to the AAF and asked for eight to 10 seats. What are they doing now? Things that the BJP is not saying about Kejriwal, Rahul Gandhi is. It sends

the wrong message that the BJF and Congress speak the same language. If the BIP wins Delhi, the coming times will show how it adversely affects the Opposition.

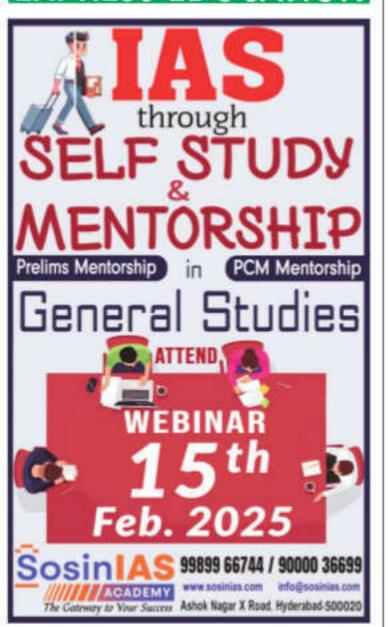
What will you say if the Congress approaches you for seat sharing for the 2027 UP Assembly polls?

If we think their candidate can win, we will give them the seat.

Is there no existing seatsharing formula based on what the Congress won in the

Lok Sabha polls? What formula? They did not even have candidates in some

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How Dalit couple argued own case, won damages for intellectual property loss

the Act to include intellectual property, making them eligible for com-

Talking to *The Indian Express* on the phone from an undisclosed location. Uke said, "We were at zero, but in that situation, the only option was to fight it out. And we chose a legal fight because the community to which we belong does not have any other protec-

tion, be it religious, social or political."

Uke says that in 2015, she and Das, both Ph.D. degree holders from Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University, with a specialisation in International Politics and Political Science, rented a house near Deekshabhoomi in Nagpur, where Dr B R Ambedkar embraced Buddhism in 1956 with lakhs of his followers. They had also hoped to fulfill their "dream" of reviving a school that Ambedkar founded to train potential political leaders.

Uke says that while their relationship with the house owner was initially cordial, it all changed in 2016, allegedly after they led a protest over the Rohith Vemula case. "It was a rally with 10,000 participants and we marched to the RSS headquarters in Nagpur and also protested against the arrests of JNU students that year. A few days later, the house owner's son asked us to vacate the house within 24 hours, but we told them that was not possible since we were expecting the birth of our daughter. So we contin-

ued living there and paid regular rent."

Uke says that in September 2018,

she and Das returned home from a visit to Delhi to find that the owner's son had broken into their premises and "stolen raw research data, survey forms, and laptops containing processed data". Based on their complaint, the Bajajnagar police station filed an FIR against the house owner's son and an "accomplice" on charges related to criminal trespassing, wrongful restraint and criminal acts by several persons with common intention. In November that year, provisions of the SC/ST Act were added to the FIR.

Months later, the couple approached the National Commission for Scheduled Castes seeking a "proper investigation" and asking for compensation for the IP loss they suffered. Uke and Das alleged that they had

lost, among other things, raw data on a survey they had conducted in 2014 — as Maharashtra was preparing for Lok Sabha and Assembly polls that year — on the "socio-political awareness amongst the youth of Nagpur".

"They damaged most of our belongings and stole our laptops, original degree certificates, passports, certificates of paper presentations and even passports. No police officer was willing to register the complaint. Those were the most important and most

valuable things for us as researchers. It was a big blow to our careers and future," Uke said. The incident forced them to leave the city. The couple sought a compensa-

claimed was the "extrinsic value" of the loss they had suffered, with research data estimated at Rs 1.90 crore and damage to other properties at Rs 2.01 crore. They also sought Rs 127.55 crore, which they said was the "intrinsic value" of their property, and included lifelong occupational loss and cost of the proposed training school.

With no progress, in 2021, they approached the Bombay HC, seeking a direction to the SC Commission to act on their complaint. In March 2022, the HC directed the Commission to act within six weeks. In 2022, based on the panel recommendations, the government set up an SIT to probe the criminal case and the compensation claims. While a chargesheet was filed in a special court in Nagpur, the trial

in the criminal case is yet to begin. On Uke and Das's demand for compensation, the district authorities wrote to them on June 15, 2022, granting relief to the tune of Rs 5 lakh under certain rules in the Act while saying that there was no provision under the existing Act for additional compensation for damage to intellectual property. The couple then approached the HCagain with a new plea — seeking a direction to the Collector to grant

compensation for damage to IP. The couple decided to represent themselves. "We consulted lawyers, but most of them lacked an understanding of how the Act applied to evolving instances of caste discrimition of over Rs 3.91 crore, which they nation. They were reluctant to com-

pensate us when we had suffered personal miseries worth crores. Given that the whole government machinery and the system was against us, we chose to fight in court on our own."

The stage was set — two researchers on one side and the State on the other. With no precedent in India for IP compensation, the couple relied on global IP damage cases. "We argued before the HC in six or seven hearings, with each lasting nearly an hour. It was a tough, lengthy, yet enlightening journey. At every hearing, nearly 50 officials from the police and civil administration, including the Commissioner, would be present the system's full might," said Uke.

On November 10, 2023, the HC ruled in favour of the researchers. Since the SC/ST Act lacked a clear definition of 'property', it borrowed from the IPC, classifying data as "movable property" and affirmed the right of the petitioners to compensation for IP loss.The Maharashtra government went in appeal to the SC, which on January 24 this year dismissed the plea, stating, "We do not find any merit in the Special Leave Petition." Das said, "People from the Dalit

community rely entirely on lawyers, unaware of court processes or how police write documents. Though we won the case for compensation, real and practical justice is still a long journey — for us and for most other Dalits.'

Trump: US should take over Gaza this week with the promise of

surging humanitarian aid and reconstruction supplies to help the people of Gaza recover after more than 15 months of devastating conflict. Now Trump wants to push roughly 1.8 million people to leave the land they have called home and claim it for the US, perhaps with American troops.

"The US will take over the

Gaza Strip, and we will do a job with it too," Trump said at a news conference with Netanyahu by his side. The President, who made his name as a New York real estate developer, added: "We'll make sure that it's done world-class. It'll be wonderful for the people — Palestinians, Palestinians mostly, we're talking about." Trump outlined his thinking as he held talks with Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House, where the two also discussed the fragile ceasefire and hostage deal

shared concerns about Iran. Trump said the US would redevelop Gaza after Palestinians are resettled elsewhere and turn the territory into a place where the "world's people"—including

in the Israeli-Hamas conflict and

Palestinians — would live. Egypt, Jordan and other American allies in West Asia 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 US ally, said in a sharply worded statement 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 displace the Palestinian people from their land," the statement said. Trump also said he isn't ruling

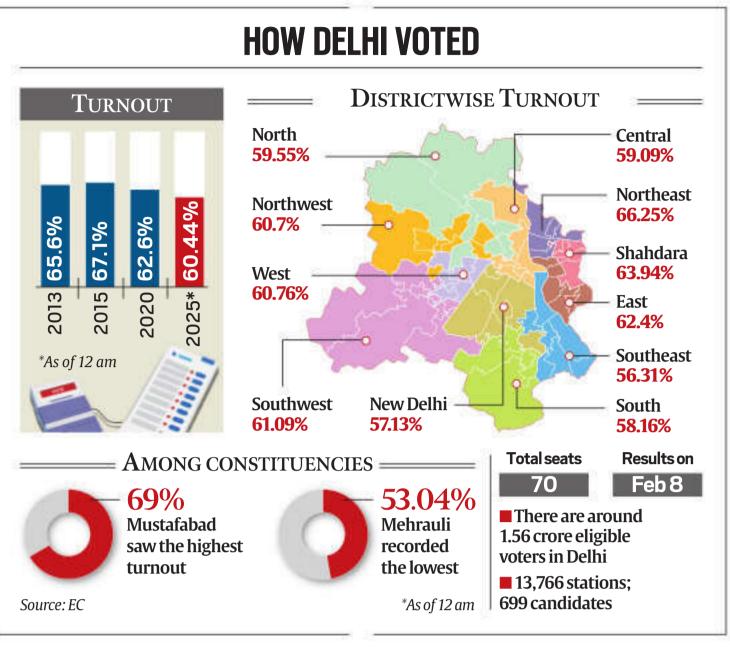
out deploying US troops to support reconstruction of Gaza. The President's proposal was

greeted with alarm by Democrats and a measure of skepticism by his Republican allies. "He's completely lost it," said Senator Chris Murphy, D-Conn. "We'll see what our Arab

friends say about that," said Senator Lindsey Graham, a South Carolina Republican and a Trump ally. "And I think most South Carolinians are probably not excited about sending Americans to take over Gaza...."







AAP & BJP face off over claims of fake voting, distribution of money near booths

ALOK SINGH NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

CHAOTIC SCENES unfolded on Wednesday near polling centres in Seelampur, Jangpura, Kasturba Nagar and New Delhi constituencies, among others, as multiple incidents of alleged bogus voting and distribution of money were reported amid the Capital voting for a new government on Wednesday.

In Northeast Delhi's Seelampur, two groups had a face-off after the BJP supporters alleged bogus voting at a polling centre in Aryan Public School. In a three-minute video clip of the purported incident that has surfaced on social media, two groups can be seen arguing.

Policemen, deployed outside the centre, are seen intervening and bring the situation under

In a statement, the police later said that a woman made a PCR call alleging that her vote had already been cast by someone else. "The call was made by Mohini, 26, of Usman Pur. Inquiry revealed that confusion arose due to another woman having a similar name... who was a previous tenant at Mohini's residence," read the statement. After verification, the presiding officer allowed both women to vote, the statement added.

In another incident, former deputy chief minister and AAP leader Manish Sisodia alleged that BJP polling agents were distributing money to voters near a

booth in Sarai Kale Khan, which falls under the Jangpura constituency from where he is contesting. In a purported clip of the incident on social media, Sisodia could be seen arguing with the BJP supporters and policemen.

"Sisodia and (BJP candidate) Tarwinder Marwah reached the spot and levelled allegations at each other. The allegations of distribution of money could not be substantiated," a police officer said.

Meanwhile, two men in their twenties were detained for allegedly attempting to cast fake votes at Sarvodaya Vidyalaya in Andrews Gani, which falls under Kasturba Nagar constituency, police said. They were taken to the local police station and questioned, they added.

In New Delhi constituency, AAP MP Sanjay Singh alleged that BJP workers were distributing money at a booth near Rashtrapati Bhavan. He claimed that the suspects fled on seeing him. Singh also shared a video on X of a man moving away in a car. Police said that they were looking into the matter.

Meanwhile, following claims that an "extra table" has been recovered near a polling booth at Tughlak Lane in New Delhi constituency, AAP workers were detained. Moreover, an AAP worker, Harish, was also detained after the police received a complaint that freebies were being distributed and voters were being transported to polling booths in South Avenue, plaint was filed by any side," said police said.

In another incident, an AAP worker, identified as Rajan Kumar, was allegedly assaulted by BJP workers near a polling booth at Naraina Vihar in Rajinder Nagar constituency. The incident caught on CCTV cameras showed people beating up a man lying on the road, police said. The AAP in a post on X stated that Rajan was admitted

to the DDU hospital. In another incident, BJP supporters alleged that AAP MLA Dinesh Mohaniya and his supporters attacked the BJP office in Sangam Vihar constituency in the evening. "There were allegations and counter allegations from both sides. However, till late evening, no official coma police officer.

'Feel like Indians today': Pak Hindu immigrants vote for first time after being granted citizenship under CAA

ANKITA UPADHYAY NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

"WE FEEL like Indians today...." says 30-year-old Radhe Krishna Advani, a Pakistani Hindu immigrant who voted for the first time in Delhi on Wednesday after obtaining Indian citizenship.

Radhe came to India in 2013 with his mother, father, wife, and two children. He and thousands of such immigrants have been living in two camps in Majnu Ka Tila and Adarsh Nagar. Like many other Pakistani Hindu immigrants from the area, who are daily wagers, he works at a mobile repair shop.

Voting for the first time made him feel that he belonged to India, especially Delhi. "I never voted in Pakistan and once we came to Delhi... we felt at home. Today, we feel that we really belong here," he shares.

On Wednesday, more than 150 Pakistani immigrants from Majnu Ka Tila voted in the Delhi



Pakistani Hindu refugees after voting for the first time, at a resettlement colony in Majnu Ka Tila, on Wednesday. PTI

Assembly elections after receiving Indian citizenship under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act last year. The process to grant citizenship to such persecuted immigrants began last year in May with 14 persons.

Radhe credits BJP workers for ensuring he and his family got

their voter IDs. While Radhe and his father, Mahadev Advani, received the voter ID cards, the women of the house could not as their certificates were submitted late. "We got our citizenship six months ago and 1.5 months

wishes that the next government looks into the issues of the people living in both these camps.

"In our area, we have a private company (Tata Power) supplying electricity which is very expensive. We hope the government provides us subsidised

electricity just like the other areas in Delhi," he says.

He says every now and then the residents of the area get notice of vacating the area which makes them feel very vulnerable.

"Kejriwal ko hamne dekh *liya...* we want BJP in power (We have seen enough of Arvind Kejriwal. Now we want BJP," says Radhe. He says BJP workers "keep working for us and AAP has not done anything."

Radhe and his brother Lakshman (21) say that during campaigning nobody came from the AAP while BJP people kept visiting.

Nehru Lal (30), Lakshman's neighbour, says that voting made him feel like "a true Indian" but he wishes for better job opportunities for his people. Nehru and his wife both voted in the polls held on Wednesday.

"We are daily wage workers and would like to request the government to help us get better job opportunities and education for our children," he says.





on Wednesday. Praveen Khanna & Amit Mehra

'WHY I VOTED'

back, we received our voter ID

cards," he says. Now Radhe

Development, pollution, women's safety — first-time voters flag key concerns as they vote



AAS MOHAMMAD, 18

Engineering student, Lives in Shalimar Bagh

"Voted for cleanliness, better education, jobs for youth... Current govt has done good work by providing subsidised electricity, water but it needs to focus on roads."



TANUJA, 18

Pitampura village

Class XII student, Lives in "Saw Kejriwal's podcast where he talked about the work he has done... want the government to ensure better safety for women."



ISHA MISHRA, 18

Class XI student, Lives in Pitampura village

"I am happy with the current government but I will vote for vikas (development)... More attention needs to be paid to government schools.'



AKSHAT, 23 Lives in West

Kidwai Nagar "I wish there were more buses. A good public transport system is essential for Delhi. I also want to live in a

pollution-free Delhi."



MISBAH, 18

Studies at DU's School of Open Learning, Resident of Rajpur Road "... I'm happy with the

current govt, its services. Making buses free for women is something I appreciate. We get zero water and electricity bills too."



NITIN RAWAT, 18, KALASH PRAJAPATI, 19, UJJWAL

SWAMI, 21, Study at DU School of Open Learning, Live in Shalimar Bagh



"We want a government that can rule Delhi like Sheila Dikshit did."



ANJALI, 20

great help."

Homemaker, Lives in Narela "Households which don't have a high income or women who don't work, Modi will give them Rs 2,500 and it will be of



SANJANA

CHAUDHARY, 18 NEET aspirant,

Lives in Shalimar Village "I want the government to create better job opportunities for the future."



SUMIT KUMAR, 20

BA Philosophy student, Lives in Harsh Vihar

"Issues like roads and garbage are important to me. Roads in our area have been broken for five months. Blocked drains are a big problem. Traffic is bad."



YUVRAJ SINGH, 20,

College student, Lives in Laxmi Nagar

"I am happy today because I voted for the first time. I expect (the candidate I voted for) will provide better facilities in the area."

- ANKITA UPADHYAY, DEVANSH MITTAL, SAKSHI CHAND, NIRBHAY THAKUR. GAYATHRI MANI

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Narela to Karawal Nagar: Across 70 constituencies

As Delhi voted on Wednesday, The Indian Express travelled across the city, from constituency no. 1 (Narela) to constituency no. 70 (Karawal Nagar) and found that people voted for better roads, clean water, a remedy for pollution, garbage-free streets, and a compassionate government. SAKSHI CHAND, ANKITA UPADHYAY, GAYATHRI MANI, SOHINI GHOSH, VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA, NIRBHAY THAKUR, UPASIKA SINGHAL, SAMAN HUSAIN, PRAGYNESH, SOPHIYA MATHEW, NEETIKA JHA, DEVANSH MITTAL & ISHFAQ BHAT report.

NEW DELHI

IT IS 6.30 am. The heart of the Capital is geared up for a bigticket contest which will perhaps signal who will rule Delhi once results are declared on Saturday.

At polling station 44, near Sanchar Bhawan, stands a man in a grey sweater. He is in a hurry. "I believe the election this time will be very close. Some people want change. I've come early... couldn't wait to vote," says Desraj, 43.

New Delhi is perhaps the most heated battle in this Capital contest, as Delhi's former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal goes toe to toe with Congress' Sandeep Dikshit (son of former Delhi CM Sheila Dikshit) and BJP's Parvesh Sahib Singh (son of Delhi's former CM Sahib Singh Verma).

Two km away from Sanchar Bhawan is Nirman Bhawan – a polling station where 1,100 voters are registered. Among these voters are two big faces — Parvesh and Congress Leader and LoP Rahul Gandhi.

For Akshat, 23, who voted for the first time at a polling station near a school in Laxmi Bai Nagar, pollution and lack of public transport are the main issues. "I wish there were more buses. A good public transport system is essential for Delhi. I also want to live in a pollution-free Delhi."

Nine kilometres away is C R Park in Greater Kailash constituency, which has 13 polling stations. On the way to the stations which are in proximity to each other are various tables where polling agents belonging to the AAP and the BIP – the main rivals in this election – are sitting.

"We've been instructed by our party to check EVMs and their batteries... whether they're fully charged or not," says Chandan (41), a polling agent from AAP.

CHANDNI CHOWK

Haiderpur and Shalimar villages in the Shalimar Bagh constituency are buzzing at 7.27 am. Officers from the Delhi Police and the Central Armed Police Force are on the ground, making sure everything is ready for voters.

At 8 am, Sushma Malik (51), a differently abled woman, comes on her retrofitted scooter with her son Aryan Malik (19). Volunteers arrange a wheelchair and escort her inside. As she comes out, she says: "I voted for improvement. Better roads, better traffic, cleanliness."

Though many people say they are voting for 'vikas (development)' and 'badlav (change)', they also add they are satisfied with the current government.

In the Adarsh Nagar Assembly constituency, 72-year-old Umesh Prasad, a voter from the nearby Bharola village who runs a vegetable shop, says: "Maine apna kartavya poora kiya (I fulfilled my duty). Jo bhi sarkar bane bus nirdhan ko pareshan na karey (Whoever forms the government should not trouble the poor)."

Residents of the upper and middle-income group in the posh colony of Model Town voted against freebies.

The sentiment also echoes in Hudson Lane, a part of the Timarpur Assembly constituency, where many voters spoke about rising pollution levels. Dr Ruchi Singh, a voter from the area, de-



mands that whoever forms the government should bring improvement in the lives of the upper middle class as well. "We don't want freebies, we want better roads and infrastructure."

NORTHWEST DELHI

From the narrow, potholed streets of rural Rithala to the landscaped, gated colonies of Rohini Sector 13, the contrast is stark.

In Rithala's Vijay Vihar Phase 1, the first thing that hits one is the smell of sewage wafting through the air, mingling with the dust kicked up by the movement of pedestrians and rickety two-wheelers. The narrow streets are riddled with potholes, some large enough to collect stagnant water from recent rains.

The polling booth at the government primary school — Dilli Rithala Prathmik Vidyalaya — is an old, unassuming structure. Among the voters is Fatima

Bhano, a 38-year-old mother of two, who stands outside the polling booth, visibly frustrated. Her name was missing from the voter list. "They're asking me to go to Sector 4 to vote" she asks.

For Bhano, inflation and high electricity bills are the primary issues. "Even in winter, when we barely use electricity, the bills are so high. How are we to manage?'

Despite her limited means, Bhano sends her children to private schools. "Government schools are in terrible condition. It's all a show," she says.

Down the road, 68-year-old Ameerka Devi, a housewife, has just cast her vote. She spoke of her struggles with accessing clean water: "Water is not potable. I've been drinking it for years, and it's caused stomach infections.'

As one leaves Rithala, the smell of sewage fades, giving way to the wide, clean streets of Rohini Sector 13. Here, gated communities with manicured parks and high-rise apartment complexes dominate the area.

Outside a booth, 43-year-old banker Jyoti Godara and 44-vearold army officer Abhishek Kumar share their disillusionment with the present government.

A first-time voter, 18-year-old Srishti Garg, disagrees. "I'm content with how things are here, but I do hope the government takes stronger action on issues like pollution," says the law aspirant.

WEST DELHI

The polling station of Government Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya (GSKV) in Khyala village of Rajouri Garden constituency, labelled 'Model Polling Station', is abuzz at 9.30 am.

Devender Singh (56) and his mother Charanjit Kaur (82) say one of the pressing issues for them this election is inflation. "This is an industrial area so we have electricity cuts for as long as four hours during summer. We voted for every possible party in the past but we've also seen there has been no change."

At 12.30 pm in Tilak Nagar constituency's Government Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya, BJP polling agents say voting has been slow but will pick up soon.

The constituency also includes the Widow Colony, where survivors of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots reside. There is no Congress booth outside the station.

Atar Kaur, 65, who lived in Trilokpuri before the riots broke out, lost 15 members of her family, including her husband to the riots. "Humare aansu bas Modi ne hi poche (Only Modi dried our tears). Whatever little happened for us, was done by him," she says.

At the SC reserved seat of Madipur, Hansraj Model School is an anomaly, with its voters from the upscale Punjabi Bagh Extension. Ruby Singh (56) and Gagan Kaur (32), both voters in the area, say air pollution is a talking point for them. "We go abroad and realise we're so far behind in every

aspect — education, roads, cleanliness. Every time they impose GRAP-3 or 4 when pollution goes up, we are directly affected. This is

no way to tackle pollution.." At 4.15 pm in Najafgarh constituency's polling station, Green Valley School, R P Sharma, 70, a retired central government employee, says the BJP has done well to choose a new candidate for the constituency — Neelam Pahalwan, instead of Kailash Gahlot, the ex-AAP MLA from the area who has joined the BJP.

NORTHEAST DELHI

A road cuts Chandu Nagar and divides it into two assemblies. On one side is Adarsh Lakhpat Model Secondary School collecting votes for Karawal Nagar while on the other side stands New Sandhya Public Secondary School which collects votes for Mustafabad. Both schools see a steady flow of voters starting 7 am.

Deen Mohammad (59) and Hakim Mallick (54) are waiting

for a friend to cast his vote on the Mustafabad side. They say they will vote for a party that has a chance to win. "There is no way Tahir (Hussain, AIMIM candidate and an accused in the riots conspiracy case) will win," says Mohammad, explaining why he

won't vote for AIMIM. In Kamal Nagar, the Hindudominant area of Mustafabad, a voter, Shiv Kumar (50), says: "Dekhiye swasthya aur shiksha zaruri hai lekin uss se pehle zinda rehna zaruri hai. Zinda rehne ke liye zaruri hai dharm (Look health and education are important but before that one must need to survive. To survive you need

Four km away, in Babarpur, 17-year-old Anmol Verma, a volunteer at the Sant Parmanand Public School, Mohanpuri, is helping a tired Trilochan Singh (79), who had difficulties walking, to cast his vote.

dharma)."

After casting his vote, Singh says, "Keiriwal has done a lot for schools, and health by setting up

(Clockwise from top) Outside polling booths in Batla House, in Northwest Delhi and CR Park. Tashi Tobgyal & Gajendra Yadav mohalla clinics, free electricity for 200 units. The Centre has also

done some work. We have ration

cards. But because of the BIP bade

logon ko zyada faida hua (rich peo-

ple have benefited more)."

SOUTH DELHI

In Kalkaji, from where Chief Minister Atishi is going up against BIP's Ramesh Bidhuri and Congress's Alka Lamba, the streets have been swept clean. Polling agents draped in symbolless scarves sit at their desks, urging residents to step out and vote. "We worked very hard for the party, and we believe our candidate (Bidhuri) should get a chance," says Vandana Sethi, 58, a BIP polling agent.

Soon, Atishi arrives to cast her vote. The CM's neighbour, Sunita Maini, 69 says, "My father was a *kattar* (staunch) Congressi who fought for India's independence. He used to say even if a dog stood for Congress, we should vote for it. But now, that logic makes no sense. The work being

done here — sanitation, water supply, healthcare, electricity is good."

Voter sentiments are mixed across constituencies. While some voted based on governance and services, others cast their ballots against inflation and economic concerns.

Outside Ambedkar Nagar's Sona Modern Public School Kulvir Singh, 51, an operations head at a corporate firm, is in deep discussion with a friend who is a Kendriya Vidyalaya principal. "Apart from freebies, economic well-being is necessary," Singh says. The principal adds, "We looked at manifestos carefully and are voting for the one that aligns with our personal

aspirations." As the day progresses and South Delhi's constituencies approach the last leg of voting, urgency picks up. At Mehrauli Dargah booth, Khatoon Bano reflects on her vote, shaped by the recent wave of demolitions that displaced many in her area. "We'll vote, with this in mind," she says.

EAST DELHI

In 'jamna-paar', the day began with light rain and voting picked up only around 10 am.

In Patparganj — where forme **Deputy Chief Minister Manish** Sisodia is the outgoing MLA and is contesting this time from Jangpura — many claim due to increased anti-incumbency, change seems to be the buzzword.

Agrim Kulsheshta, 22, the first one to vote at Mayur Vihar pocket 3, polling booth 99 and 100, says, "I voted for change... Mayur Vihar has several developed apartments but the areas here lack development... As you step out of your house, you feel like you are in hell.. from traffic jams to poisonous air, potholed roads..."

In line to cast his vote at Trilokpuri constituency, Dharmendra, a WiFi provider said, "We don't have to point out anything because everything is in the open... I would have voted for AAP if they had repaired something or at least provided a sewer connection... My vote has gone to the party that is thinking about the upliftment of Dalits."

Trilokpuri, a reserved constituency, has a sizable migrant population settled from Theni and Tirunelveli districts of Tamil Nadu.

Annaveli (65) says, "I came here with a six-month toddler about 55 years ago from Tamil Nadu... Block 22 where a large number of Tamilians live faces a water crisis... Sometimes, we get stinking water... during the rain,

water enters our home...." In Laxmi Nagar, where BJP is currently in power, Archit Gupta who works at All India Radio said, "My vote has gone against freebies... I want fresh air, congestionfree roads and footpaths to walk... hospitals and schools..."

In Shaheen Bagh, under Okhla constituency, Huma, a clinical psychologist, appreciated BJP's promise of providing "free pregnancy kits and Rs 21,000 to pregnant women." "I feel this is a great scheme as facilities for pregnant women in Delhi are not good... it is implemented, mothers, especially single mothers will get a lot of help...," she says.

GROUND REPORT

'No parks, no new infra — my village has been the same for 15 yrs'

At polling station no. 1 in Delhi's Lampur village, discontent simmers

VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA& DEVANSH MITTAL NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

YELLOW BARRICADES stand out amid wheat crops in Lampur, Delhi's last village. A kilometre away on the other side is Haryana, where the sight of lush fields is far more common. Located on the Northwestern edge of Delhi. the village falls under the Narela Assembly constituency. On Wednesday, its government school, Nagar Nigam Prathmik (Co-ed) Utkrisht Vidyalaya, doubles up as polling station no. 1 as

Delhi goes to polls. From the seat, the AAP has fielded Dinesh Bharadwaj, replacing sitting MLA Sharad Kumar. The BJP has fielded Raj Karan Khatri and the Congress candidate is Aruna Kumari.

Outside the primary school, a group of farmers, dressed in woolen sweaters, discuss everything from crop yields to local politics as they wait to vote. Their conversations show a simmering discontent.

Pointing to the barricades, Prem Singh Saini, says, "Bas ek kilometre dur hai Haryana, Aur yahan humare halat dekh lo. (Haryana is just a kilometre away, but look at

our condition here)." He is referring to what he says are better civic amenities across the border.

The 65-year-old, who owns five acres of land, adds, "We've been facing immense losses because of unpredictable weather. There's no insurance for vegetable crops. When a hailstorm destroyed my harvest two years ago, I received no help from the AAP."

The village, predominantly dominated by Sainis, is a picture of neglect with its crumbling infrastructure and glaring lack of development.

"The roads are all broken," says 49-year-old Anil Saini, who has lived in Lampur all his life. "AAP built a community hall here, but it's been lying vacant for years. There are no parks, no new infrastructure. My village has been the



Outside Nagar Nigam Prathmik (Co-ed) Utkrisht Vidyalaya, the polling booth in Lampur village. Express

epaper.indianexpress.com

same for the past 15 years."

Navigating the pothole-riddled roads to reach the polling station, 55-year-old Choti Devi and her daughter-in-law Taravati

could be seen covering their faces with their saree pallus. Taravati's hopes, like those of many women in the village, rest on promises yet to be fulfilled.

Samman Yojana by AAP and the Mahila Samridhi Yojana by BJP," the 32-year-old says. "Dono ka card bhara hai, dekhte hai ab konsa milega (I filled forms for both schemes; let's see which one comes through)." For Choti Devi, the lack of ba-

"I enrolled in both the Mahila

sic amenities overshadows any election rhetoric. "We haven't been able to make ration cards for years, and no leader has helped us," she says.

"When it rains, the roads are impossible to travel on. And because we're near the border, there are safety concerns too."

She adds with a resigned sigh, "Vote daal toh diye, ab sab bhagwan *ke haath me* (We've cast our votes: now it is in God's hands)."

The lack of a secondary

school for girls in the village is another pressing issue. "Our girls have to go to another village to study. We want a school here so they can be safe," Choti Devi says. The frustration with the lack

of development isn't confined to roads and schools. Vimla Devi, 56, a housewife, points to the broken sewer lines in Dal Mill street. "All the sewers are open, and the sewage is flowing in the streets," she says.

Like the others, she is disillusioned by the local leadership. "If no one listens to us this time, I won't vote in the next election," she insists.

The farmers in the village are also frustrated by the lack of government support for their crops. Ten km away is the Singhu border, a stark reminder for them of the year-long farmers' protest between 2020 and 2021 when thousands of farmers – primarily from Punjab and Haryana — marched to Delhi to demand the repeal of three contentious agriculture laws. For Lampur's farmers, the

protests symbolised hope — and eventual heartbreak. "MSP hataoge toh kisaan fasal

kaise ugaega?" asked Prem Singh, referring to the government's minimum support price. "No party is truly listening to us."

Surender Saini, 58, who cultivates eight acres of wheat and vegetables, held a contrasting view. "Yeh aandolan bas rajneeti tha (the protests were all political). I've stopped paying attention because I've lost hope." He says his earnings have dropped by Rs 1,000 per quin-

tal compared to previous years.



President Droupadi Murmu after casting her vote at Dr Rajendra Prasad Kendriya Vidyalaya polling station inside Rashtrapati Bhavan complex on Wednesday. ANI



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar after casting his vote at Tughlag Crescent. PTI



L-G V K Saxena with wife Sangita Saxena at a polling booth in Civil Lines. PTI



BJP MP Manoj Tiwari shows his inked finger. ANI



AAP Jangpura candidate Manish Sisodia poses for pictures with his wife Seema. PTI



BJP's Bijwasan candidate Kailash Gahlot poses with his family after casting his vote. ANI

SPEAK

Freebies or development — East Delhi divided

GAYATHRI MANI NEW DELHI. FEBRUARY 5

WHILE BOTH BIP and Congress have conceded the success of AAP's freebie narrative, East Delhi stands divided – its slum and lower middle class voters favouring freebies or subsidies offered by all the three main parties in fray but its middle class seeking

infrastructural development.

The Indian Express visited 10 Assembly segments in the East Delhi Lok Sabha constituency – Jangpura, Okhla, Trilokpuri, Kondli, Patparganj, Laxmi Nagar, Krishna Nagar, Vishwas Nagar, Gandhi Nagar and Shahdara. There is palpable anger among a large number of people, especially the middle class, who live in upscale gated colonies, when it comes to freebies or subsidies offered by the AAP government – free electricity up to 200 units, free water as well as free bus rides for women, among others.

Vineet Kumar Batra, a resident of Delhi Police Apartment in Mayur Vihar 1, which falls under Patparganj constituency, thinks people are not talking about real issues anymore.

"This time, all parties are offering freebies... No party is talking about actual issues – encroachment, clean water, pollution and better roads... But I don't blame them. They (parties) are also offering what the majority of the people want. People of Delhi have become blind... they want free electricity but not good roads to walk on and clean air to breathe," he says.

A 19-year-old resident of the

society, Tanasvi, who is voting for the first time, adds, "AAP was in power for 10 years and only made fake promises..."

Rakesh Kumar (64), a resident Fine Home Apartments at Mayur Vihar 1, echoed similar sentiments. "Delhi's condition will improve only when freebies are stopped..."

"The AAP did nothing but indulge in corruption and blamed the Union government for everything. Delhi needs a double engine government this time," adds M K Joshi (81), a resident of Acharya Niketan.

At AAP strongholds like Trilokpuri and Kondli, too, people are looking for change.

Arvind Sharma, who works as a painter and lives in Trilokpuri, says, "I want development and a good future for my children. There are no jobs... all parties are talking about giving cash doles of Rs 2,100 and Rs 2,500 to women and free electricity. All these things are okay but what about salary hikes... You should instead increase salary of daily wagers and provide jobs..."

Amarnath, a carpenter from Trilokpuri, says, "AAP is giving subsidised electricity but it is not enough... In the end you want a stable job..."

In Kondli, however, residents hope for AAP's third term. Himanshu, a 23-year-old student, says, "I voted for Monu (AAP's Kuldeep Kumar). He has done a lot of work. There are some pending works in the area which I believe he will finish."

Suresh Kumar, a voter in Kondli, adds, "The BIP had made some good promises but they think about the rich... I only have faith in (Arvind) Kejriwal... I hope he will give us pension after returning to power."

Haseena, a resident of Trilokpuri, says, "Saving Rs 800 in electricity bills per month and free bus rides are huge when it comes to poor families like us... I believe AAP will be the only party to give cash dole to women."

For Dharmendra, who works as a driver, corruption allegations against AAP is not an issue.

"At least he (Kejriwal) is helping the poor, instead of filling his pockets only... He does what he says... He is one of us, a common man..."

A few kilometers away, at

Laxmi Nagar, Shubham Mishra (28), who works in the finance sector, claims "AAP's term was over in Delhi". "We get polluted water, face

pollution and traffic jam... The roads are bad. I have relatives in UP and NCR cities like Ghaziabad and Noida. The Modi government has done a lot of development there."

Ritika Mishra, a working professional, says, "I am a taxpayer and have the right to expect basic amenities like clean air, water and better roads... but our current government is taking my money and giving it to others."

Rajni Kapoor (43), a homemaker, adds, "I don't want Rs 2,100 or Rs 2,500. Provide jobs and better facilities, we will work hard and earn money."

Muneer Mohammad, a data scientist and a resident of Shaheen Bagh, also seeks change. "I think AAP got the opportunity for 10 years and now someone else should be given a chance..."

Three-tier security to guard EVMs at 19 strongrooms

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

THE DELHI Police has made elaborate security arrangements to guard 19 strongrooms containing EVMs and VVPATs, with voters on Wednesday sealing the fates of 699 candidates contesting the Assembly polls in the Capital.

Police have set up a dedicated team of personnel led by an additional DCP-level officer for each strongroom across 11 districts in the city. North East and New Delhi districts have three strongrooms each.

"The strongrooms have three layers of security with two companies of paramilitary personnel inside and a layer of Delhi Police personnel outside. They have been deployed round the clock," a senior police officer said. Over 350 CCTV cameras have been installed at the centres, he said.

On Wednesday, voting started at 7 am and concluded at 6 pm. There was no report of EVM malfunctioning in the day, the officer said.

After the completion of the polling on Wednesday, the presiding officer closed the button of the control unit of the EVMs and they were sent back to the strongrooms in the evening, another police officer said.

The EVMs and VVPATs will be kept in a double lock system under the watch of the CCTV cameras.

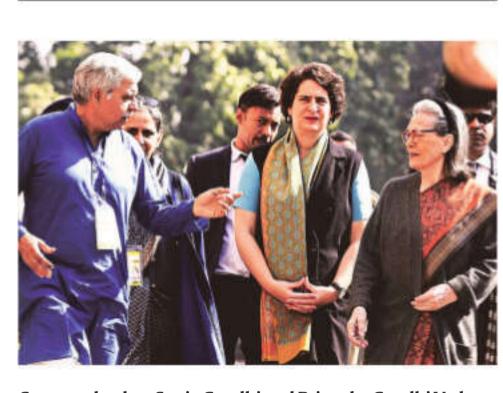
The Election Commission allows candidates and their representatives to camp in the front of the strongroom, the officer said.



Chief Minister Atishi leaves after casting her vote in Kalkaji on Wednesday. Tashi Tobgyal



Rahul Gandhi after casting vote at the Nirman Bhawan polling centre in New Delhi. Anil Sharma



Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra with party's New Delhi candidate Sandeep Dikshit. Anil Sharma



Congress Kalkaji candidate Alka Lamba and BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj after they voted. PTI



Security personnel guard a polling station in Jafrabad on Wednesday. Praveen Khanna

HELPING HAND

'Woke up at 3 am... as I was so excited': School students volunteer at poll booths



CLASS 11 STUDENT Puneet woke up at 3 am on Wednesday. He was among the thousands of student volunteers from government schools deployed at election booths to ensure a smooth polling experience as voters across the Capital stepped out to exercise their franchise.

"I am very excited. I am doing this for the first time, and every time someone thanked me for helping them, it made me happy. It feels like I have grown up. It is a big responsibility," said the 16year-old as he helped voters at a pink booth at MCD Primary School in Madangir village of the Ambedkar Nagar Assembly constituency.

"Our school sent us, and we will be getting Rs 800 for volunteering today. Three days ago, we trained at Kamla Nehru College. We have to help the elderly and differently abled people. We offer them wheelchairs and also help them cast their vote," explained Puneet whose father works at a cake-making factory in Haryana.

At Satya Public School in Devli village, Satish Kuhi, 17, and Suraj Patel, 15, carefully matched names on voter IDs with those



Student volunteers Dev and Tushar said that EC officials gave them a lowdown of the entire process at the booth. Express

on the voting slips carried by people in a long queue. They also helped the elderly and differently abled electors.

They were also told to check the voter slips, ensure that people were not carrying their phones inside the booth and provide wheelchair service to the elderly.

The duo from a government school in Malviya Nagar said they were not provided any training beforehand. Even before they started the day's tasks, they had to face a challenge. "There was some confusion about which school we had to go to. We were first asked to go to one polling booth and then to another. It took an hour before we were able to figure out that this was the school we had to come to. We have been standing here since morning," said Satish.

For Dev, 17, a student of Govt Boys Senior Secondary School No 2, Roop Nagar, it was an opportunity to learn a key democratic practice. Keen to cast his vote as soon he becomes eligible, he asserted, "We have become a part of a process that selects the government of a state and there is nothing more exciting than

this." He was deployed at a booth near Kingsway Camp. His

schoolmate Tushar Jain, 15, asserted that "the Election Commission officials made us understand the entire voting process and we understood how a ballot is cast."

It was a learning experience for student volunteer Yogesh too. "We even learned to communicate our names in sign language," he said.

Jiya (17), Kashish (15), and Vanshika (15) from Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya volunteered at a polling booth in Pitampura Village. The girls said that they opted to volunteer to serve the people.

While Jiya aspires to become a journalist by pursuing mass communication, Kashish and Vanshika said they will opt for humanities at Delhi University. Jiya said she wanted to understand the process of election which is why she took up the role. According to Vanshika, her mother was also participating in the volunteering work which made her opt for it too.

The school students were among the 8,715 volunteers deployed by the Election Commission across 13,766 polling stations in 2,696 locations across Delhi. These volunteers were appointed to ensure a seamless voting experience providing wheelchairs and support to the elderly and speciallyabled voters.



BJP's New Delhi candidate Parvesh Sahib Singh poses with wife and daughter after casting vote. Anil Sharma



Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna at a polling booth on Wednesday. Anil Sharma

GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



INTERNAL DEMOCRACY

CONGRESS'S WAYANAD MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is likely to speak on the Union Budget in the Lower House this week. Party sources said Priyanka was offered a chance to speak during the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, but she refused, citing a new "internal norm" of the party which mandates that one member can't speak during consecutive debates in Parliament. The "norm", it is learnt, is backed by Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi who wants all 99 members to get a chance to speak in the Lok Sabha during the Budget Session in his efforts to further democratise the party's functioning in both Houses of Parliament.

ICON BY ANY NAME

CONGRESS MP Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday had a faux pas moment during his speech at a programme in Patna to mark the 130th birth anniversary of Dalit icon Jaglal Choudhary. Gandhi, who was on a second visit to poll-bound Bihar in less than three weeks, called Choudhary "Jagat Chaudhary" twice and had to be corrected by Congress leaders in the crowd. Acknowledging his mistake, he apologised and went ahead with his speech praising Choudhary's contribution to society.

NIGHT WATCH

After a hectic day of polling in Milkipur, the workers of the BJP and other Independent candidates left for their destinations even as Samajwadi Party's polling agents followed the administration's vehicles carrying EVMs to the strongroom. They had instructions from the party to keep an eye until the EVMs were locked inside the strongroom, which is around 28 km away from Milkipur. The SP leadership has also assigned duties to party workers to keep a watch on the strongrooms round-the-clock until the counting of votes begins on February 8. A party leader said they were cautious as they feared the administration "under the pressure of the ruling BJP can take any step to affect the results".

Days after civic poll rout, Jagan says, 'will be back... different and stronger'

SREENIVAS JANYALA HYDERABAD, FEBRUARY 5

TWO DAYS after YSRCP suffered

embarrassing defeats in a number of urban local body polls, party chief and former Andhra Pradesh CM Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy vowed Wednesday that he would return soon as "Jagananna 2.0", strengthen his outfit and protect its workers.

"Jagananna 2.0 will be different, stronger," he said at a meeting with party leaders and YSRCP corporators of Vijayawada Municipal Corporation at his residence in Guntur's Tadepalli.

The meeting also comes amid an erosion of YSRCP cadre and support base after it lost the 2024 state polls.

In the urban local polls polls in Eluru, Nellore, Hindupur, Tirupati and Nandigama, TDP candidates and Independents supported by TDP-led NDA won the posts of Deputy Mayor and Municipal Chairperson despite strong local support for YSRCP.

In some places, YSRCP mem-

bers cross-voted for TDP or de-

ARUN JANARDHANAN

ERODE (EAST) witnessed a

67.97% voter turnout as of 11 pm

in the byelection, where the DMK

faces a direct contest from NTK,

led by Tamil nationalist leader

Seeman, following an election

boycott by the AIADMK, BJP, and

The bypoll was necessitated

other opposition parties.

CHENNAI, FEBRUARY 5

fected to it, giving the ruling party easy wins.

Jagan told dejected YSRCP leaders that "Jagananna 2.0" would operate differently, focusing on protecting and supporting every party worker amid "harassment" under the TDP-led government.

"When in Opposition, challenges are inevitable. But we must remain steadfast in our values. Hardships don't last forever. I faced unjust imprisonment for 16 months due to political conspiracies by Congress and TDP. Yet, I never took a step back. With the people's trust, I became the CM. I assure you — our party will return to power and rule the state for next 30 years," he said

at the meeting. Jagan accused the TDP-led NDA government of failing to implement its promised 'super six' schemes, and destroying key institutions, and told YSRCP leaders to take this message to people. "Scams have become rampant, with kickbacks from MLAs to the CM himself. People will soon hold them accountable," he said.

Amid fresh churn in Manipur BJP, Biren in Six Opp-ruled Delhi, braces for stormy Assembly session and are not expected to attend the and ex-CM Okram Ibobi Singh

SUKRITA BARUAH & LIZ MATHEW GUWAHATI, NEW DELHI, FEB 5

AHEAD OF the upcoming Manipur Assembly session, the simmering discontent among a section of ruling BJP MLAs has again surfaced, even as CM N Biren Singh landed in Delhi Wednesday.

The CM's Delhi trip comes soon after state Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Y Khemchand Singh, a known Biren critic, went to Delhi after being reportedly summoned by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Last week, Manipur Speaker and BJP leader Th. Satyabrata Singh had also met Shah in Delhi.

Ahead of the Assembly session from February 10, several state BJP leaders, upset with both Biren's leadership and Centre's management of the Manipur crisis, have again started putting pressure on the party leadership.

Without spelling out their proposed course of action, one of the dissident BJP MLAs said, "For the last two years, neither the state leadership nor the Centre has come up with a roadmap for

No change of guard in Manipur for now, say BJP sources

peace and they are just diverting attention by saying 'we will seal the border', 'we will implement the NRC' or 'launch a war on drugs'. But the main issue is restoration of peace and normalcy. We are saying if there is no change in this before the Assembly session begins, something big and unprecedented will

Another BJP MLA said, "More than two-third of the BIP MLAs are not happy with the current leadership. So everyone is going to make some move in the interest of the public and the state. The turmoil is intolerable. We cannot wait anymore."

happen during the session."

Manipur has been roiled by a conflict since May 3, 2023, which has killed over 250 people.

The 10 Kuki-Zo MLAs of the 60-member Manipur Assembly have not been attending its sessions since the start of ethnic strife,

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee at the business summit in Kolkata, Wednesday. Reliance

Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani, JSW Group chairman Sajjan Jindal, RP-Sanjiv Goenka

Bengal business boost: From

synergy panel to mine project

the CM said the mining at "Asia's

second largest coal mine" will

start Thursday and around 1,240

million tonnes of coal and 675

MT of basalt is expected to be

mined from there. "Job opportu-

nities will also be provided to

land donors. Family members of

the landowners will be provided

began Wednesday, saw partici-

pation of prominent industrial-

ists like Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani and ISW

Group chairman Sajjan Jindal.

Promising to double invest-

ment to ₹1 lakh crore by the end

of the decade, Ambani said Bengal

was seeing a "renaissance in econ-

omy and business" and that it was

the best time to invest. He praised

the CM for being a "tireless leader

and one of the most-ablest ad-

₹16,000 crore to build an 800 MW

power plant in Salboni in Paschim

Medinipur, Jindal said: "It's always

Announcing an investment of

ministrators in the country".

The two-day summit, which

jobs," she said.

Group chairman Sanjiv Goenka, and ITC chairman and MD Sanjiv Puri are also seen. Partha Paul

EIGHTH BENGAL GLOBAL BUSINESS SUMMIT

upcoming session too. NPP MLA N Kayisii passed away last month. The remaining MLAs comprise 30 BJP members, five members of its ally Naga People's Front, one from another NDA ally ID(U), two Independents, five Congress members and six from the NPP which withdrew support from the Biren government last year.

Amid fresh political churn, the Congress said it was "observing" dissension within the BIP.

"We don't have the numbers to move a no-confidence motion but we are told there is internal bickering within BIP and more than 10 MLAs are against the CM. Our Political Advisory Committee is taking stock of the situation and we are observing it. We will... do what it takes to restore stability to Manipur," said AICC in-charge of Manipur, Girish Chodankar.

Manipur Congress chief K Meghachandra said a proposal to bring a no-confidence motion would be discussed, among other things, in CLP meet on the eve of session. "At the same time", he said, "BJP has a divided

inspiring to see the passion and

love with which Mamata Didi is

transforming Bengal." JSW will

also invest in Durgapur Airport

development as the second

projects Wednesday - ITC

Infotech Global AI Centre of

Excellence at Rajarhat and a

state-of-the-art FMCG manufac-

advanced AI research, contribut-

ing significantly to the develop-

ment of West Bengal as a leading

AI hub in India, while the Uluberia

facility will produce ITC's personal

care products and serve as a neem

research centre, ITC chairman

Sanjiv Puri said, adding that ITC

has invested over ₹7,500 crore in

nounced investment of over

₹15,000 crore over 5 years span-

ning healthcare, hospitality,

tourism, residential and a first-of-

its-kind golf-themed township.

Ambuja Neotia Group an-

Bengal over the last decade.

The Rajarhat centre will "drive

turing facility at Uluberia.

The ITC inaugurated two key

largest airport of Bengal.

house at present." Meanwhile, Congress veteran

has alleged that Biren has "threatened" MLAs against moving and supporting a no-confidence motion against his government.

However, sources in the central BJP ruled out any change of guard in Manipur in near future. They pointed out that in the North Eastern Council meeting held in Agartala last December, Shah clarified that Biren would continue.

"Following the appointment of former Union home secretary Ajay Bhalla as Manipur Governor, who is now directly monitoring the developments there, the Centre is in the process of bringing back normalcy in Manipur. The NIA is arresting anyone who is creating troubles, both from Meiteis and Kukis. The message is clear. So any change at the top is highly unlikely," said the source.

Biren's visit to Delhi is to "seek the Centre's support for the infrastructure projects that have resumed in the state", sources said, adding that the CM is expected to push for more funds for the infrastructure and security measures in Manipur.

Embassy helps 18 **Indians return** from Libya: MEA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

The Indian embassy in Libya has facilitated the return of 18 Indian nationals who were stranded in Benghazi for several weeks, the Ministry of External Affairs said. It is learnt that the Indians were lured to the Libyan city by fake recruitment agents.

"The Embassy of India in Libya facilitated the return of 18 Indian nationals from Benghazi, Libya. They would be arriving in tomorrow," spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on X Tuesday. "They had gone to work in

Libya & had been stranded for several weeks. The Embassy worked closely with local authorities and assisted Indian workers with required authorisation and travel documents," he said.

rollback of UGC draft regulations

states demand

ADOPT 15-POINT RESOLUTION

Ministers say it undermines federalism

SANATH PRASAD

BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 5

SIX OPPOSITION-RULED states have adopted a 15-point resolution against the UGC draft regulations, which, they contended, goes against the federal structure by giving Governors broader powers in appointing vice-chancellors.

Ministers of Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Karnataka convened for a conclave of State Higher Education Ministers 2025 in Bengaluru on Tuesday, and broadly agreed to fight the draft regulations legally and urge UGC to withdraw the draft UGC (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment and Promotion of Teachers and Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2025.

A similar conclave will be held in Kerala on February 20.

The ministers expressed concerns over the draft regulations "centralising the process of appointing V-Cs", leaving no room for the states to weigh-in.

Karnataka Minister for Higher Education Dr M C Sudhakar said, "... Recently, concerns over Governors' functioning have become questionable, extending beyond administrative matters to political appointments of vice-chancellors. Previously, while such appointments existed, there was never such a strained relationship between Governors and state governments as we see today. The situation has changed dramatically, with incidents like Governors walking out of Assemblies, which were unheard of."

The ministers also opposed the proposal of allowing individ-

uals from private sectors to be picked as V-Cs as it would "hinder the overall administration and academic activities of the universities".

Underlining that education is a crucial domain where states must have autonomy and freedom to make decisions Telangana's Minister for IT and Industry Shridhar Babu said, "Any attempt to centralize control undermines the spirit of federalism and restricts the ability of state governments to shape their own higher education policies."

However, UGC Chairman Prof M Jagadesh Kumar had told The Indian Express, "The Draft UGC Regulations 2025 aims to ensure highest standards in universities by introducing a more inclusive and transparent selection process. The proposed draft regulations seek to uphold autonomy and accountability of higher education institutions. The primary objective is to enhance quality of education, promote research innovation, align university governance with global best practices, and fulfil the transformative vision of NEP 2020..."

Tamil Nadu Higher Education Minister Govi Chezhian said that education is intrinsically linked to culture, language, and local needs of each state, making it essential that state governments retain control over key decisions. Denying states their role in appointing V-Cs, he said, not only disregards state's investment in education but also weakens the effectiveness of higher education governance.

Calling the draft regulations unconstitutional, Himachal Pradesh Higher Education Minister Rohit Thakur said, "States must have the authority to manage their own universities and appointments without undue interference from the Centre."

Feud deepens as anti-BSY camp floats new name to lead state unit

AKRAM M

BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 5

WITH BIP organisational polls on the horizon in Karnataka, the internal tussle in the state unit between the factions led by MLA Basangouda Yatnal Patil and state BJP chief BY Vijayendra appears to be intensifying.

While the Yatnal faction has been camping in Delhi for the past two days to meet the party's top leadership and seek a leadership change in the state, the Vijayendra camp is scheduled to meet in Bengaluru on February 12 to discuss possible elections for BJP state chief's post.

The Yatnal camp has claimed that "good news" is on its way and adding to the intrigue is the emergence of former state minister B Sriramulu as a contender

to succeed Vijayendra.

"The high command will give good news," former Union minister G M Siddeswara, flanked by Yatnal and Gokak MLA Ramesh Iarkiholi, said in Delhi Wednesday. Asked what the "good news" was Siddeswara said, "You can understand what it will be."

The remarks come after the Yatnal faction — seen to be close to BJP national general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh — is learnt to have suggested that Sriramulu replace Vijayendra. The former minister fell out with Viiavendra after a core committee meeting in January.

Confirming the February 12 meet of Vijavendra faction, former state minister M P Renukacharya said the group will go to Delhi to voice its concerns with high command. "If Vijayendra is made to step down, BJP won't get even 10

seats (in Karnataka). National leaders know the situation; they won't remove Vijayendra."

Sources in BJP, too, said elec-

tions for state chief's post were likely to be held soon. "Efforts are on in both camps to consolidate support for candidates selected by high command," said a state

Adding fuel to fire were Sriramulu's comments. "I am ready to fulfil the role (of state BJP chief) if the party gives me a chance. I will put an end to factionalism in the state unit and ensure we win 150 seats in the 2028 Assembly polls," he said in Kolar Wednesday. Sriramulu first became an MLA in 2008 and then a minister. Three years later, he guit the Cabinet as well as BIP and floated BSR Congress. Failing to bag any seat in 2013 polls, he merged his party with the BJP.

BYPOLL BATTLE IN NORTH AND SOUTH

As Milkipur betters 2022 turnout figure, Akhilesh issues, including Kashmir, says presiding officers fulfilling fake voting target

MAULSHREESETH LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 4

SWEETY KUMARI

KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 5

REAFFIRMING HER government's

commitment to industrial

growth, West Bengal CM Mamata

Banerjee Wednesday announced

the formation of a new state-level

synergy committee to facilitate

ease of doing business in the state.

mencement of her proposed pet

project, Deocha-Pachami coal

mine project — mining of basalt

on 326 acres of land in Birbhum

district — which she said would

act as a catalyst for the state's in-

Global Business Summit (BGBS)

in Kolkata, Banerjee said that the

new synergy panel, headed by

the chief secretary, would address

investment-related issues, and

serve as a one-stop, time-bound

clearance mechanism to resolve

challenges across various sectors.

On Deocha-Pachami project,

Addressing the eighth Bengal

dustrial sector.

She also announced the com-

MORETHAN 65% of total 3.70 lakh voters exercised their franchise till 11 pm in Milkipur Assembly bypoll Wednesday, surpassing the turnout in 2022 at 60.23%.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav alleged "fake voting" and rigging by officials, a charge rejected by the police. According to the EC turnout app, the polling percentage was 65.35%.

The Milkipur bypoll has turned into a prestige battle between the SP and the BJP as the seat is part of the politically signif-

SP chief Yadav alleged that presiding officers are "fulfilling the target of fake voting".



Outside a polling booth during Milkipur bypolls, Wednesday.

Yadav posted on X an audio clip from a purported sting and said, "This is a sting operation of the truth of presiding officers who are fulfilling the target of fake voting for the ruling party." He alleged that police are checking identity

cards of voters to "create fear".

In another post on X, Yadav said, "The Election Commission should immediately take cognisance of pictures related to the news that Ayodhya Police are checking the ID cards of voters in Faizabad loss.

Milkipur..." he said, attaching a picture with the post.

Ayodhya Senior SP Raj Karan Nayyar denied the allegations. He said the photo in question depicted police personnel verifying the identification credentials of a polling agent, and emphasised that law enforcement officers are not conducting any verification of voters' identification documents.

SP leader and Faizabad MP Awadhesh Prasad alleged the BJP was "creating pressure on officers."

The main contest is between SP's Ajit Prasad and the BJP's Chandrabhanu Paswan. Stakes in Milkipur were raised by Ajit's father Awadhesh Prasad's win from Faizabad in LS polls. With SP looking to retain the seat, BJP sees the bypolls as a chance to avenge its -WITH PTI

with India through talks

Pak PM: Want to resolve

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ISLAMABAD, FEBRUARY 5

PRIME MINISTER Shehbaz Sharif Wednesday said Pakistan wants to resolve all issues, including Kashmir, with India through talks as he reiterated his "unwavering" support for the

Kashmiri people. Sharif made the remarks while addressing a special session of the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) Legislative Assembly in Muzaffarabad on the occasion of "Kashmir Solidarity Day", an annual Pakistani event to show support

for the Kashmiris.

"We want all issues, including Kashmir, to be resolved through talks," Sharif said.

"India should come out of the thinking of August 5, 2019, and fulfil promises made to the UN and launch a dialogue," he said, referring to the abrogation of Article 370.

Sharif said that the only way forward for Pakistan and India was a dialogue, as already written in the Lahore Declaration of 1999, which was agreed upon when then prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited Pakistan.

India has repeatedly said it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan in an environment free of terror, hostility and violence.

India has also repeatedly told Pakistan that the UTs of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh "was, is and shall forever" remain an integral part of the country.

After casting his vote,

after Congress MLA EVKS Elangovan died in December 2024, just a year after he won the seat in a bypoll following the passing of his son, Thirumahan Evera. Given this history, Congress ceded the seat to its ally, the DMK, which

the ruling party.

fielded V C Chandhirakumar, a former DMDK leader who joined

DMK likely to sail through

in Erode East bypoll fight

Chandhirakumar said the ruling party would secure a resounding victory that would set the tone for 2026 Assembly polls. "The people are satisfied with the government's performance. There is no discontent like in North Indian states, where bypolls are imposed due to political manoeuvring. This is a natural election," he said. This poll has been relatively low-key with the absence of high-

profile campaigners, including

CM M K Stalin and Deputy CM

base and the ruling party advan-

tage make an NTK upset unlikely.

Udhayanidhi Stalin, reflecting DMK's confidence in an easy win. Housing Minister S Muthusamy and Erode MPKE Prakash led the campaign. Despite NTK's bid to frame this election as a battle between Dravidianism and Tamil icant Ayodhya district. nationalism, DMK's strong voter



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U.S. MILITARY PLANE LANDS IN AMRITSAR WITH 104 INDIANS ON BOARD

'It seems they had hot food after ages, many felt betrayed by agents'

DIVYA GOYAL GOPAL& KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR LUDHIANA, AMRITSAR, FEB 5

MANY MEN and women who landed in Amritsar on Wednesday told Punjab government officials that they were led astray by travel agents.

Punjab government officials who received the 104 deportees will now facilitate their journey to their hometowns. Many, officials said, feel embarrassed and are reluctant to inform their families of what transpired.

A senior Punjab government official who met the deportees at the airport told The Indian Express, "We have put them in contact with their loved ones and are arranging safe transport for home. It seems they have seen hot food after ages. We are also collecting information on the agents who sent them via illegal routes. Some of them were in the UK for a year or



Punjab's NRI Affairs Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal meets the deportees at Amritsar airport. Rana Simranjit Singh

so and then travelled to the US."

The official said barring the children, the individuals on the flight were handcuffed. An official said while most seemed fine after landing, some broke down.

"We served them hot food, including dal, rice, roti and sabzi. Children were also given biscuits, juice and colouring books.

I do believe it would have been

better for the US to have sent

It seemed they had had hot, fresh food after ages. Many felt betraved by travel agents, and some were initially reluctant to reveal their names. They are also embarrassed," the official said.

"They are narrating harrowing experiences. Some requested us not to tell their families about the deportation. We

are counselling them. We have given them the helpline numbers of the Punjab NRI wing and district employment bureaus," said the official.

In Punjab, relatives of the deportees said they spent between ₹30 lakh and ₹50 lakh to send them to the US, where they reached illegally and hoped to apply for asylum.

"My grandson had gone to the US just 15 days ago. I was not in favour of the decision. I don't know how much money the family spent on sending him," said the grandfather of one of the youths who landed in Amritsar.

A relative of another deported person from Amritsar said he reached the US just a month ago, adding: "He became a bus driver there after paying ₹30 lakh to reach the country."

Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, the state's NRI Affairs Minister, said the state would support the men and women.

'40 hrs of hell, dragged ourselves to toilet'

ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA JALANDHAR, FEBRUARY 5

"FOR 40 hours, we were handcuffed, our feet tied with chains and were not allowed to move an inch from our seats. After repeated requests, we were allowed to drag ourselves to the washroom. The crew would open the door of the lavatory and shove us in," said Harwinder Singh.

The 40-year-old from Tahli village in Punjab's Hoshiarpur is among the 104 'illegal' immigrants whom the US deported in the first batch to India.

Recounting the travel as a "worse than hell," experience, Harwinder said that they couldn't even eat properly for 40 hours. "They would force us to eat with handcuffs on. Our requests to the security personnel to remove the cuffs for a few minutes fell on deaf ears. The journey was not only physically painful, but also mentally exhausting...," he said, adding that a "kind" crew member offered them fruits.

The US military aircraft — a C-17 Globemaster — that the Donald



Trump administration deployed made four pit stops for fuel refilling before landing at Amritsar Wednesday. Harwinder said he could not sleep as he kept thinking about the promise of a better life that he made to his wife before his "dunki" travel eight months ago.

In June 2024, Harwinder and his wife Kuljinder Kaur, took a decision. With two children — 12-year-old son and 11-year-old daughter — the couple, married for 13 years, was struggling to make ends meet by selling cattle milk. Out of nowhere, a dis-

recently easy to substantiate,

because in the early days, right

up to the 1990s, you had very

many parts of India where birth

certificates were not routinely is-

sued. So if a government minis-

ter in India can't provide a birth

tant relative offered to take Harwinder to the US in 15 days legally, not via a dunki route, in exchange of ₹42 lakh. To gather the amount, the family mortgaged their only acre of land and borrowed from private lenders at steep interest rates.

Life had not prepared Kuljinder for the adversities to come. "But for 8- months, my husband was shuffled between countries," Kuljinder said. "He

was passed from one place to another like a pawn in a game. He never made it to the US."

Harwinder endured lifethreatening conditions but despite the hardships, he documented his ordeal and sent videos to Kuljinder. She last spoke to him on January 15.

Harwinder remained in contact with his family until mid-January. The news of his deportation came as a shock to Kuljinder who learned of it only when villagers informed her that he was among the 104 deportees sent back from the US on Wednesday.

Kuljinder said they had already filed a complaint against the travel agent with the village panchayat after losing contact with Harwinder last month.

She is demanding strict action against the agent and a refund of the ₹42 lakh spent on the failed journey. "We have lost everything," she said. "We only wanted a better future for our children and now we are left with debt and heartbreak."

'Don't need to put them in a military plane... (or) handcuff them'

THE OPPOSITION Congress on Wednesday protested that Indians deported from the US were "handcuffed and humiliated". In an interview, Congress leader **SHASHI THAROOR**, who is the chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, spoke to **MANOICG** on the issue:

A US military plane carrying illegal Indian immigrants has landed in Amritsar. How do you see this development?

I have heard that they have sent them on a military plane. Well, that is the only thing that I am not happy about. I think the US is entirely entitled to deport those people who they deem to be illegally present in their country and whose nationality can be established beyond doubt. So these are Indians, and they are in another country without authorisation, then India has a legal obligation to take them back. But

Deportees

handcuffed,

humiliated,

says Cong

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

and humiliated".

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

THE CONGRESS Wednesday said

the Indian nationals deported

from the US were "handcuffed

ity department chairperson

Pawan Khera said, "Looking at

the pictures of Indians getting

handcuffed and humiliated

while being deported from the

2013, an Indian diplomat Devyani

Khobragade was handcuffed and

strip searched in America. Foreign

Secretary Sujatha Singh regis-

tered a strong protest with US

Ambassador Nancy Powell," said

sharply. Leaders like Ms Meira

Kumar, Sushil Kumar Shinde &

Rahul Gandhi refused to meet the

US Congressional delegation...

that was visiting India at that

Congress deputy leader in

Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi also

protested against "the manner

in which the United States gov-

ernment sent Indians back to our

country". "I cannot understand

why Prime Minister Modi is

silent...," Gogoi said on X.

"The UPA govt retaliated

Khera in a post on X.

time," he said.

"I remember in December of

US saddens me as an Indian."

Congress's media and public-

these people on a regular commercial flight, or if necessary, on a civilian charter, than doing so on a military aircraft. That I think is what is a new contribution by Mr Trump's administration. That implies something else that I would not have been as happy to welcome. But having said that, on the question of Indian citizens being brought back to India, definitely that's where they belong. And if they wish to travel abroad, they should go through only through legal means.

But there is one view that the government should have exerted more pressure to maybe regularise some of these people.

Well, I don't agree with that, because the fact is that why should we require any country to take illegal immigrants when we ourselves don't think it is a





good idea. International law entitles people who fear persecution in their home countries to seek asylum elsewhere. And I don't think that at this stage, anybody in India can legitimately

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claim a fear of persecution on the grounds recognised by international law. So they are going essentially for economic benefit.

immigration from Bangladesh. So by the same logic, should India be identifying and sending back or deporting all the so-called Bangladeshi immigrants?

The BJP talks about illegal

If they are indeed proven to be Bangladeshi. Yes, I think Bangladesh has the same obligation to take them as we have to take the illegal Indians in America. Part of the problem in many cases, in the political context in India, is that many people who claim to be Indian are being described by some as Bangladeshis, but they are not able to prove conclusively that these people have an address or a document that certifies them to be Bangladeshi. So the Bangladeshi government will

turn around and say, how can we accept these people? They might be West Bengali Muslims... If you can prove them Bangladeshi, then Bangladesh is obliged by international law to take them and I would support the government in sending them back.

There was a huge controversy when the government talked about the NRC. Even the Congress had taken a position on the NRC...

The thing is deporting an illegal immigrant whose identity is confirmed — that is the issue. Our objection to the NRC was that it could suddenly exclude from Indian citizenship people who are Indian but don't have documentary proof of it. For example, the argument that if you are born in India, you should be

certificate, then you can imagine the situation of, say, a Bengali Muslim born in West Bengal... Some Congress leaders have said the Indians returning on the US military plane were

handcuffed... I have not heard it myself, but certainly I would expect our government to convey back to the US that you are deporting somebody for having violated your laws. You don't need to put them in a military plane. You don't need to handcuff them.

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4	New Law College Mumbai	1	01	1

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After docking, SpaDex satellites run into delay in undocking

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 5

THE ISRO delayed an undocking maneuver of the satellites as part of the Space Docking Experiment or SpaDex, which was earlier scheduled to take place soon after the first successful docking on January 16.

ISRO sources have indicated that "there are some issues with the docking experiments" and that the "undocking has not been possible yet".

The space agency's chairman V Narayanan had said in Sriharikota on January 29 – following the launch of the NVS-02 satellite, its landmark 100th mission — that ISRO is still conducting a review of the undocking process and that the move could take a while.

On January 16, ISRO had posted on its official social media handles: "SpaDeX Docking Update: Post docking, control of two satellites as a single object is successful. Undocking and power transfer checks to follow in coming days."

"After successful docking and rigidization, electrical power transfer between the two satellites will be demonstrated before undocking and separation of the two satellites to start the operation of their respective payloads for the expected mission life of up to two years," ISRO had said ahead of the mission launch.

Since January 16, however, neither the space agency nor any other independent observers has reported separation of two satellites — SDX01, the Chaser, and SDX02, the Target.

Roorkee tense over firing at MLA office

AISWARYA RAJ DEHRADUN, FEBRUARY 5

SIX COMPANIES of central police forces, state police, drone surveillance and checkposts at three border points.

Authorities in Uttarakhand Wednesday turned Roorkee city into a fortress after the Gurjar community called a mahapanchayat in support of BJP leader Kunwar Pranav Singh 'Champion', who was remanded in judicial custody for allegedly opening fire at the office of Khanpur MLA Umesh Kumar.

Tensions between Gurjar and Brahmin communities have been running high after both were arrested. Kumar, an Independent MLA, was granted bail while Singh, a former MLA from Khanpur, was held on charge of attempted murder.

Haridwar SP Pramendra Dobhal said officers have been deployed in Laksar area to ensure there is no gathering. "A mahapanchayat was announced and later called off by the community, but we have deployed officers. We have carved out seven zones and posted Deputy SPs and 12 inspectors along with six companies of CAPFs and PAC (Pradeshik Armed Constabulary). As per our inputs, no one has gathered for the event," he said.

Kumar said Wednesday: "I apologised to the community and wanted the area to return to normalcy. But another mahapanchayat was called and they asked me to go to Singh's mahal (house) and apologise. I have never spoken against the community."

India may not ramp up climate targets for 2035, set to miss submission deadline

India's 2035 climate action plan to 'reflect disappointment of COP29 outcome on climate finance'

AMITABH SINHA NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

INDIA WILL likely skip the February 10 deadline for submitting the next round of climate action plans required under the Paris Agreement and may not significantly upgrade its targets, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

These plans, called Nationally **Determined Contributions or** NDCs, are supposed to provide details of the climate action countries intend to take up to 2035. The Paris Agreement re-

quires its member countries to refresh their NDCs in five-year cycles. The existing NDCs, submitted in 2020, pertain to the period up to 2030. The Paris Agreement Implementation and Compliance Committee, after a meeting last year, decided to ask countries to submit their 2035 NDCs by February 10, about nine months ahead of the year-ending annual climate conference.

India, however, is not ready with its 2035 action plan – and

EXPLAINE **Eye on hosting** COP33 in 2028

BESIDES THE climate finance issue, there is another reason why India is unlikely to stretch itself while making commitments for 2035 — it's planning to host the COP33 climate conference in 2028. Host countries usually announce new climate initiatives ahead of the conference to demonstrate their leadership and create momentum for a more meaningful outcome. India would like to leave some room for enhancing its NDC commitments during that time. It had enhanced its 2030 NDCs mid-way through the five-year cycle, having met two of its three initial targets well ahead of the 2030 deadline.

in no hurry to meet the deadline. In fact, the Indian NDC might be submitted only in the second half of the year, closer to the annual climate meeting being held

in Brazil in November, official

sources said.

There is no penalty for late submissions. Not many countries have submitted their 2035 NDCs, with many developed countries yet to do so.

The US, incidentally, is among

the countries that have submitted their NDCs. The Joe Biden administration had approved and submitted the 2035 submissions in December, well before Donald Trump assumed charge.

India has also skipped the December 31, 2024 deadline for the submission of the first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR), the new format in which a country has to report its detailed inventory of emissions. This report, too, is ex-

and that too only from 2035. India has maintained that the lack of adequate finance is a major setback to global climate action.

pected to be submitted around

said that India's NDC would

likely "reflect the disappoint-

ment of the climate finance out-

come at COP29 in Baku" last year.

This is a hint that the 2035 NDC

is unlikely to be a significant or

ambitious upgrade of climate ac-

tions compared to the existing

countries have expressed seri-

ous disappointment with the

outcome of COP29, last year's cli-

mate conference in Baku, which

delivered an extremely weak

Developing countries had

agreement on climate finance.

been seeking a commitment of

at least \$1 trillion every year

from the developed world in cli-

mate finance. But developed

countries agreed to mobilise no

more than \$300 billion a year,

The Economic Survey pre-

India and other developing

NDC for 2030.

The sources cited above also

the middle of the year.

sented last week also made a similar argument, and clearly hinted at a readjustment of climate targets by India.

"The funding shortfall may lead to a reworking of the climate targets. Considering that domestic resources will be the key to action, resources for meeting development challenges may be affected, undermining progress toward sustainable development objectives and compromising the integrity of international climate partnerships,"

the Economic Survey said.

For the 2030 period, India has made three commitments. It has said it will reduce the emissions intensity of its economy (emissions per unit of GDP) by 45% from 2005 levels, and ensure that at least 50% of its installed electricity generation capacity comes from non-fossil fuel sources. It has also promised to increase its forest and tree cover so that they can absorb an additional 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes

of carbon dioxide every year. India is on course to achieve all three targets well ahead of 2030.

interfaith couple

alleges threats

after marriage

DEHRADUN, FEBRUARY 5

AISWARYA RAJ

notice goes viral

WHEN MOHAMMAD Shanu

(22) and Akansha Kandari (23)

submitted a notice on January 7 at the sub-district magistrate's

office in Uttarakhand's Udham

Singh Nagar stating their inten-

tion to marry, they thought they

were merely following estab-

lished procedure. Little did they

imagine that their notice, com-

plete with personal details,

would go viral on social media.

family five days later which in-

cluded the photograph of the

first page of their file with their

personal details. It appeared on

social media with the caption

'love jihad'," recalls Shanu, who

police protection given to them on

Uttarakhand HC's December 16

orders. In their plea, the couple said

that they wanted to get married

but couldn't due to threats from

Kandari's mother and "other or-

ganisations". They also alleged a

The incident occurred despite

owns a salon at Bazpur.

"I got a message from my

Uttarakhand

meet minister over green nod for dam

Sikkim BJP chief to

NIKHIL GHANEKAR NEW DELHI. FEBRUARY 5

THE BIP'S Sikkim unit will meet **Union Environment Minister** Bhupender Yadav later this month to raise the safety concerns over a new Teesta III hydel project dam that will come up in place of another dam that was washed away in 2023's catastrophic glacial lake flooding.

Last month, an Environment

Ministry panel cleared a proposal to build the new 118-metre high concrete gravity dam in the place of the original 60-metre high Teesta-III dam. This came without a fresh public hearing and even as the design aspects of the dam were yet to be approved.

The Sikkim BJP chief, D R Thapa, told *The Indian Express* that the party's state unit would apprise the minister of the need for a fresh public hearing and comprehensive impact-assessment studies.

According to a recent study, a giant mass of glacial debris collapsed into the South Lhonak lake on the night of October 3, 2023, triggering a glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) that went barrelling towards the Chungthang dam and destroyed it.

"Sikkim is still recovering from the October 2023 disaster, with tourism and road connectivity yet to fully normalise. About 40-50 people died and people's safety should be the top



BJP chief **DRThapa**

priority," the Sikkim BJP president said.

On February 2, Thapa wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his intervention on withholding the new dam's clearance until safety concerns are addressed. The disaster underscored the urgent need for a scientific reassessment of all major hydropower projects in the region, he wrote to Modi.

Asked if the Sikkim BJP wants the project to be scrapped, Thapa told The Indian Express: "We do not want the project to be scrapped. There should be comprehensive safety assessments and fresh impact studies. The past assessments were clearly bad. Hence the older dam was washed away."

On January 10, the environment ministry's expert appraisal committee (EAC) on river valley and hydroelectric projects recommended clearance for the new concrete gravity dam for the 1,200 MW Teesta III hydel project

In his letter, Thapa requested the PM to "withhold the EAC's clearance for the Teesta III project until all necessary scientific reviews, including revised probable maximum flood study, are thousands were displaced. The completed and independently

Modi takes dip at Triveni Sangam: 'A moment of divine connection' **MAULSHREE SETH**

PRAYAGRAJ, FEBRUARY 5

WEARING A saffron-coloured

jacket, blue track pants and a 'rudraksha' chain around his neck. Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a holy dip at the Triveni Sangam on Wednesday and offered prayers to Goddess Ganga. PM Modi was among the nearly 55 lakh people who took a dip at the Maha Kumbh in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj by noon. After arriving at the Prayagraj

airport around 10 am, the PM reached Arail Ghat and from there he took a boat ride to Triveni Sangam — the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati — along with UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Later, Modi ventured into the water alone, took a dip at the Sangam and recited mantras, even as pilgrims continued bathing at the ghats and even waved at the Prime Minister, who waved back.

"Blessed to be at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj. The Snana 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,' Modi said in a post on X, soon after taking the dip.

SHAJU PHILIP

FEBRUARY 5

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

AS MANY as 44 child sexual abuse

survivors in Kerala are reported to

have died by suicide since 2016,

government data under the

Protection of Children from Sexual

Offences Act, 2012, shows. The

data, presented in the state as-

sembly last month, also shows

that 31,000-odd cases have been

registered in the last eight-and-a-

half years of the Communist Party

of India (Marxist)-led govern-



PM Narendra Modi with Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath at the Maha Kumbh. PTI

Officials said that during his visit, PM Modi offered "Arghya" to the Sun God and offered prayers to the Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati rivers. After the dip in the Sangam, Modi performed a puja wearing a black kurta, a saffron stole and a Himachali cap.

Local priests said that PM Modi had taken the dip on the special occasion of "Bhishm Ashtami" during the ongoing "Gupta Navratri", where along with prayers to Goddess Durga, offerings are made to ancestors as well. The Prime Minister offered "Akshat" (coloured rice) flowers, fruits and a red coloured

ment's rule in the state.

The data comes a month af-

ter Kerala Police registered as

many as 30 cases and arrested 57

people in the alleged rape and

sexual abuse of a Dalit girl over

several years. According to the

government data, Kerala re-

ported 31,171 cases under the

POCSO from June 2016 to

December 2024. The 8.5 years

POCSO cases and 175 arrests in

the first 17 days of 2025. Only

2,614 cases have seen convic-

tions despite POCSO cases being

The state also reported 271

have also seen 28,728 arrests.

'chunari' to the river amidst chanting of vedic mantras. Later he also performed "arti" of the three rivers guided by the Priests

Sources said the PM's visit lasted nearly two hours. Officials claimed that pilgrims were allowed to take a dip at different temporary ghats as usual even when the PM was taking a dip at the Sangam.

While this is Modi's first visit to the Maha Kumbh after the January 29 stampede, he had last visited the event venue on December 13 last year when he inaugurated 167 development projects worth Rs 5,500 crore for

tried at dedicated fast track

sault on minors have increased

considerably increased since

2022. While around 3,000 cases

were reported every year be-

tween 2016 and 2021, it went up

to 4,518 in 2022, 4,641 in 2023

cides among POCSO survivors,

Kerala State Commission for

Protection of Child Rights chair-

person K V Manoj Kumar said

that "necessary directions had

been given to all stakeholders to

Referring to the reported sui-

Cases pertaining to sexual as-

courts, the data shows.

and 4,594 in 2024.

Kerala: 44 child abuse victims killed self since '16

Prayagraj.

"Despite the VVIP movement, there was no restriction on public participation and devotees continued to take dips alongside the Prime Minister. There was no disruption as the Prime Minister and lakhs of pilgrims shared the holy experience," said an official.

While officials informed that around 39 crore have already taken bath at Kumbh till date, since January 13, which was the first bath of the Maha Kumbh Mela. The Maha Kumbh will continue till February 26 - Maha Shivratri - with one more major snan on February 12.

ensure that the survivors are

taken care of. One factor is sui-

cide tendency has increased

they will feel depressed. At this

stage, they are being given psychological support. Various de-

partments have reported to the

commission that POCSO sur-

vivors are given all support.

within the family, the victims

would have to be sheltered in

children's homes. That may also

create a depression among

"After undergoing trauma,

among minors".

them," he said.

"serious threat to their lives". In its ruling, the high court ordered police protection at Bazpur police station for six weeks, asking Bazpur Station House Officer to assess the threat perception and adopt suitable measures at the end of the period.

According to the couple, despite the orders, they continue to face opposition from right-wing groups: on January 30, outfits such as the Bajrang Dal, accompanied Kandari's mother to the local SDM office to "object to the marriage". In her letter to the SDM, Kandari's mother Reena Devi sought her daughter's "custody until the notice is examined", saying Shanu had lured and misled her under love jihad.

5 MORE APPLICATIONS BEING PROCESSED

Uttarakhand: First live-in relationship under UCC gets nod

AISWARYA RAJ DEHRADUN, FEBRUARY 5

A WEEK after the Uniform Civil Code came into force, the Uttarakhand government has registered the first live-in relationship. As of Tuesday evening, the government had received six applications, of which one had been approved while the others were being examined, a senior officer told The Indian Express.

Home Secretary Shailesh Bagoli said the details of applicants are encrypted, and officials can only view the number of applications and registrations, while their details will remain only with the registrars concerned. "The system is secure, and we have taken precautions against any breach of private information of couples applying

for registration," he said. Bajrang Dal leader Vikas Verma, however, claimed they are aware of the details and are checking for interfaith couples among the registrants. "We have come across a case in Haridwar where the couple are from different religions. We are constantly on the lookout for dangerous cases," he claimed. Bagoli maintained it was impossible for any third party to get such details.

The Uttarakhand govern-

ment had on January 27 rolled out the UCC Rules for regulating live-in relationships. The registration requires the couple to fill a 16-page form and obtain a certificate from a religious leader showing they are eligible to marry if they so choose.

The Uttarakhand UCC makes it compulsory to register all livein relationships. This applies to Uttarakhand residents living in the state and also those living elsewhere in India.

In the UCC rules, registration is only for the "purposes of record keeping" and requires the Registrar to forward these registrations to the local police stations where the couple reside.

Civil society members have flagged concerns regarding infringement of privacy. Mallika Virdi of Mahila Manch said there are apprehensions surrounding women's safety due to mandates under UCC, which was brought into effect in the name of protection of women. "The Supreme Court has guaranteed that privacy is an inalienable right unless there is violence when the state can come in. The UCC gives power to anyone, including your neighbour, to complain. What is protection if a woman cannot

exercise her agency while a sec-

tion of the society decides what

is public morality," she said.

Asha and her cubs among five When the alleged accused are cheetahs released into the wild

ANAND MOHAN J BHOPAL, FEBRUARY 5

AFTER SPENDING a year in captivity, five more cheetahs were released into the wild at Kuno National Park which includes a mother and three cheetah cubs for the first time.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav informed that on Wednesday female cheetah Asha and her three cubs were released from the large enclosure into the open jungle at Kuno National Park. Another female cheetah, Dheera, was also released. This brings the total number of cheetahs released into the wild to seven; 19 more will be

released in the coming weeks. Cheetah Veera and her two newborn cubs will continue to remain in enclosures with her for at least a year, officials said.

"It is immensely gratifying to witness cheetahs, once extinct in Asia, are now not only sprinting across the sacred land of Madhya Pradesh but also expanding their family," Yadav said.

Asha had delivered her three



RUN, (TO THE) FOREST, RUN! Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav during the release of the cheetahs. @DrMohanYadav51

cubs will stay with their mother for the next few months and further hone their hunting skills before they strike out on their own.

Meanwhile, precautions have been taken to ensure their safety in the wild, with dedicated teams assigned to monitor Asha and her cubs round the clock. The monitoring teams will keep track of every movement, and the personnel on duty will rotate periodically

to maintain vigilance.

Kuno park director Uttam

with their mother and they will be able to survive in the wild. We have teams that will track them"

The ambitious cheetah project hit a major roadblock in infested with maggots".

August 2023 after three adult cheetahs "died due to septicaemia after wounds beneath their dense winter coat on the back and neck regions became

Kumar Sharma told The Indian

Express: "Asha's cubs are now 13

months old. They are able to hunt

When Gandhi met Tolstoy for 1st time, in Jaipur

AISHWARYAKHOSLA JAIPUR, FEBRUARY 5

ON THE sun-dappled tented grounds of the Jaipur Literature Festival, an extraordinary meeting took place — one that history had long yearned for but had never witnessed. The descendants of two of the most influential thinkers of modern history -Mahatma Gandhi and Leo Tolstoy — met for the very first time. Gopalkrishna Gandhi and Daniil Tolstoy took stage to ex-

plore their extraordinary legacy. Moderator and Penguin editor-in-chief Manasi Subramaniam set the stage by

recounting the serendipitous moment which ignited an intellectual partnership between Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi and Leo Tolstoy that helped shape the future of non-violent resistance, "In 1909, a young

Gopalkrishna Gandhi and Daniil Tolstoy at the Jaipur **Literature Festival.** X/@JaipurLitFest

Indian lawyer in Johannesburg happened upon a revolutionary manifesto, A Letter to a Hindu, written by a Russian count."

As the audience leaned in, Gopalkrishna Gandhi, historian and professor, described the exact moment when his grandfather, M K Gandhi, first encoun-

tered Leo Tolstoy's words. "In 1909, Gandhi had arrived in London on a deputation," he recounted. "On the very day he landed, a dramatic assassination of a British official by an Indian nationalist rocked the city. Amid

the turmoil, Gandhi stumbled

upon a letter—a letter that urged

India to reject violence and instead embrace love as the only path to liberation. It was written by none other than Leo Tolstoy." "In that letter, Tolstoy quotes

great texts from the Hindu faith, Krishna, the Gita, and also from the extraordinary work Thirukkural, the great Tamil classic," Gopalkrishna Gandhi said.

Daniil Tolstoy nodded in agreement. "By the time Tolstoy wrote A Letter to a Hindu, he was 80 years old and had become deeply disillusioned with violence as a means of change," he said. "He had witnessed the brutalities of the 1905 Russian Revolution and was convinced that non-violence was the only path forward."

The conversation then turned to the famous correspondence between Gandhi and Tolstoy, a series of letters exchanged between 1909 and 1910. "Every letter is remark-

able," said Subramaniam. "Tolstoy spent seven months, wrote 29 drafts, and filled 400 pages before finalising A Letter to a Hindu. That is an extraordinary amount of effort. Gandhi was deeply moved and immediately wrote back.'

Gopalkrishna Gandhi read an excerpt from his ancestor's first letter, which began, "Count Tolstoy, I take the liberty of inviting your attention..." "Gandhi was 40 when he

wrote those words, while Tolstoy was 80. And yet, Gandhi leaned on Tolstoy's words as if they were a pillar of strength. Much like I leaned on Daniil's arm as I climbed the steps onto this stage today," observed Gopalkrishna Gandhi. Laughter rippled through the audience at this candid admission before Daniil Tolstoy picked up the thread.

> **FULL REPORT ON:** www.indianexpress.com cubs on January 1, 2024. These



7-23 February, 2025 Surajkund, Faridabad, Haryana



"भारत के समृद्ध फ्यूचर में हम टूरिज्म का बहुत बड़ा पोटेंशियल देख रहे हैं। भारत में नेचर, कल्चर, एडवेंचर, कॉन्फ्रेंस, डेस्टिनेशन वेडिंग और हैरिटेज टूरिज्म सबके लिए असीम संभावनाएं हैं।" - नरेन्द्र मोदी

Theme States





Programmes

International Organisation



Experience the Soul of Sufi with Dr. Satinder

Sartaj

FEB. FRIDAY

Desert Symphony by folk sensation Mame Khan

FEB. SATURDAY

"Alfaaz Mere" Interaction with award winning poet & lyricist Dr. Irshad Kamil

FEB. SUNDAY

Jalwa-e-Haryana by Padma Shri awardee Sh. Mahavir Guddu

Star Performance by rapper & singer

Parmish Verma

FEB. MONDAY

North Eastern Beats

by Sunita Bhuyan & Band, Francis Hmuihmul & Maylula Band





FEB. TUESDAY

Go on a delightful Musical journey with **Papon**

& Band

FEB. WEDNESDAY

SUNDAY A Soul-Stirring Sufi Nite by

A.R. Rahman's KM Sufi Ensemble

FEB. FRIDAY

Swing to the Beats of Punjabi Music by Gurtaj

FEB. SATURDAY

Mesmerizing musical evening by Vipul Mehta FEB. SUNDAY Madhya Pradesh - Baiju Bawra (Natya) and Veerangana Rani Durgavati (Nritya-Natika) Cultural Show by Theme State-Madhya Pradesh

MONDAY

Roll On The Floor with Laughter Gaurav Gupta FEB. TUESDAY

Ananya Odisha



Captivating Cultural Show by Theme State-Odisha

FEB. WEDNESDAY



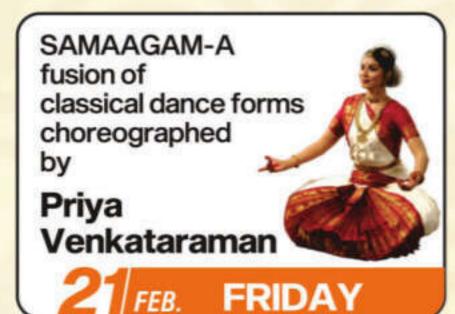
by Sandesh Navlakha & Alesia Raut

FEB. SATURDAY





You are cordially invited.



Cultural shows for Inaugural & Closing Ceremonies curated by

Sanjay Sharma











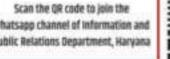
















WORDLY WISE

THE RIGHT TO VOTE IS THE RIGHT UPON WHICH ALL OTHER RIGHTS DEPEND. — THOMAS PAINE

The Indian EXPRESS

∽ FOUNDED BY ∽

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

THE IDEA OF DELHI

That's what the city has voted for — and it has a national resonance far beyond the capital

ELHI HAS VOTED and much will depend on what the voters have said. Because even though it may be less than a full state, Delhi is not just another city. It is a mini-India that is home to diverse aspirations and teeming dreams. Many come to Delhi to be and to become, in search of a better work and life for themselves and education for their children, and to be part of a larger story. The outcome of the electoral contest in this city will, therefore, not just decide the fate of the three main players in the field. It will also strike sparks and echoes across the country. Of course, the stakes are high for the incumbent AAP, its main challenger BJP and a Congress that has for a long spell been out of the reckoning.

For Arvind Kejriwal's AAP, born from an anti-corruption movement that played out in full view of the nation under the Delhi arclights, its unusually rapid rise shaped by its highvisibility setting, a third term, or not, would be critical to its next steps as a party. Its first full tenure after the comprehensive win in 2015 framed the "Delhi model" of governance it sought to put an imprimatur on and carry beyond Delhi (it succeeded in Punjab, but not in Goa or Gujarat). It turned its attention to setting up mohalla clinics and renovating the government school, alongside bijli-paani subsidies. But the second term saw a visible stalling and slowdown amid growing hostilities with the Centre led by the BJP. From its top leadership being sent to jail in the alleged excise policy scam, to accusations that public money was misspent on refurbishing the CM's residence extravagantly, the AAP has had its back against the wall as it sought to guard the turf of an elected government from moves by the Centre's nominee, the L-G. On its success or failure in this election, then, will hinge its future trajectory as a party — and given that it is the only non-Congress party with governments in two states so far, the future contours of the national Opposition could also be rearranged by the AAP's tally. For the BJP, which returned to power at the Centre last year, but without a majority, a win in Delhi, where it has been out of power for 27 years, coming after its victory in Haryana and Maharashtra sweep, could rehabilitate its winning streak. That the Modi versus Kejriwal battle is a grudge match with larger consequences could also be gauged from the PM's reply to the motion of thanks on the President's address in Lok Sabha on Tuesday he didn't take names but Kejriwal was clearly the target of pointed swipes in his speech.

But the outcome in this election will be important, most of all, for what it means for the idea of Delhi. The new government will face the challenge of easing the pressures and strains on it, and of making it more encompassing. India's capital city needs a plan that addresses and includes everyone who seeks to make it their own. A plan that makes the city more comfortable and hospitable, and at the same time, helps it move in step with the vaulting aspirations of those who live in it.

PROTECT THE CEASEFIRE

Donald Trump's proposal to 'take over' Gaza threatens to derail the peace process entirely

NTHE EVE of US President Donald Trump's inauguration, Israel and Hamas reached a fragile ceasefire agreement after months of negotiations. Both the incoming president and his predecessor, Joe Biden, were eager to take credit. Now, as the first of three phases on the proposed path to peace unfolds — with the exchange of many hostages and prisoners still awaited — Trump's proposal to "take over" Gaza threatens to derail the process entirely. During a joint press briefing with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House, Trump suggested that a US takeover would be a "long-term ownership position" that would bring "great stability" to the Middle East. It would also amount to the most radical upending of US policy. Trump has not ruled out deploying US troops in Gaza — an extraordinary stance for a president who has consistently criticised America's present involvement in Eastern Europe, and its invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq.

Reminiscent of the 1948 Nakba, when 7,00,000 Palestinians were displaced during and after the first Arab-Israeli war, Trump has framed his proposal as a "humanitarian" effort, claiming he wants to spur economic development, create jobs, and provide housing for Gaza's 1.8 million residents — who, in the meantime, should move to Egypt or Jordan. Both countries, however, have categorically rejected this idea, saying they will not accept Palestinian refugees. Any attempt to forcibly displace Gaza's population after 15 months of war would only fuel resentment and rebellion, and in the long run, lead to more instability.

At this critical juncture, preserving the ceasefire should be the priority. Hamas, which de $facto\,governs\,Gaza, has\,condemned\,Trump's\,plan, calling\,it\,an\,alignment\,with\,Israel's\,far-right and alignment\,with\,Israel's\,far-right and alignm$ agenda. A forced relocation of Palestinians could trigger military action that may spill over into Lebanon, as seen last year, and other parts of the Middle East. Renewed conflict could again bring in Hezbollah and reignite the Israel-Iran proxy war, jeopardising regional stability. None of this augurs well for a two-state solution. Saudi Arabia has rejected Trump's proposal saying that it would not establish diplomatic relations with Israel — Washington's long-term objective, as envisaged in the 2020 Abraham Accords — without the establishment of a Palestinian state. Other countries that were a part of the Accords (UAE and Bahrain) will likely reconsider their commitments as well. The only party that stands to benefit from Trump's plan is Netanyahu's government, propped up by its far-right allies who continue to demand that Israel abandon the ceasefire. This week, as Israel and Hamas negotiate the second phase of their talks, the process must be insulated from proposals that threaten to derail it.

WITH A SQUEAK

A study links growing rat populations in cities to rising temperatures, stokes spectres of an impending Ratmageddon

NASTEROID WITH a 1.3 per cent chance of hitting Earth in 2032. Sci-fi fears of an AI apocalypse. But for the real menace of these times, check under the sofa. Rats — lots and lots of rats. Think *The Birds*, not *Armageddon*. A group of researchers have used public rat sighting and inspection data from 16 cities — mostly in the US, but also including Toronto, Amsterdam and Tokyo — over a period of between seven and 17 years to see how the numbers had changed. The result: 11 of those cities saw significant increases in the rat population.

Human population density and loss of vegetation correlated positively with multiplying rodents. More food waste and more holes to scurry into make for a happy and healthy rat population. But the strongest correlation was found with rising temperatures amid global warming, an issue that's exacerbated in cities due to the urban heat island effect. When it's warmer, rats have lower mortality, can stay above ground and forage for longer, and are more fertile. The collective noun for these pesky home invaders is a "mischief" of rats, and what mischief they can wreak, from carrying diseases to contaminating food and damaging infrastructure. That's not to mention, as the study says, the men-

tal toll it takes on the people who have to put up with them. But don't reach for the rat poison just yet. For one thing, the study found that trying to get rid of rats that are already there is much less effective than methods of making cities less hospitable to them. What is needed is modern waste management practices, building regulations, and more resources for public education and surveillance. There's a host of things that can and should be done at the municipal level, including in India; although there's no data from the country, the same conditions apply. In the meantime, hunker down,

rodent-proof your houses and prepare for Ratmageddon. Not with a bang but with a squeak.

Trump, tariff, revenue



White House may relent on Canada and Mexico, but China trade war may be a longer affair

Amartya Lahiri

THE UNITED STATES of America has now embarked upon a path of muscular nationalism with its opening salvo being the unleashing of a trade war. The interesting bit is that the US went after its two biggest trading partners — Canada and Mexico — by announcing 25 per cent tariffs on all imports from these countries with a 10 per cent lower rate on energy imports from Canada. The tariffs were initially to go into effect on February 4 but have now been postponed by 30 days.

The US action raises a number of questions, the key ones being — why is the US doing it? What may be the effects of the tariffs? How might this end?

On the question of why, it is instructive to start by noting that President Donald Trump, who campaigned extensively during the recent presidential election on issues surrounding the trade and security threat to the US from China, has imposed a relatively minor 10 per cent additional tariffs on China. He has singled out Canada and Mexico — two of the US's biggest trading partners, jointly accounting for over 28 per cent of total imports – for the harshest and swiftest tariff assault.

The ostensible reason given for this is that it is intended to push Canada and Mexico to reduce the flow of illegal drugs and immigrants across their borders into the US. This reasoning is hard to buy since Canada has been included in the tariff net despite a miniscule share of illegal drugs and immigrants entering the US from Canada as compared to the flows across the US-Mexico border. Indeed, Canadian officials who were negotiating with their US counterparts have expressed frustration at the lack of clarity from the US side regarding the actions or markers that the US requires to withdraw the tariffs. There is a general recognition on all sides that the border control issue is just a smoke screen for justifying the tariffs.

The more likely reasons for the tariffs are President Trump's long-expressed love of tariffs as a marker of economic power; and

the federal government's desperation for additional revenues. While the deep protectionist zeal underlying the first reason will never go away, the motive behind the second may be more malleable. Why is that? Corporate and personal income tax rates

had been reduced under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2018 during Trump's previous administration. These are popularly known as theTrump tax cuts and they are scheduled to expire in 2025. A key goal of President Trump is to extend or make those tax cuts permanent. However, extending them will be expensive with the Congressional Budget Office estimating that it would add \$4.6 trillion over 10 years to the federal budget deficit, or \$460 billion annually. This would require the US Congress to pass a bill to raise the federal borrowing limit as well as approve the budget. Given the presence of a number of deficit hawks among Republican members of Congress, the passage of such a bill is far from guaranteed, notwithstanding the President's current popularity.

The revenue shortfall of the US federal government is where tariffs can play a role. The United States imports around \$4 trillion of goods annually, of which 15.6 per cent come from Mexico, 12.6 per cent from Canada while China accounts for 13.5 per cent, a collective import share of almost 42 per cent. Simple arithmetic reveals that at current levels of imports from these three countries — 25 per cent tariffs on Canadian and Mexican goods with a 10 per cent carveout for energy imports from Canada (which account for a quarter of Canada's exports to the USA) along with 10 per cent additional tariffs on imports from China — can raise upwards of \$320 billion annually. This is almost 70 per cent of the annual cost of extending the tax cuts. Trump has also threatened to impose tariffs on the European Union. At the EU's current US import share of 16 per cent, a 25 per cent tariff on the EU would net an additional \$160 billion annually. This would take the tariff loot up to \$480 billion dollars,

potentially financing the entire annual cost of extending the Trump tax cuts.

Where could all of this go wrong? First the accounting assumes that the volume and price of imports into the US remains unchanged in response to the tariffs. That depends on how much of the tariffs get passed on to the consumers. If importers pass on some or all of the tariffs to consumers, then demand will fall and with it the tariff rev enues that the government can collect. This decline in volume will likely become more significant over time as importers and exporters try to find alternative sources and destinations for their goods.

Second, given the extensive supply chain links in North America between the three countries, some of these tariffs will inevitably pass through to consumers which will cause US prices to rise. That may have political costs since one of the key issues in the 2024 election was the cost of living. With midterm elections due in 2026 and wafer-thin Republican majorities in Congress, political opposition to the tariffs will likely emerge if they persist for a significant duration.

Third, countries subjected to tariffs typically retaliate with their own, as Canada has done and Mexico has threatened to do. This will end up being costly for US exporters since these two countries currently account for over 33 per cent of total US exports. This, too, will be politically difficult to sustain.

Given the above, the most likely scenario that may unfold is that Trump will keep the tariff threat alive during the next three to four months to project optimistic budget revenues that can "finance" the extension of the Trump tax cuts. Once Congress passes the budget bill, the administration will begin to look for off-ramps by pointing to symbolic concessions from Canada and Mexico. The China trade war though may be a longer affair.

The writer is Royal Bank Research Professor of Economics, University of British Columbia



LET'S WORK TOGETHER

India and Bangladesh have much to gain from a positive bilateral engagement

MD TOUHID HOSSAIN

RELATIONS BETWEEN BANGLADESH and India have reached a critical juncture following the ouster of the Awami League regime in a student-led mass uprising in July-August 2024. It seems to me that the Indian establishment failed to anticipate the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government. It is, nevertheless, necessary to remind ourselves of the common interests and collaborative possibilities between our two nations. Professor Muhammad Yunus, the Chief Adviser and head of the interim government, and I are willing to work with due seriousness to build on the positive aspects of the bilateral relationship and pragmatically address areas of tension and misunderstanding.

Our position has been clear from the outset: We want a good working relationship with India based on mutual respect. We hope and expect that our counterparts in India will reciprocate our desire. The December visit of Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri to Dhaka was a step in the right direction. The history of collaboration between our nations goes back to the birth of Bangladesh, and its continuation will be beneficial to the people of both countries.

Beginning with the last decade of the 20th century, India has achieved remarkable feats, be it its vibrant technology sector with global influence or its economy, which is now the fifth-largest in the world. Bangladesh, too, has its areas of noteworthy achievements. Our garments exports are second only to China. Our contribution to UN peacekeeping outnumbers any other

These particularly impacted people closely connected to the previous regime, most of them Muslims, but also including Hindus. On assuming power, the interim government took stern steps against the perpetrators of such crimes. Citizens throughout the country also stepped forward to courageously and successfully protect Hindu families and temples.

The revenue shortfall of the

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Simple arithmetic reveals

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countries — 25 per cent

tariffs on Canadian and

cent carveout for energy

imports from Canada

Mexican goods with a 10 per

(which account for a quarter

USA) along with 10 per cent

additional tariffs on imports

of Canada's exports to the

from China — can raise

upwards of \$320 billion

extending the tax cuts.

annually. This is almost 70

per cent of the annual cost of

country, providing essential services in hotspots throughout the world. Microcredit models developed here by Professor Yunus, Nobel Laureate, have influenced the creation and growth of a global industry, and been adapted on a massive scale in India.

A lot of noise has been created in India about the treatment of Hindus in Bangladesh. During the vacuum that existed between the fall of the previous regime on August 5, 2024, and the appointment of the interim government, the law and order situation in the country was not under complete control, and untoward incidents did take place. These particularly impacted people closely connected to the previous regime, most of them Muslims, but also including Hindus. On assuming power, the interim government took stern steps against the perpetrators of such crimes. Citizens throughout the country also stepped forward to courageously and successfully protect Hindu families and temples. Unfortunately, the Indian media and cyberspace have continued to create negative hype by publishing and repeating grossly exaggerated and often completely false allegations.

The interim government of Bangladesh is committed to the protection of the rights of every citizen irrespective of their faith, and the Hindus in Bangladesh are equal citizens with equal rights. We were pleased when an independent survey conducted by Voice of America found that nearly two-thirds of our population believed that the treatment of minorities had improved under the interim government. We seek to be a model for communal harmony for South Asia and beyond. We invite Indian journalists to come and report on what is going on without any restrictions. The Indian public can learn the truth from their unbiased investigations.

The interim government has made sincere attempts to revive SAARC, the regional association that has been defunct for more than a decade. The Indian response so far has not been positive. We don't believe India has anything to fear from this effort. We know it will take a long time to realise the full potential of cooperation among South Asian nations. But a thousand-mile journey begins with a single step. As a first step, can't our leaders simply pose for a photograph together at the next global gathering to signal our long-term commitment to regional collaboration?

Despite challenges, we have seen some hopeful green shoots in the bilateral relationship, such as the recent exchange of fishermen and the signing of a trilateral agreement that will allow Bangladesh to access a small amount of clean hydroelectric energy from Nepal. Let's build on these positive steps to craft a partnership that benefits both of our peoples, the region and the global community. A good start would be stopping the practice of killing unarmed civilians at the border. Our peoples have too much to gain from positive and pragmatic engagement for us not to seize this opportunity.

The writer is foreign adviser to the interim government of Bangladesh

INDIAN EXPRESS Officials of Soviet Union Poland, GDR expelled

FEBRUARY 6, 1985, FORTY YEARS AGO

OFFICIALS EXPELLED

THE ESPIONAGE CASE has taken a dramatic turn with the expulsion of a Soviet national attached to the USSR embassy. This coincided with the expulsion of an official from the German Democratic Republic and another from the Polish embassy. Coomar Narain, the suspected kingpin, has reportedly named a Polish embassy attache, Jan Haberka, to whom he passed secret documents. It could not, however, be confirmed whether Haberka or some other member of the embassy was deported.

POLICE FIRING

FIVE PERSONS WERE killed and seven injured when the police filed on a 14,000-strong mob,

part of which turned violent, at Bhayander, about 55 km from Bombay. Trouble started when the Sangharsh Seva Samiti of Bhayander launched a rail roko in support of their demands. In several cases the police fired from close range and a majority of those receiving bullet injuries were hit in the head.

MLAS DROPPED

THE NAMES OF the chief ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh figure in the lists of candidates which were cleared by the Congress Parliamentary Board for the coming Assembly elections. While retaining the chief ministers, the CPB-I has dropped scores of sitting MLAs in these four states including a large number of ministers and some dissidents.

TRIPURA ATTACK

ARMED TRIBAL NATIONAL Volunteers extremists launched a fresh offensive in two villages in Tripura's West District, shooting down two CPI(M) supporters and injuring one, besides kidnapping three persons, including two student leaders, according to the police. The targets of the extremists, led by "Captain" Kami Debbarma, were the legislator Rucchiram Debbarma, and Tribal **Autonomous District Council member** Budhari Debbarma. This was the second extremist attack on an MLA in Mandai, scene of the June 1980 disturbances.

THE IDEAS PAGE

"Pakistan should reaffirm its support for the people of Kashmir. It should also keep the door open for India in case it decides to resolve the Kashmir question through dialogue." - DAWN, PAKISTAN

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

Turning point, cutting edge

India is embracing the idea of shifting public money into private universities and firms which are nurturing innovation. This makes for greater bang for the taxpayer's buck



R A Mashelkar, Susan THOMAS AND AJAY SHAH

FROM THE OUTSET, the dreamers for India had placed a high value upon science, technology, and scientific temper. The first phase of this was centred around the Indian state. Previously private organisations, such as Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) or Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), were brought under the fold of the government. And, for some time, this delivered good results, such as the nuclear test of 1974.

Gradually, we have started seeing the problem of innovation policy (or S&T policy, as it was called in earlier decades) in a more comprehensive, all-of-society way. What we really require is intellectual capabilities in people, in firms, and not just in standalone government organisations. Intellectual power in Indian firms is a precondition for a high GDP. This is where comprehensive national power comes from. It is not enough to have engineers in ISRO who put a craft on the moon. Those engineers should be in universities and private organisations so that this level of imagination, ambition and knowledge is applied pervasively in society. In France, defence research is funded by

the government and happens in private defence firms. In the US, 80 per cent of NASA's budget is contracted out to private firms and universities. NASA does not make spacecraft: Private vendors do. The Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) plays a critical role in NASA's exploration of the solar system. It will come as a surprise to many to realise that JPL was created in a private university (Caltech) in 1936. From 1954 onwards, it has been the recipient of contracts and resources from NASA for its operational role in NASA's space exploration. The recent accomplishment of Deepseek in China shows how innovative energy comes about in a country: The (private) team that created DeepSeek cut their teeth in computer science doing algorithmic trading.

Indians feel a sense of pride when their money is used in ISRO to place a craft on the moon. There will be higher levels of societal gains when knowledge resides in private organisations, and feeds into society.

In December 2024, the three of us wrote a paper on the foundations of science policy in India (https://bit.ly/xkdr_MST_2024). We utilised knowledge from public economics to clarify the intellectual foundations of science policy. We suggested there were big gains in placing taxpayer resources into private firms and universities. And we utilised knowledge from public administration and law to sketch details of implementation, of how to do this contractingout in the Indian context.

There is a natural connection between risk in research, and contracting out to private persons. Government can contract out the same research problem to multiple implementers who take different pathways. Some pathways would fare poorly, and the flow of money into them would be stopped. Such unfolding of risk is harder when laboratories and bureaucracies are built in government organisations.

When a private firm is working in an



C R Sasikumar

edge in India. In the olden days, taxpayer

money would have gone into a government

organisation (for example an IIT), and the

equipment would have been used by state

functionaries. Instead, MEITY has aligned

with the new paradigm. They have procured

area (for example, an automobile component firm that's challenged to produce ball bearings of a superior spec), it will try to do the research well, because it also has a direct interest in the knowledge sought to be produced. Such a firm would bring knowledge from its normal operations into the contracted research; it would care deeply about the work and execute it well, and then the knowledge produced through the publicly funded research would spillover into its economic success.

Many in Indian science policy have, of course, been thinking on similar lines. The $paradigm\,shift\,has\,been\,simmering\,for\,years.$ We are at a remarkable moment where the new paradigm is turning into action. An important new organisation, Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), will put out grants at about Rs 2,800 crore a year through new ways. It is likely to break new ground in getting public money to private organisations that will fund early stage research.

Paragraph 79 of the recent budget speech reads: "To implement private sector driven research, development and innovation initiative announced in the July budget, I am now allocating Rs 20,000 crore." This is an important milestone in the history of Indian science policy.

An article in the Financial Times on February 2 says that ISRO will buy launch vehicles made by private persons. Taxpayer money will go to private firms who will do cutting-edge engineering, and the knowledge will feed into civilian applications and global competitiveness.

In recent years, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) has worked on using public funding to get more GPUs into private hands, to deepen AI knowl-

18,693 GPUs, which will be in operation at multiple private IT infrastructure firms. ME-ITY will give the use of these GPUs to researchers in Indian private organisations at the price of \$1 per hour. This is the philosophy of buy, not make. Putting these four developments together, we may cautiously say that 2025 will shape up as an important turning point for Indian science policy. The Indian state is ris-When a private firm is ing out of the concept of using public money to hire researchers who are civil servants, to working in an area (for the concept of delivering public money into example, an automobile private universities and firms where cuttingcomponent firm that's edge knowledge is produced. This is greater challenged to produce ball bang for the taxpayer's buck, as opposed to

vertical government science organisations. The broad idea of contracting out public resources for R&D to private persons is increasingly accepted. How would the implementation work? Research funding is not like ordinary purchasing of (say) pencils where contract performance can be readily tested and audited. As the old saying goes, "If there is no possibility of failure, it's not research." The puzzle now lies in developing these new ways. Our paper shows the elements of work required: Changes in legal texts; new versus existing organisations; strategic thinking in public finance; and project planning for the required reforms.

Mashelkar is president, Pune International Centre, Thomas and Shah are co-founders at XKDR Forum

Let the money flow

Review of banking regulations is needed to boost liquidity in the economy



Aditya Puri

INDIA'S GDP IS expected to grow from \$3.7 trillion in 2023-24 to \$7 trillion in 2030-31, which will be fuelled by building on the strong foundation that has already been laid through sound fiscal and monetary policies and world-class physical and digital infrastructure.

Financing India's capex will require higher savings. The investment required for a \$7-trillion economy will be approximately \$2.5 trillion, which translates to an investment-to-GDP ratio of 34 per cent. Corporates and households are net savers with the government running deficits, limiting the amount of its investments.

The private sector has not been investing its surplus. The share of investment to operating cash flow for listed firms is down to 56 per cent in 2023-24 from a peak of 114 per cent in 2008-09. This could be consequent to a lack of confidence in future demand and the uncertainty caused by geopolitics.

With overseas flows muted, personal savings and investment, including overseas investments, will need to be incentivised. So, how can capital and financial intermediation efficiency be improved?

The large corporate sector is using its own surplus, equity markets, bond markets and bank credit, but MSMEs have not received their share of credit. In the last few years, banks have been incrementally getting 40 per cent or less of household savings as against 50 per cent a few years back, as consumers chase higher returns in pension fund schemes and MFs.

There are preemptions. In the last two years, banks have bought Rs 13 trillion of G-Secs against a deposit inflow of Rs 40 trillion, driven by the need to maintain liquidity coverage (LCR) and statutory liquidity ratios (SLR) as mandated by the RBI on a daily basis rather than weekly average. Banks maintain 115 per cent to avoid breach. Given the low supply of papers from manufacturing companies, which also qualify as assets for LCR, banks buy government bonds to meet LCR.

To maintain some cushion in LCR over the mandated levels, banks end up holding SLR securities of up to 26 per cent against the regulatory requirement of 18 per cent.

Banks are also required to maintain a cash reserve ratio (CRR) of 4 per cent of deposits. So, when one looks at the regulatory preemptions, they are close to 30 per cent of banks' deposits – 26 per cent on account of LCR and 4 per cent for CRR — reducing the lendable resources for banks, leading to higher lending rates.

Under the proposed LCR guidelines for digital deposits, banks would have to invest even more in liquid assets to meet LCR, which is estimated to be about 2- 2.5 per cent of deposits.

But, do we need both LCR and SLR? Globally, only LCR exists. Most parts of the world include CRR, which earns no interest, as HQLA (High Quality Liquid Assets). The

volatility of deposits calculation and consequent investment of HQLA assets needs to be examined on a bank-specific basis. Basel only recommends, we need to examine. More efficient cash management by the

government has meant that the overall liquidity available to the banking system has decreased since its surplus is parked with the RBI. This is vital for liquidity management since variation in government surpluses leads to large swings in systemic liquidity. Banks have a priority sector lending (PSL)

requirement of 60 per cent plus (this is because on 40 per cent, we have "priority on priority"), a framework drafted ages back that needs to factor in changes in GDP composition and new priorities. We need to ensure PSL pricing reflects credit risk and not pressures to meet the target.

Also, we need to examine the move to cash-flow-based lending and risk-based pricing. Otherwise, large sections of the population will be outside organised finance. Having limits on clean lending or the rate of interest or higher risk weights will not solve the problem, but supervision with extensive use of tech, including AI, will. Also, strict action should be taken against outliers and not the system as a whole.

Credit growth lower than nominal GDP growth is a major concern, and an in-depth review covering markets, regulations, banks and priorities is needed. The review should cover the funding needs of market participants' liquidity.

Defending the rupee when the reason for weakness is the dollar's strength needs to be examined. This leads to the reduction of liquidity, an overvalued rupee and no effective shoring-up of the currency.

The credit-to-deposit ratio calculation and its purpose should be examined. Banks need to raise both debt and equity from investors to fund growth, so they need to generate returns. They must be allowed to price for risk and processing costs.

Also, the investments in technology are huge. Technology spending by global banks (9 per cent) has outpaced revenue growth (4 per cent). Indian banks, too, are spending on building tech capabilities, with large banks reporting around 5 per cent share of tech in annual spends. Indian banks also have social responsibility costs that need to be recovered. There are a few examples: Not charging for UPI transactions, which account for a major share of bank volumes, the recovery of network costs and other reasonable bank charges. Since we are looking at international practices, a look at their charges would be a good starter.

The government bond market in India is third in emerging markets and despite the inclusion in global indices, our share is at 3 per cent compared to Indonesia's 14.5 per cent. This makes a case for easing regulations.

The cash market looks to have adequate liquidity across the yield curve in the secondary market, but not enough in the derivatives market. For further development of the market, we need lower preemption for government securities. A nudge from regulators (IRDAI/PFRDA/SEBI) to large investors for greater use of derivatives along with cash instruments would help.

The writer, former CEO and managing director of HDFC Bank, is senior advisor to Carlyle's Asia private equity team



Against his oath

Justice Shekhar Yadav's comments, refusal to step back, call for SC response

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REKHA SHARMA

IT HAS BEEN almost two months since Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav of the Allahabad High Court made highly objectionable, communal and distasteful remarks against Muslims and in a tone and tenor not in keeping with the dignity of his office. He seems to have forgotten that judgeship is not a blank cheque. It comes with responsibility. A healthy judiciary interrogates itself and must realise that hate speech cannot be couched in nationalism.

Justice Hrishikesh Roy, who has recently retired from the Supreme Court, said in an interview (IE, February 1) that whenever such incidents happen, there are few options available with the institution — talking to the individual, holding back work, the in-house inquiry procedure or impeachment. While we await an institutional response in terms of any of the above options, Justice Yadav is holding his ground and refusing to walk his statements back.

On December 8, 2024, speaking at an event in Prayagraj organised by the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) on the "Necessity of Uniform Civil Code", Justice Yadav reportedly used a slur to refer to Muslims. He also reportedly said: "You have a misconception that if a law (UCC) is brought in, it will be against your Shariyat, your Islam and your Quran," Justice Yadav said. "But I want to say one more thing... whether it is your personal law, our Hindu law, your Quran or whether it is our Gita, as I said we have addressed the ills (buraaiyan) in our practices... kamiyan thi, durust kar liye hain (the shortcomings have been addressed)... untouchability... sati, jauhar... female foeticide... We have addressed all those issues... Then why are you not doing away with this law... that while your first wife is there...you can have three wives... without her consent... That is not acceptable."

Following his aforesaid statement, there was an uproar in Parliament that led to 55 Rajya Sabha MPs moving for the initiation of impeachment proceedings against him. His comments raised many an eyebrow in the judicial fraternity as well. On the institutional front, he was reportedly summoned by the Supreme Court collegium and was asked to tender a public apology for his remarks. The Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court also, at the instance of the Chief Justice of India, sought his comments on the speech. In response, Justice Yadav is reported to have maintained that he had not violated any principle of judicial conduct and that the judiciary, often unable to defend itself publicly, requires support from senior members of the fraternity.

It appears, then, that Justice Yadav is not

in the least remorseful over his statement and wants to brazen it out. One would have thought that after all the storm that his remarks had created he would have looked within. On the contrary, he wants the senior members of the judicial fraternity to come to his aid. In light of his stand, it is now up to the Supreme Court to take a call on his reported statement, every word of which was against the core values of the Constitution, founded on the principles of equality, justice, fraternity and secularism.

When he says that this country will function as per the wishes of the majority community, Justice Yadav is turning the Constitution on its head. He is clearly and unequivocally adding his voice to all those who are clamouring to make India a Hindu Rashtra. And, when he talks in terms of "we" and "they", "our Gita" and "their Quran", he is clearly othering Muslims. What Justice Yadav reportedly said at the VHP event was not only against the Constitution, it was also in violation of the oath of office that he took before assuming charge as a high court judge: He solemnly affirmed that he would bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India and would perform the duties of his office to the best of his abilities without fear or favour, affection or ill will. Equality, liberty and fraternity are the pillars of the Constitution — what was allegedly said was advocating the worst sort of tyranny.

For over a decade, we have been witnessing some right-wing politicians and socalled "gurus" giving clarion calls to make India a Hindu Rashtra. Unfortunately, this tendency seems to be spreading in the judiciary too — though, at present, at a minuscule level. Many believe that it was wholly inappropriate for Justice Yadav to have attended an event organised by VHP, which bears the tag of a Hindu organisation advocating a Hindu Rashtra. A judge is bound by his oath of office. He swears in the name of the Constitution of India and when he does so, thereafter, as a judge, ceases to be a Hindu or Muslim or of any caste or creed. The Constitution of India becomes his religion, his faith. He must remember what Baron de Montesquieu said: "There is no tyranny crueller than that which is perpetuated under the shield of law and in the name of justice."

Justice Yadav's defiance and his refusal to step back is tantamount to throwing a challenge to the Supreme Court collegium. It is up to the Supreme Court to respond.

epaper.indianexpress.com

The writer is a former judge of the Delhi High Court

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NOT ALL GOOD

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Learning with AI' (IE, February 5). As the use of AI is on the rise, it is important to keep in mind its uses and limitations. Its application in lesson planning, performance evaluation, and interactive learning for students has advantages. However, there are concerns about the reliability and validity of AI-generated information. With AI, students could learn faster and better. But we must be careful not to expand its use to analysis and problem solving. Students should hone their creative skills independent of any technological intervention.

Y G Chouksey, Pune

CURBING MENACE

THIS REFERS TO the report, "First under Trump 2.0: US deports 205 'illegal' Indian migrants, flown back in military plane" (IE, February 5). The US President is walking the talk on the promises he made. The deportation is, hence, on expected lines. The Indian government ought to develop a roadmap to deal with the repatriates. Steps must be taken to weed out perpetrators who facilitate people's journey to the States through the Dunki route. Further, generation of adequate job facilities, investment in healthcare and education are the need of the hour. Aanya Singhal, Noida

THIS REFERS TO the report, "First under Trump 2.0: US deports 205 'illegal' Indian migrants, flown back in military plane' (IE, February 5). The deportation of Indian migrants from the US, particularly through a US military aircraft, highlights India's position in the global migration landscape and raises deeper concerns. It marks the uncomfortable truth that India, despite being one of the world's largest economies, has become a significant source of illegal migrants to the US. While the government's diplomatic approach to avoid confrontation with the US is pragmatic, a more comprehensive plan is needed. India must create an ecosystem that encourages and enables legal migration. It must also focus on addressing the drivers of illegal migration, such as rampant unemployment. Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

No excuses

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Seize the lull'(IE, February 5). Manipur is engulfed in the chaos created by extremists. CM N Biren Singh has failed to control the situation. But the people of the state deserve to live in harmony, as in other states of the country. Efforts at reconciliation must be accelerated to bridge the differences between Meiteis and Kukis. The state has no dearth of resources to carry this out. There is no excuse.

Subhash Vaid, New Delhi

primenewspapers search on telegram TTD Board transfers Rahul: PM spoke for 1.5 hours in Tripura now 'land-linked', peace

18 employees over 'non-Hindu' activities

SREENIVAS JANYALA HYDERABAD. FEBRUARY 5

THE TIRUMALA Tirupati Devasthanam' (TTD) Board, which manages Andhra Pradesh's Sri Venkateswara temple has transferred 18 employees "practicing and participating in non-Hindu religious activities", The Indian Express has learnt.

Six employees are teachers at various TTD institutes, according to the board's executive order released on February 1. The others include a deputy executive officer (welfare), an assistant executive officer, an assistant technical officer (electrical), a hostel worker, two electricians, and two nurses.

Andhra Pradesh Minister for Endowments Anam Ramanarayana Reddy said employees "practicing non-Hindu religious activities" means either they are either Christians or Muslims. " This comes months after the board had decided to transfer non-Hindus and ban political speeches at a meeting held in November -the first held by the TTD since its incumbent chairman, BR Naidu,

was sworn in that month. "Their religious alignment or beliefs do not align with TTD's Hindu practices, hence the transfers. All of them will be suitably posted to similar positions elsewhere," the minister said.

Among those transferred is Dr K V Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy, a pro-

fessor at the SV Ayurvedic College at Tirupati, K Sujatha and G Asuntha, lecturer and principal at the SPW Degree and PG College at Tirupati; K Prathap is a lecturer at SGS Arts College; K Manekshaw Dayan, a lecturer at S V Arts College; and Dr Renu Dixit, principal at SV Ayurvedic College at Tirupati. Also transferred are A Ananda Raju, deputy executive officer (welfare department, TTD), and A Rajashekar Babu, Assistant EO (Auctions).

In the order issued by TTD Executive Officer | Syamala Rao, the board says that the 18 employees have been transferred to other posts. It goes on to say that as "dedicated servants of the Lord Venkteshwara and the esteemed TTD, all the TTD employees are committed to maintain the sanctity of the temple by upholding the traditions and values that have been followed for centuries and to uphold the beliefs and sentiments of the devotees". The order states that the 18

employees have been identified as those practicing and participating in non-Hindu religious activities even though "they have taken the oath before Lord Venkateshwara that they will follow the Hindu dharma and traditions and also stating that they will not follow non-Hindu religious activities in compliance of Rule 9(vi) issued in GO No 1060 of Revenue Department (Endowments) on October 24, 1989".

SANTOSH SINGH PATNA, FEBRUARY 5

THE CONGRESS wants "participation and control and not merely representation" of India's oppressed classes, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi said Friday, as he accused PM Narendra Modi, the RSS, and the BJP of "not wanting a nationwide caste census because they had been afraid of telling the truth".

"While speaking in Parliament on Tuesday, I talked about technology and also talked about participation of Dalits, backwards and tribals. I also reiterated the demand for caste census." Gandhi said. He was speaking at an event in Patna on the 130th birth anniversary of freedom fighter, former minister and Dalit icon Jaglal

This was Gandhi's second visit to the poll-bound state in less than a month. He went on to say that PM Modi spoke for 1.5 hours in his reply in Parliament during the Budget Session "but didn't mention caste census even once".

"This is only because Narendra Modi, BJP and RSS do not want caste census," he further said. "They do not want to tell you the truth about the (representation and participation) of Dalits, backwards and tribals."

The key, according to him, was "participation and control (over the system) — and not mere participation". He also castigated the Bihar caste survey, released



LoP in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi in Patna on Wednesday. ANI

last year, instead pitching the Telangana caste survey, released by the state's Congress government, as a possible model.

While the Bihar caste survey was released in 2023 - while the Congress was part of the ruling dispensation in the state – the one in Telangana was released by its A Revanth Reddy government earlier this week.

Gandhi took a dig at the RSS, claiming that while the outfit and its elders are now seen "folding their hands before BR Ambedkar but they would attack the values propounded and championed by Babasaheb".

"They would so attack the Constitution indirectly. Scholarship for Dalits would be discontinued," he said.

According to the LoP, the Constitution "reflects the thousands of years of pain and suffering of the Dalit, the backwards

and the tribals".

"This book will tell you how vou were suppressed and crushed. But this book will also guide you to your future. This alone can save you and give you participation. But BIP and RSS people want to do away with the Constitution," he claimed.

The "only solution", according to Gandhi, was a nationwide caste census "that would give absolute clarity, not just on numbers but also on caste and community-wise details on their participation in government and private sectors".

India's education system too makes very little mention of Dalits, he admitted.

"I studied in the Indian education system. I could barely come across two-three lines on Dalit. Will these two lines address your pain? Don't Dalits have a history?" Gandhi asked.

DEBRAJ DEB AGARTALA, FEBRUARY 5

House, no word on caste census restored under BJP rule: Shah

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah Wednesday said that under the BJP-led government, Tripura has been transformed into a "land-linked state" from a "land-locked" state, significant work was done to end corruption and the Centre signed pacts with outlawed groups to ensure

Shah was virtually addressing from New Delhi an event for distribution of offers of appointment to candidates in different posts of allopathy, homeopathy and avurvedic pharmacists, laboratory technicians and Multi Tasking Staff (MPW). He said, "One might wonder

how 2,800 youths getting jobs would change an epoch. Let us remember that some time back, when the Communist party ruled here, it was very important to join the Communist cadre force. Only then, one could get a job. On the contrary, Tripura Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha has given 2,806 youths government jobs without any partisan attitude, corruption, recommendation or any bias and has given them the opportunity to join the state's development journey".

"Once upon a time, Tripura was known as a land-locked state. Todav. it is known as a land-linked state," he said.

"For overall development, Tripura is now connected



through airways, land, rail and waterways. After the BIP came to power in Tripura, the government has worked to end corruption and unrest. PM Narendra Modiji's government, Modiji himself, the Union and state governments are fully committed towards Tripura's welfare," the Union home minister said.

Terming the appointments a new beginning in the lives of the youths, the minister said, "As soon as they get the offer letters, they are part of Modiji's Viksit Tripura, Viksit Bharat", and appreciated the Tripura Public Service Commission, Teachers Recruitment Board, Joint Recruitment Board of Tripura for conducting the recruitment with professionalism and success.

Shah pointed out that in the past 10 years, central ministers have made over 700 visits to the northeastern region.

"Northeast was known for terrorism, infiltration, blockade, drugs, armed trafficking, corruption and national disturbances. Today, it is known for development, connectivity, infrastructure, education, investment and agriculture development." he said.

'Take strong action on terror, infiltration in J&K

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday reviewed the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir again and directed all security agencies "to take more stringent action on infiltration and acts of terror with a ruthless approach", the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said in a statement

Chairing a high-level review meeting on the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir at his residence, Shah appreciated the efforts of the security agencies in significantly improving all parameters of the security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir.

Shah said the narcotics network is providing support to infiltrators and terrorists. "There is a need to take prompt action against terror funding from the narcotics trade with alacrity and rigour," he said. Shah also asked al the agencies to step up the fight against terrorism by aiming for the 'zero infiltration' goal. "The government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Mod is committed to completely wipe out terrorism from J&K. It should be our goal to uproot the existence of terrorists," he said, adding that the terrorism ecosystem in J&K has significantly weakened.

JEEVIKA

Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society State Rural Livelihoods Mission, Bihar Rural Development Department,

Advertisement No. BRLPS07/2024-25

Walk-in-Interview

Join a team of committed and passionate Development Professionals.

Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (BRLPS), an autonomous society under Rural Development Department, Govt. of Bihar has been designated as State Rural Livelihoods Mission by Rural Development Department, Government of Bihar to scale up the "JEEVIKA" model in all 534 Blocks of 38 Districts in Bihar under National Rural Livelihood Mission. So far JEEViKA has been able to reach out to nearly 135 Lakh rural poor households by

organizing them into 10.63 Lakh women Self Help Groups under 71000 Village Organizations and 1600 Cluster Level Federations. These institutions have generated nearly Rs. 1350 Crore as their own saving and have

leveraged more than Rs. 46000 Crore from the Banks.

Bring smile to the faces of poor in Bihar

The project has many specific requirements where services of experienced professionals are must. Therefore, project peeds to hire requited and experienced Consultant as follows:

51. No.	5117		No	
01.	MIS Consultant – GIS Expert		01	
02.	Field Executive		04	
Dat	e of Walk in Interview	13thFebruary 2025		
Rep	orting Time for Registration	10 AM to 12.00 Noon		
Venue		Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (BRLPS), Annexe Vidyut Bhawan (Near income tax round about), Jawahar La		

Nehru Marg (Bailey Road), Patna-800021 Official website https://brlps.in may be visited to know detailed eligibility criteria and other details. Candidates are requested to check the websites periodically for updates and other announcements.

BRLPS reserves the right to cancel this recruitment process, fully or partially, at any stage at its discretion. The duration of the assignment will be for 11 months as per part time basis, starting from the date of signing the appointment letter.

The interested candidates are requested to appear for the Walk-in-Interview on 13" February 2025 with their CV in three sets along with 3 recent passport size colour photographs and all the relevant original documents with self-attested photocopies of the same which includes educational qualification certificates, experience certificates etc. at the office of the Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (BRLPS), Annexe-II, Vidyut Bhawan (Near income tax round about), Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg (Bailey Road), Patna-800021.

Disclaimers: Mere eligibility does not guarantee a job. BRLPS reserves the right to shortlist candidates based on qualification and relevant experience. Canvassing in any form shall be a disqualification.

This information is available on website www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also PR. No.018730 (B&C) 2024-25 Chief Executive Officer-cum- Mission Director,

मुरक्षित जीवन अपनाओं, अपनी नियमित एच.आई.वी. जाँच कराओ।

Bihar Rural Livelihood Promotion Society

Govt. 🌃 of Bihar

Urban Development & Housing Department

Office of the Executive Engineer, Urban Development Division, Kankarbagh, SBD Based detailed Notice Inviting Tender (through e-procurement mode only-www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

(only e-tendering system through website: www.eproc2 bihar.gov.in Local/ National Competitive Bidding (Re-Tender) NIT No.:- 18/E/KAN/2024-25

Designation and Address of the Advertiser : Executive Engineer, Urban Development Division, Kankarbagh, PMC

Date of issue of Notice Inviting E-Tender : 04-02-2025

Period for download of Tender Document : 19-02-2025 (10.00AM) to 26-02-2025 (03-00PM)

Date, Time & Place of Pre Bid meeting : 22-02-2025 Last Date of uploading tender documents by: 27-02-2025 (03.00 PM)

Date, time and place for submission of : 27-02-2025 (03-00PM)

Original instrument of EMD

(in the case of BG)

Opening of Technical Bid Details of work:-

: Kankarbagh Division 28-02-2025 (04.00PM)

Bid No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost/ECV (In Rupees)	Amount of Earnest money (In Rupees) Online/Offline mode	Cost of BOQ in Rs. (Non Refundable payment only through online mode)	Bid processing fee in Rs. (Non Refundable payment only Online mode in favor of Beltron)	Time of Completion	EMD Payable at
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Road Restoration/Constru ction of Damaged Road in Different Ward Under Kankarbagh Anchal (package-1)	14,51,35,135	24,51,400	10000.00	5900.00	6 Months	EE, Kankarbagh Division, PMC
2	Road Restoration/Constru ction of Damaged Road in Different Ward Under Kankarbagh Anchal	11,13,59,677	21,13,600	10000.00	5900.00	6 Months	EE, Kankarbagh Division, PMC

(package-2) For further details please visit: www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

Executive Engineer, Urban Development Division, Kankarbagh,

Patna Municipal Corporation, Patna

PR. No.18801 (B & C) 2024-25 बिहार में शराब का व्यापार, बिक्री एवं सेवन अवैध है। इससे संबंधित शिकायत इस नंबर पर दर्ज करायें, आपकी जानकारी गृप्त रखी जाएगी।

टॉल फ्री नं- 15545 या 1800 345 6268

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH Department of Information and Public Relations: Vijayawada CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER NOTICE

Amendment to this office Tender Notice No.008125/MR

/2024, Dt.16.01.2025, Amendment No.1, Dt.05-02-2025 This Office invited sealed tenders from reputed News and Communication Agencies which

can offer an extensive array of news services across all media formats ie.. Print Media Electronic Media, Digital Media and Social Media. Due to administrative reasons certain Terms and Conditions are amended Tender forms (Revised RFP) will be issued from

Last date for issue of Tender forms 10.03.2025 upto 5.00 PM. Last date for submitting the sealed tenders 11.03.2025 upto 12.00 Noon. The bidders who have already purchased RFP shall obtain the Revised RFP from this office. Further details contact the Additional Director,

No: 15313/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22 Dt: 05/02/2025 **Sd/-DIRECTOR**

कार्यालय अति० मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग. सभांग-टोंक **हमांकः - कैशियर∕24-25∕डी-4079-408**5 दिनांक: 28.01.2025

अंकित कार्य Construction of Soorwal to Kustala Sawai Madhopur Bye Pass की BOQ में त्रुटि होनें पर पुनः BOO

पूर्व में प्रकाशित तिथियां विदा आवेदन डाउन लोड करने की तारीख दिनांक 15.01.2025 दोपहर 11.00 बजे रं दिनांक 17.02.2025 को सायं 06.00 बजे दिनांक 27.02.2025 को सायं 06.00 बजे त

30.01.2025 एवं क्वेरिज भिजवाने की दिनांक 07.02.2025 एवं क्वेरिज भिजवाने की दिनांव 29.01.2025 को सांय तक 4.00 बजे तक 06.02.2025 को सांय 4.00 बजे तक ऑन लाईन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख दिनांक 18.02.2025 प्रातः 12.00 बजे दिनांक 28.02.2025 पात: 12.00 बजे

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER, MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, GWALIOR (M.P.)

Narayankrishan Shejwalkar Bhawan, Near Taran Pushkar, City Centre, Gwalior Tel No.: 0751-2438300, 4080352, Fax No.: 0751-2434249

NIT No. 2025-UAD-398977-1/MPGMC/37/24X9/1/PHE/2025 Gwalior, Date : 28.01.2025 दिनांक 04-02-2025 Notice Inviting Tender

On behalf of Gwalior Municipal Corporation, M.P. online percentage rate bids for the following work are invited on portal http://www.mptenders.gov.in from registered Contractors and competent firms. Probable Amount (In Rs.) | Completion Period (In Days) Description of works

Survey and Design of laying of sewar network including Providing, Laying, 06 months Testing and Commissioning of sewar 1,79,05,511.00 Excluding lines in uncovered and different Area of rainy season Ward No. 39, 42 & 43 in Dakshin

Interested bidders can view the NIT of portal http://mptenders.gov.in. The bid document can be purchased only on online from dated 28.01.2025 to 28.02.2025 and can be submitted 28.02.2025 up to 5.30 PM. **Executive Engineer,**

JEEVIKA

National Rural Livelihood Mission.

and non-adjustable

PR. No.018732 (B&C) 2024-25

Water Supply, Gwalior Municipal Corporation, Gwalion

Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society

Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (BRLPS), an autonomous society under

Rural Development Department, Govt. of Bihar has been designated as State Rural

Livelihoods Mission by Rural Development Department, Government of Bihar to

scale up the "JEEVIKA" model in all 534 Blocks of 38 Districts in Bihar under

So far JEEViKA has been able to reach out to nearly 135 Lakh rural poor

01. Steno-cum-Personal Assistant at State Level

Last Date for Submission of Online Application

05.02.2025. The Last Date for receiving of application is 20.02.2025.

households by organizing them into 10.63 Lakh women Self Help Groups under

own saving and have leveraged more than Rs. 46000 Crore from the Banks.

State Rural Livelihoods Mission (SRLM) Bihar

Advertisement No. 04/2024-25

Recruitment for Steno-cum-PA

Join a team of committed and passionate Development Professionals.

71000 Village Organizations and 1600 Cluster Level Federations. These institutions have generated nearly Rs. 1350 Crore as their

Bring smile to the faces of poor in Bihar

Applications are invited for the following positions under Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (Jeevika):

Official website http://brlps.in/Career may be visited to apply online and to know detailed eligibility criteria and other details including

category of vacancies. All communication will be made through website only. The link for receiving of application will be activated from

SLP (C) has been filed by the State Government before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, New Delhi against the order passed on date -

20.06.24 by Hon'ble Patna High Court in CWJC No. 16760/2023 Gaurav Kumar and others vs. State of Bihar and others and all other related

matters. . Therefore, applicants should be aware that the reservation wise vacancy in the published vacancy will be affected by the outcome

Candidates belonging to BC, EBC, EWS & Unreserved categories shall have to pay a non-refundable application fee of Rs. 500/- (Rs. Five Hundred Only). Candidates belonging to SC, ST and Divyang (PH) categories shall pay a non-refundable application fee of Rs. 200/- (Rs. Two

Hundred Only). Reservation facility would be applicable only to the Bihar domicile candidates. Application fee has to be paid through

online only while registering online. The application fee is exclusive of Bank charges, wherever applicable. Fees once paid is non-refundable

Position Name

of the order passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, New Delhi in the SLP filed by the Government of Bihar.

Dated: 03-02-2025. E-Tenders

www.ireps.gov.in

Majhi govt launches scheme similar to BJD's initiative, months after criticising it

SUJIT BISOYI

BHUBANESWAR, FEBRUARY 5

AFTER MONTHS of criticising the 'Ama Odisha, Nabin Odisha' of the previous Naveen Patnaik government while in Opposition, the BJP appears to have launched a similar rural development scheme. On Wednesday, Chief Minister Mohan Majhi launched 'Viksit Gaon, Viksit Odisha' scheme – a scheme that promises to grade and strengthen rural infrastructure.

While launching the scheme Wednesday, Majhi said that it aims for upgrading basic rural infrastructure and strengthening rural connectivity in the

PROVISION OF TRACK CIRCUITS AT ALIPURDUAR DIVISION E-Tender Notice No. S&T/APDJ/23

are invited by the undersigned for the following works: E-Tender No. AP-ST-23-2024-25. Name of work: Alipurduar Division: Provision of Track circuits using MSDAC at critical locations, such as L/3 and L/4 at Binnaguri station, Tender Value: ₹1,17,57,702/-. Earnest Money: ₹2,08,800/-. Date & Time of Closing of Tender: 15.00 hrs. of 28-02-2025 & opening at 28-02-2025 after closing E-Tender. The complete information with the tender documents of above e-tender will be available in website

DRM (S&T), Alipurduar Division NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

"Under the scheme, emphasis would be given for accelerating development of tribal and inaccessible pockets. The government will spend ₹5,000 crore in five years under the scheme Projects sanctioned by gram sabhas will only be taken into consideration to take up under the new scheme," said Majhi. The scheme appears to bear some

resemblance to the one launched by Patnaik's Biju Janata Dal government in 2023. Called 'Ama Odisha, Nabin Odisha (our Odisha, new Odisha)', the scheme was a variation of the 'Ama Gaon, Ama Vikash (our village, our development) and promised financial assistance of Rs 50 lakh to panchayats for protecting places of worships, upgrading sites of historical significance, and improving rural infrastructure and digital access.

Significantly, the 'Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha' rolled out by Patnaik ahead of last year's assembly polls, built on the success of the 'Ama Gaon, Ama Vikash'. The then government had hoped it would help it tide over the growing anti-incumbency in the state ahead of 2024 assembly polls, although

it was unsuccessful. According to government officials, the 'Viksit Gaon, Viksit Odisha' scheme will be "catalyst to fulfil the needs of the people in rural areas". The scheme also has provisions for the development of smaller and lesser-known places with tourism potential, and upgrading education and sports infrastructure among other public welfare projects.

Plea to Andhra for resolution against uranium mining

Hyderabad: Three

months after Andhra Pradesh's Chandrababu Naidu government halted uranium exploration inside Kappatralla reserve forest in Kurnool district in Andhra Pradesh, the Human Rights Forum (HRF) in the state has urged the government to pass a resolution assuring that there would be no uranium exploration in the area. In a statement, the HRF in Andhra Pradesh, which visited the area on February 2, demanded that the

state government adopt a resolution in the Assembly stating in unambiguous

terms that no at-

tempt will be made

towards survey and

exploration for ura-

nium deposits in the

Kappatralla reserve.

This information is available on website www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also Chief Executive Officer-cum- Mission Director, Bihar Rural Livelihood Promotion Society

सुरक्षित जीवन अपनाओ, अपनी नियमित एच.आई.वी. जाँच कराओ। epaper.indianexpress.com



Disclaimers: Mere eligibility does not guarantee a job.

(Monthly CTS* - Excluding other benefits**) ₹26218/- to ₹ 37664/-

20.02.2025

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I Shyam Sunder Dhamija S/O, Gela Ram Dhamija R/o 2/261 First Floor, Subhash Nagar, New Delhi 110027 have changed my name to Shyam Dhamija for all purposes

0040772519-1

I hitherto have known as SAPNA W/o Vidyasagar Choudhary, R/o Flat No.-1505 Tower B15, Eco Vill-1, Plot No 8, Sec-1, Greater Noida West GB Nagar U.P. 201306 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sapna Choudhary.

0070949380-1

I.Varun Bhargava.H.No.-509.Ist Floor, Sector-22B, Molahera (65), Gurgaon(Haryana),have changed my Minor-Daughter name, from Ahana to Ahana Bhargava.

0040772581-7

I, VIJAY GUPTA, S/O BHAGWAT PRASAD GUPTA, R/o, B-32, UG-2, Ramprastha Colony, Ghaziabad(UP)have changed my name to VIJAY KUMAR GUPTA.

Lal Khurana, R/o B-2/306, Mayur

Delhi 110085, have changed my

Apartment, Sector-9, Rohini,

0040772581-1 I,Suman Bala Mohin, D/o,Chunni

name to Suman Mohin. 0040772581-5 I,Shweta Sayal,W/o-Rajiv Sayal R/o Flat no L-103,BPTP-Park Floors-1, Sector-77, Nimka (96), Faridabad, Haryana 121004, have changed my

name, from Shweta Sayal to

Shweta Roy, for all, future

purpose.

0040772582-5

I,Shivani Mittal W/o Sandeep Mangla, H.No. 537/18, Civil Lines, Baraf Khana, Gurgaon (Haryana) -122001,have changed my name to Shivani Mangla.

0040772581-8

I,Sanyukta Gupta,W/O Nidhish Saxena,R/O C-901,Beverly Hills Society, Hinjewadi Phase-1.Dange Chowk Road, Hinjavadi, Pune, Maharashtra-411057, have changed my, name

to Sanyukta Saxena.

I.Rameshwar Madheshia,S/o-Hari Sah Gupta, H. No-3942, Block-D1, Sanjay-colony Sector-23, Faridabad, Haryana-121005, have changed my name Rameshwar Gupta.

0040772582-8

I,Ramesh Chand,S/o-Asha Ram,R/o-H.No.799,Kundli Sonipat, Haryana-131028, that name of mine has been wrongly written as Ramesh in my 10th-class marksheet.The actual name of mine is Ramesh Chand respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

0040772582-7

I.Sushma Kharb, W/o Manoj Kumar R/o,Quarter No.E-65A, Railway-Colony Railway Station, Rohtak(Haryana)-124001, have changed my name to Sushma Devi.

0040772581-9

I,NEHARIKA GUPTA,W/o-Vikas Sharma, R/o-119/5, Sai-Nagar, Meethapur-Extension, Badarpur New-Delhi-110044, have changed my name NEHARIKA SHARMA. 0040772582-9

I,Manoj Rawat,S/O Meharwan

Singh Rawat, Flat. No. G1 HIG Plot no.267.Niti-Khand-I Indirapuram Ghaziabad-201014,UTTAR PRADESH,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO Manoi Singh Rawat, FOR ALL, FUTURE PURPOSE.

0040772581-2 I,MAZAHIR KAREEM,S/O

QAYAMUDDIN,R/O,H.NO.C-14, THIRD-FLOOR.ABUL-FAZAL ENCLAVE-1, JAMIA-NAGAR, **OKHLA, NEW-DELHI-**110025.INFORM THAT GIVEN NAME- MAZAHIR KARIM, FOR ALL PURPOSE.

0040772581-4

I,KANEEZ RAZA,w/o-Ali Javed H.no.212 K, Mohalla Chhewra.Amroha.Amroha.Utta r Pradesh-244221,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as TANZEEM FATMA.

0040772582-2

I, Harshit Agarwal, s/o-Brij Kishore R/O N-404, Aditya-City.Indirapuram.Ghaziabad.U P-201014, have changed my son name, form Sholk Agarwal to

Shlok Agarwal, permanantly.

I,Harshit Agarwal,s/o-Brij Kishore R/O N-404, Aditya-Mega City Indirapuram-Ghaziabad, UP-201014, have changed my minor son name form Sholk Agarwal to Shlok Agarwal, permanantly.

0040772582-6

0040772582-4

I.CHAMPA BISHT.W/O-HEERA SINGH,R/O,487B,A-BLOCK, PALAM-VIHAR.GURGAON. HARYANA, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO CHAMPA NEGI, FOR ALL RECORDS.

0040772582-3

0020488210-1

I, Rajina Begam, spouse of Akkas Ali, resident of at Village & PO - Rosulpur, PS-Nabagram, District-Murshidabad, State-West Bengal, PIN-742184, have changed my name from Rajina Begam to Rajina Bagam vide Affidavit dated 03/02/2025 before Notary Public, District Court Srinagar, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

I.Bharat Dua.S/o-Jeevan Das Dua, R/o-D-5/6, Krishna-Nagar, Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Bharat Bhushan.Bharat Dua and Bharat Bhushan is one and the same person.

0040772581-10

I,Amit,S/o Karamvir,R/o-306, Near Shiv Mandir, Village Kishorpur, Post Office-Siaroli.District-Palwal (Haryana), have changed my name to Amit Dagar.

0040772581-6

I,ABBASI SABIHA AKBAR ALI,W/O MAZAHIR KARIM,R/O H.NO.C-14, 3RD FLOOR, ABUL **FAZAL ENCLAVE PART-1, JAMIA-**NAGAR, OKHLA, NEW DELHI-110025. INFORM THAT GIVEN NAME SABIHA. FOR ALL PURPOSE.

0040772581-3

I. Raiender S/o Shimbhu Daval. Village Nangal Pipa PO Kamania Distt. Mahendergarh (Haryana) is Permanent resident of said Address and Ihave change my name Rajender to Rajender Kumar.

0020488131-1

I, RAMESH MEHTA, S/O RADHEY SHYAM MEHTA resident of HOUSE NO-90, OLD GANDHI NAGAR GHAZIABAD UTTAR PRADESH-201001 have changed my name from RAMESH MEHTA to RAMESH CHANDRA MEHTA. Henceforth I would be known by the name of RAMESH CHANDRA MEHTA for all future purposes

I, MEDHAVI D/o Dheeraj Saxena, R/o B-39/2, Block-B, East of Kailash, New Delhi-110065 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **MEDHAVI BHATNAGAR**

0040772376-1

I. Prince S/o Sh.Vijav Kumar Singh,R/o-H.No-8,Tigaon-Road, Near Law College, Shrimurti-Enclave, Jasana, Faridabad, HR-121101. I, inform that my father's name Vijay Singh is wrongly-mention in my School Certificate, but the correct name is Vijay Kumar Singh.

0040772533-1

I, JYOTI DEVI W/o Prameshwar Singh, R/o C-20, Ashoka Enclave Part-2, Sector-37, Faridabad, Haryana-121003 have changed my name to JYOTI KUMARI for all purposes. 0040772377-1

I, M PARVESH S/O BABU KHAN R/O 5165/1 PHATAK HAKIM MEHMOOD KHAN BALLIMARAN, DELHI-110006, have changed my name to **MOHAMMAD PARVEZ**

Permanently

0070949294-1

I, Harish Kumar s/o Dharambir R/o Gali no 1 Friends colony najafgarh road opposite sector 09 police post Bahadurgarh haryana 124507 have changed my name to Harsh saini for all future purposes

0050259785-1

I, Asit Kumar, S/o Umesh Chandra Choudhury, resident of House No 127, Gali No 3. Pradhan Enclave, Block-D, Burari, North Delhi, Delhi-110084, have changed my daughter's name from Aashvi Kumari to Aradhya Kumari. Henceforth my daughter will be known by the name of Aradhya Kumari for all future

0040772425-1 I Akansha Gupta W/o Amit Gupta, R/o B-1, Royal Court CGHS, Plot No. 2, Sector 39, Gurgaon, Haryana 122001, have change my name to Akansha

purposes.

Jain Gupta

0070949339-1

I, Anil Dixit S/o Raghubir Prasad Dixit R/o Victoria-B 901, Grand Omaxe, Sec-93B, Noida UP-201301, inform that My Builder Buyer Agreement Issued By Omaxe Ltd Against the Unit No. Victoria-B 901, Grand Omaxe Project is misplaced somewhere. Any person who finds it, please return it Omaxe Ltd. 7.L.S.C Kalkaii New Delhi-110019 Or Call No-011-41896680, 011-41629900

0070949363-1

Here. I declare that myself Shailender S. Baliwal S/o Ram Sarup Singh R/o 47 Anand Lok, 5th Milestone Rurkee Road Modi Puram Meerut 250110, have lost my propery allotment letter of Flat no. C6/1201, Supertech Eco village -1, Greater Noida sector-1. Its use by anyone else anywhere will be illegal and unlawful.

0070949361-1

LOST & FOUND

Reetika Madan W/O Late Mr. Pradeep Kumar Madan D/O Late Mr. Maharai Kumar Kapur R/O C-3 Greater Kailash Enclave-1, 1st Floor New Delhi have lost original Registered papers of my house and Relinquishment deed from my daughters in favour of Reetika Madan during the whitewash of my house. If anybody found contact within 15 days. If anybody try to misuse the

papers will face legal action.

indianexpress.com



The Indian EXPRESS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that Mr Anil Jain & Mr

PUBLIC NOTICE

Neelu Jain are the lawful owners of property bearing Unit no. 1502, 15th Floor ower-T6, Coban Residences, Sector-99A Gurugram. They have entered into greement with Mrs Sonali Mishra & M Ankit Tanmay to sell the said property M Anil Jain & Mrs Neelu Jain have lost the original Apartment Buyers' agreeme ated 04-03-2015 executed between M/ Pareena Infrastructures Pvt Ltd and Mr Ani ain & Mrs Neelu Jain. An FIR dated 04-02-2025 has been filed in respect of the ame If any person has any claim or interes over the said property, he/she is requested o forward his/her claim/s along with th elevant document/s to us within 15 days o his public notice. If we do not receive an claim from any person within 15 days, will be strictly presumed that this propert absolutely free from any claim of ncumbrance and no one has any claim over

> RAVI CHOPRA ADVOCATE OFFICE NO 1, FIRST FLOOR DDA MARKET POCKET-A-1 MAYUR VIHART-III, DELHI-96

PUBLIC NOTICE

his property.

This is to notify the general public that an Original Possession Letter dated 19.04.2024 of plot no. 131, Spring Valley, Sector- 35 Sohna, Gurugram, Haryana, executed between M/s Vibhor Home Developers Private Limited and Mr. Khaminder Bhardwaj S/o Rajesh Bhardwaj & Mrs. Kaushiki Bhardwaj W/o Mr. Khaminder Bhardwaj both R/o A-114, Shastri Nagar Delhi -110052 is lost and if any person is found using the abovementioned document shall be illegal and the person shall be held liable for the same.

Khaminder Bhardwaj S/o Rajesh Bhardwaj R/o A-114, Shastri Nagar, Delhi -110052.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Brigadier UC Chaturvedi & Late Mrs Noida (Uttar Pradesh). The WILL of Late Brigadier UC Chaturvedi was executed on 2 ovember 2014 and was registered in the office of Sub Registrar (one) Noida vide Register Number 3 Volume Number 481 2368. With the help of this Notice it ansferred as per WILL of Late Brigadie UC Chaturvedi in favour of son Col Hemai Chaturyedi (65.91% share) R/o Flat No 404 'A' Tower, Proview Laboni, Crossing Republik, Ghaziabad (UP), daughter Mrs Punam Pant (22.24% share) R/o Flat No 1519, Park View Colony, Sector-29, and to Grandson Nishant Chaturvedi (11.85% share) R/o A-15, Hansmukh Garden Estate S.D. Road, Near IT Park, Dehradun Ittarakhand. If anyone have/has an bjection he/she may file his/her objection ertaining to this matter in the Grou ousing Department of Noida Authorit long with sufficient proofs within 30 days of

Col Hemant Chaturvedi (Retired)

SITUATION VACANT	Tenders are to https://eproc.rajasth
ACADEMIC	NIT No.
BALAJI COLLEGE OF EDUCATION Affiliated to CRSU Jind & Approved by NRC, NCTE- New Delhi	13/2024-25 Rate Design commit bore includi
Adarsh Nagar, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, Haryana - 121004 M.: 9650415839, 9310002234	mainte in var Region
Email: balajiedu244@gmail.com REQUIRES FOR B.Ed. Teaching Staff: Principal - (01)	RajKaj Ref. No. 132 DIPR/C/1214-2025
Assistant Professor (Pedagogy of Economics) - (01) Assistant Professor (Pedagogy of Commerce) - (01) Assistant Professor	Offi Firs

(Pedagogy of Mathematics) - (01) Assistant Professor (Pedagogy of Sanskrit) - (01) Assistant Professor (Pedagogy of Music) - (01) Assistant Professor (Health & Physical Education - (01) Assistant Professor (Fine Arts) - (01) Also Required following Non-Teaching Staff: Office Manager - (01) Office-cum-Account Assistant - (01) Lab Assistant (BCA with 55% Marks (01)

Office Assistant-cum-Computer Operator - (01) Store Keeper - (01) Technical Assistant - (01) Lab Attendant - (01)

Helpers / Support Staff - (02) Eligibility and Salary as per the norms of State Govt. and CRSU, Jind.

Note: Interested candidates please send one set of documents with application at the college address and one set of documents with application send to the Dean, Colleges & Development Council, Ch. Ranbir Singh University, Jind Haryana - 126102 within 21 days from the date of advertisement.

RAICHUR POWER CORPORATION LIMITED 2X800 MW - YERAMARUS THERMAL POWER STATION

CIN: U40101KA2009PLC049582 No. KPCL/2024-25/SE0219 Date: 04.02.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Two Cover System) (Through Karnataka Public Portal only)

Name of the Work: APPOINTMENT OF COAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR LIAISONING, SUPERVISION OF LOADING, MOVEMENT & HANDLING AND DELIVERY OF RAW COAL ALONG WITH QUALITY AND QUANTITY ASSURANCE FROM THE MINES OF SINGARENI COLLIERIES CO. LTD. (SCCL) / RAILWAY LOADING POINTS OF SCCL TO YERMARUS THERMAL POWER STATION (YTPS) BY ALL RAIL ROUTE. Tenders are invited from reputed companies/persons for coal supplies from various loading point/s of SCCL and having adequate knowledge and experience about movement, handling and delivery of approx. 52.36 lakh MTs of coal per annum under Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) for a period of Two (02) years The last date for receipt of the completed bids: 17.00 Hrs. 05.03.2025. The tender document can be downloaded from the website: https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in Further details can be had from The Superintending Engineer (Mines), KPCL No. 82, Shakti Bhavan, III Floor, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. Telefax. 080-22203894. E-mail: cefuelskpcl@karnataka.gov.in Website: www.kpcl.karnataka. gov.in e-portal helpdesk/HP Helpdesk; +91-8046010000/+91-8068948777.



Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation Limited

Bangalore - 560079. Phone: +91-80-29619801, Email: md.ksmscl@gmail.com Dt: 05.02.2025

No: HFW/ KSMSCL/DRUGS/RETND/PRGM/KSAPS/37/2024-25

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref:Tender Notification No: HFW/KSMSCL/DRUGS/RETND/ PRGM/KSAPS/37/2024-25, Dated: 05.02.2025 (IND-0204) Nationwide Tender is invited through e-Tendering system under KTPF Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tender:

RE TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF TEST KITS AND BLOOD BAGS FOR KARNATAKA STATE AIDS PREVENTION SOCIETY (KSAPS), BENGALURU. Details regarding EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information are available in the Tender Document, which can be downloaded from the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 05.02.2025. The eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders under e-procurement platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office.

Managing Director KSMSCL, Bangalore DIPR/CP/4843/SHIRDISAI/2024-25

ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PHED **REGION-I JAIPUR**

Jyoti Nagar, Shehkar Marg Jaipur (Raj.) Ph.: 0141-2740170, E-Mail- ace1.jpr.phed@rajasthan.gov.in No- ACE(1)/PHED/Ar.Solar-RO-DFU/2024-25/ Date-25/01/2025

NOTICE INVITING BID (Nit No. 13/2024-25) On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan NIT No. 13/2024-25 online tender is hereby invited

from eligible bidders for "Rate Contract for the work of Designing, providing, installation and commissioning of Solar Energy based bore well water pumping systems, including comprehensive operation and maintenance for a period of seven years in various villages/Town of PHED Region Jaipur Ist." Interested bidders may participate upto 06.00 PM on dated 18.02.2025 as per criteria mentioned in the detailed NIT/Tender documen available on website: https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in & http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in are to be submitted online in electronic format on website proc.rajasthan.gov.in as per prescribed schedule. DE-PHE2425A4068

NIT No.	Particular	Estt. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	UBN No.
13/2024-25	Rate Contract for the work of Designing, providing, installation and commissioning of Solar Energy based bore well water pumping systems, including comprehensive operation and maintenance for a period of seven years in various villages/Town of PHED Region Jaipur Ist	480.00	PHE2425 WSRC 08635
ajKaj Ref.	No. 13202523	Addition	al Chief Engine



Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs Office of the Custodian of Enemy Property for India First Floor, East Wing, Shivaji Stadium, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001

NOTICE FOR DISPOSAL OF ENEMY PROPERTIES **THROUGH E-AUCTION**

The office of the Custodian of Enemy Property for India (CEPI) is a Statutory Authority under the provisions of the Enemy Property Act, 1968. The Head Office is at Delhi with Branch Offices at Mumbai, Kolkata and Lucknow.

(1/2025) E-AUCTION

The O/o CEPI is undertaking E-Auction of 47 Enemy Properties located in Districts of Uttar Pradesh. Sitapur, Fatehpur

Details of properties and other conditions/details are available on:https://enemyproperty.mha.gov.in

https://www.mstcindia.co.in/TenderEntry/Lot_Item_Details_AucID.aspx ?ARID=482771

The details can be downloaded/viewed from above websites / by scanning QR Code. The E-Auction notice/inspection period is from 22.01.2025 to 11.02.2025. The E-Auction will take place on 12.02.2025 from 11.00 Hrs to 16.00 Hrs. All interested persons are advised to see Amendments/Changes in the Bid Document, if any, which will be uploaded on the website.



वरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक अधिकारी

PHED Region-1st Jaipur

Date and Time of E-Auction 12.02.2025 11:00 Hrs. to 16:00 Hrs.

CBC 19148/11/0009/2425



our office website www.jnarddc.gov.in or https://mkp.gem.gov.in

Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre (An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India) Amravati Road, Wadi, Nagpur - 440 023.

www.jnarddc.gov.in (07104-220701) e-mail: purchasejnarddcnagpur@gmail.com निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना/NOTICE INVITING TENDER - FEB 2025 Director, JNARDDC, Nagpur, invites online bids from reputed firms for the following services/items.

निदेशक, निम्नलिखित निविदा की आपूर्ति के लिए प्रतिष्ठित कंपनियों से ऑनलाइन प्रस्ताव आमंत्रित किया है। Refundable Last date of Tender/ Description of Date of GeM Equipments/ EMD tender tender downloading Bid No. submission opening tender Hiring of Security Manpower GEM/2025/B/ 13.02.2025 | 13.02.2025 | Available at (Supervisor and Unarmed 1,00,000/-5859705 (18:00 Hrs.) (18:30 Hrs.) GeM portal Security Guards) Induction Melting Furnace GEM/2025/B/ 25.02.2025 | 25.02.2025 | Available at 1,40,000/-50 Kg Capacity (15:00 Hrs.) (15:30 Hrs.) 5872210 GeM portal

The details are available in the tender document which will be available for download from



Mahakumbh 2025 **Department of Urban Development,**

Government of Uttar Pradesh through



+91 532 2500775 / +91 532 2504011, mahakumbh25@gmail.com The Prayagraj Mela Authority Invites below mentioned bids:-

1. Empanelment of Agencies for Designing and Publication of Coffee Table Books on Mahakumbh 2025. The Request for Proposal Documents shall be made available on the Uttar

Pradesh E-Procurement website https://etender.up.nic.in from Sr. No. 1- 06th February 2025 onwards. Interested parties may download/ upload their proposal and details regarding the tender shall be made available on Uttar Pradesh E-Procurement website https://etender.up.nic.in.

epaper.indianexpress.com

Meladhikari. पत्र संख्या १२४४/पन्द्रह-म0कु०-२०२५ (२०२४-२५) दिनांक ०५ फरवरी, २०२५ Kumbh Mela, Prayagraj

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED, Churu E-mail - ace.chu.phed@rajasthan.gov.in

Date:-Corrigendum NO. 03 For this office NIT NO. 04/2024-25

Corrigendum No. 03 for this office NIT NO. 04/ 2024-25 (UBN is: PHE2425WLOE06217 & Tender ID: 2024_PHCJ_431632_1) may be visited on the procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.

SAVE WATER – SAVE LIFE

DIPR/C/1014/2025

(Rammurti) Add. Chief Engineer (P) PHED, Project Region Churu

Mahatma Phule Renewable Energy and Infrastructure Technology Limited (Subsidiary of MPBCDC, a Government of Maharashtra undertaking) Re-Tender Notice of Request for Qualification (RFQ)

Steam as a service (SaaS) provider in Maharashtra and other states". The interested bidder may submit their offer on or before the last date 20/02/2025 at 15.00 hrs. For details, please visit https://mahapreit.in/ and https://mahatenders.gov.in/.

MAHAPREIT invites RFQ for "Empanelment of Agencies for

Executive Director (Operations)

🌃 RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED

Online e-bids are invited for construction of following 132kV GSS along with associated ines & Bays including supply of all Equipments (except Power Transformer under BN-9015002424 and except Power Transformer and ACSR conductor under BN-9015002422), materials, erection (including civil works), testing & commissioning as detailed below:-SE (PROC-I)/NIB-08/2024-25/BN- 9015002424 & UBN- VPN2425WLOB02820

NOTICE INVITING e-BIDs

2 Nos. 132 kV Grid Sub-Stations at Behrawanada Khurd (Distt. - SawaiMadhopur) & Shivad (Distt. - SawaiMadhopur) along with associated lines (1.5KM D/C for Behrawanada Khurd and 1KM D/C for Shivad Approx.) SE (PROC-I)/NIB-08/2024-25 / BN- 9015002422 & UBN- VPN2425WLOB02821

1 No. 132kV Grid Sub Stations at Khat Labana (Distt- Sriganganagar) along with

associated Line (27KM S/CApprox.) and 1 No. 132kV Bay at 132KV GSS Tatarsar The detailed NIB and Bid document /specification are available for riewing/downloading on the website http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in. Details of NIB are available on website energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rrvpn. Any extension in bid submission/opening date (if any) will be floated/uploaded on http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in; energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rrvpn & http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in only.

Raj.Samwad/C/24/11208 RRVPN/TR-6600/2025



Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs Office of the Custodian of Enemy Property for India First Floor, East Wing, Shivaji Stadium, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001

NOTICE FOR DISPOSAL OF ENEMY PROPERTIES THROUGH E-AUCTION

The office of the Custodian of Enemy Property for India (CEPI) is a Statutory Authority under the provisions of the Enemy Property Act, 1968. The Head Office is at Delhi with Branch Offices at Mumbai, Kolkata and Lucknow. (2/2025) E-AUCTION

The O/o CEPI is undertaking E-Auction of 40 Enemy Properties located in

https://www.mstcindia.co.in/TenderEntry/Lot Item Details AucID.aspx?ARI

Ayodhya, Muzaffarnagar, Amethi, Etah, Amroha, Pilibhit, Lucknow Districts of Uttar Pradesh and Mumbai (Sobhani Road), Chennai, Kolkata and Maharashtra (Ratnagiri) are high value Enemy properties. Details of properties and other conditions/details are available on:-

The details can be downloaded/viewed from above websites / by scanning QR Code. The E-Auction notice/inspection period is from 23.01.2025 to 12.02.2025. The E-Auction will take place on 13.02.2025 from 11.00 Hrs to 16.00 Hrs. All interested persons are advised to see Amendments/Changes in the Bid

https://enemyproperty.mha.gov.in



or otherwise acting on an advertisement in CBC 19148/11/0008/2425 manner whatsoever.

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites bids through e-Auction through IREPS (https://ireps.gov.in/) for the allotment of under mention contracts at Railway Stations/Locations/Sites of bidding

Rohtak (2nd Entry) (TW), Delhi (PF-16) (B-T-T) = Total 02 Site 03-2025 at 11:00 Hrs Website particulars where complete details https://ireps.gov.in/

All contractors who intend to participate in the e-auctions conducted through E-Auction Leasing module of IREPS should fulfil following mandatory requirements before they can

submit their bids:

Current Account in State Bank of India

19.02.2025

Integration of SBI Bank Account with IREPS Account

request for registration by clicking on New Vendors / Contractors (E-Tender /E-Auction Leasing) link on IREPS Home page.

Parking-

Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial Branch,

Email: pkg.delhidivision@gmail.com Tel: 011-23743084 any query No. 23AC/393/E-Auction/Pkg/2025 Dated: 04.02.2025

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Manufacturing, providing and fixing of wear plate on BCM/FRM/ BRM machines as per RDSO 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

of two years. SI.No. 1:- Open tender No./due on: 11-TMC-WP-SM-2024-25 due on 07.03.2025. Description of works: Manufacturing, providing and fixing of wear plate on BCM/FRM/BRM machines as per RDSO 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 Administration shall not entertain any 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

document are required to quantify its implications in financial term duly enclosing the calculation sheet supporting with authentic document, so that the impact of such financial condition on the offer may be worked out to decide inter-se-position of offers. In case tenderer quotes such financial condition without quantifying its financial implications, such tenders/offers shall be summarily rejected, for which Railway 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 Astt. Executive Engineer/TMC CPRO/W-392 Gorakhpur Never travel on

(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

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

Notice No.: NWR-SC-Civil-13641937 2. Name of work with location: Balance Works (Civil) involving construction of PEB Shed watering facility, Drains, CC roads flooring, boundary wall/retaining wall & other miscellaneous works in connection with developing new coach care 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

tender will be accepted. 157-AJ/25 ollow us on f V . NWRailways @ NWRailways_ 🔘 EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY 📵

E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender No. :TRD/DNR/OT/46/24-25, Name

where complete details

of E-Tender can be seen:

www.ireps.gov.in, Note:- No manual

TENDER Notice No.46/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:

ofwork with its location : (A) Daniyawan Proposal for two new goods line (750M) a DHWN station. (B) Sigariyawan - SGYN Provision of new goods line (750M) a 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 o tender: The tender have 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. Al corrigendum will be uploaded on website it required.

Divnl. Railway Manager ECR/Danapur PR/02042/DNR/ETRD/T/24-25/40

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copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies. associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers

NORTHERN RAILWAY (E-Auction Notice)

following Railway stations/locations: E-Catalogue Date & Time No. Parking-17.02.2025 Panipat (Car) = Total 01 Site at 11:00 Hrs 02-2025

of E-Auction can be seen

Registration on IREPS for E-Auction Leasing module -Active IREPS User Account for

E-Auction Leasing Module. Payment of One Time Registration Fee

Lien Marking of Funds Updation of Turnover Details Contractors who do not have IREPS account for any module of IREPS can submit their online

Railway Authority to contact, in case of

State Entry Road, New Delhi 110055.

E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this E-Works Tender Notice No. 11-TMC-WP-SM-2024-25 Dated 03.02.2025

ourpose, venders are required to get hemselves registered with IREPS website along with class III Digital signature certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000, 3. Rates entered nto Financial Rate page and duly

condition stipulated in tender

roof and foot boards

signed digitally shall only be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendor shall be straight way ignored and shall not be considered. 4.Documents being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 5. Earnest Money per requirement (in Set) for period should be deposited through online. Tenderers quoting financial conditions deviating from tender

388/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

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

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

Govt. of Biltar

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Open E-Tender Notice No. IZN/

Elect/OT/02/2025 Dt. 31.01.2025

E-Tender are invited by Sr. Divisional

Electrical Engineer(G)/N.E. Railway/

Izatnagar For & on behalf of the

President of India for the following

work:- Sl. No. - (1) Description of work Electrical work in connection with

provision of mechanized laundry

(2 Ton) at Tanakpur station in

Izzatnagar Division. Approximate

tender value in Rs. : 64,60,778.05.

Earnest Money in Rs. : 1,29,300.00,

Cost of tender paper in Rs. : Nil, Date &

time of closing E-tender: 25.02.2025 at

15.00 hours., Completion time from the date of issue of letter of Acceptance

Four Months.

Manual offers are not

allowed against this tender and such

manual offer received shall be ignored.

The tender can be viewed at website

http://www.IREPS.gov.in • The

tenderer/ bidders must have Class-III

Digital signature certificate & must

have registered on IREPS portal.

Only registered tenderer/bidders

can participate in e-tendering. . All

relevant papers must be uploaded at the

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G)

"Never travel on roof and foot boards"

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that METRO TYRES

LTD. is the member of the Jai Versova Co-

operative Housing Society Limited,

holding five fully paid up shares of Rs.50/-

each bearing Serial Nos.116 to 120 (both

inclusive) and represented by Share

Certificate No.23 and is the owner of the Flat

No.A-204 in the building of the Society. The

member has informed the Society that the

Original Share Certificate No.23 is lost

misplaced and has not been found even after

diligent search and hence had requested the

Society for issuance of a duplicate Share

Certificate in lieu of the lost/misplaced

Original Share Certificate No.23. The

authorized representative of the member has lodged an Information Report/Complaint at

the Crime Branch, Delhi Police pertaining to

loss of the Share Certificate and other title

deeds of the Flat and the same has been

registered under LR no.1773316/2024 dated

If any person has any objection for issuance

of a duplicate Share Certificate and/or any

claim thereto he/she is required to make the

same known to the Hon. Secretary, Jai

Versova Co-operative Housing Society

Limited having its office at Plot No. 21/A, of S.

No. 82, Opp. Gold Crown, C.T.S. No. 1070, J.

Andheri (West), Mumbai 400061 within 14

days from the date hereof (alongwith

sufficient documentary evidence) failing

which the Society will issue and handover a

duplicate Share Certificate without reference to any such claims and the same, if any, will

For Jai Versova Co-operative Housing

Hon. Secretary

Society Limited

ई-निविदा फॉर्म फी

be considered as waived.

FEBRUARY, 2025.

इसारा रक्कम

MUMBAI DATED THIS 6th DAY OF

Road, Versova, Seven Bungalows

29th May, 2024.

Izatnagar

time of participating in e-tendering.

CPRO/EL-232

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER, MUNICIPAL

CORPORATION, GWALIOR (M.P.)

Narayankrishan Shejwalkar Bhawan, Near Taran Pushkar, City Centre, Gwalior
Tel No.: 0751-2438300, 4080352, Fax No.: 0751-2434249

NIT No. 2025-UAD-399642-1/MPGMC/5/24X9/2/PHE/2025 Gwalior, Date: 30.01.2025 दिनांक 04-02-2025 जनसम्पर्क RO क्रमांक 98 Notice Inviting Tender On behalf of Gwallor Municipal Corporation, M.P. online percentage rate bids for the following work are invited on portal http://www.mptenders.gov.in from registered Contractors and competent firms. Description of works Probable Amount (In Rs.) | Completion Period (In Days)

Survey and Design of Distribution network for Providing. Laying, Testing and Commissioning of 750 mm dia D.I. 2,08,04,101 pipelines to be laid under this contract in different DMAs (District Metering Areas) at Rakkas Tank to Vranchuri Meter meter

Interested bidders can view the NIT of portal http://mptenders.gov.in. The bid document can be purchased only on online from dated 30.01.2025 to 03.03.2025 and can be submitted 03.03.2025 up to 5.30 PM. **Executive Engineer.** Water Supply, Gwalior Municipal Corporation, Gwalior

DIRECTORATE OF **SPORTS & YOUTH WELFARE**

T.T. Nagar Stadium, Bhopal-462003, Tel.: 0755-2773012, 2778151, Website: www.dsywmp.gov.in

E-TENDERING NOTICE

The Director, Directorate of Sports & Youth Welfare, M.P. Bhopal invites bids on electronic mode for Supply and Installation of Shooting Equipment for 10 METER Indoor Shooting RANGE, at Various District in Madhya Pradesh.

2. The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained on www.mptenders. gov.in If any queries regarding participation through e-tender process interested bidder may contact on toll free no.18002588684.

The corrigendum and agendum issued (if any) related to this bid will be published on e-tendering portal only. M.P. Madhyam/118678/2025 DIRECTOR

बिहार 🌋 सरकार

बिहार तकनीकी सेवा आयोग, 19, हार्डिंग रोड, पटना–800001

आवश्यक सूचना

विज्ञापन सं0-01/2025, कीट संग्रहकर्त्ता

स्वास्थ्य विभाग, बिहार, पटना के अन्तर्गत कीट संग्रहकर्ता के Kamakhya. Tender Value: कुल-53 रिक्त पदों पर नियुक्ति हेतु **दिनांक-05.02.2025 से 05.03.2025** तक Online आवेदन करने की तिथि निर्धारित की गयी है।

उक्त से संबंधित विस्तृत विज्ञापन आयोग के Websitewww.btsc.bihar.gov.in पर दिनांक-05.02.2025 से देखा जा

सकता है। प्रभारी सचिव, बिहार तकनीकी सेवा आयोग, पटना।

नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।

बिहार 🌋 सरकार

बिहार पुलिस रेडियो, मुख्यालय, नेहरू मार्ग, पटना

निविदा सूचना संख्या- 05/2024-25/पी0पी0ओ0 पुलिस महानिदेशक का कार्यालय, बिहार, पटना।

 विभाग का नाम:-विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता:- पुलिस अधीक्षक (वितंत्), बिहार, पटना ।

> बिहार पुलिस रेडियो, मुख्यालय, सरदार पटेल भवन 'ई' ब्लॉक, छठी मंजिल, कमरा नम्बर-612, नेहरू मार्ग, पटना।

निविदा प्रकाशित होने की तिथि से किसी कार्य

 निविदा समर्पित करने की तिथि दिवस में दिनांक-27.02.2025 के 15:00 बजे तक।

4. निविदा के तकनीकी भाग को दिनांक-27.02.2025 को 16:00 बजे। खोलने की तिथि:-

 निविदा समर्पित करने का स्थान:-बिहार पुलिस रेडियो, मुख्यालय, सरदार पटेल भवन 'ई' ब्लॉक, छठी मंजिल, कमरा नम्बर-612, नेहरू मार्ग, पटना।

८९२ अदद

Battery Cable for 25 Watt Digital Motorola VHF Set

Compatible with Model-XIRM 8668i

वाछित Specification PPO शाखा, बि०पु०रे०, D/603, सरदार

पटेल भवन, बेली रोड, पटना से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

निविदा के तकनीकी भाग निर्धारित तिथि 27.02.2025 एवं समय 16:00 बजें को बिहार पुलिस रेडियो, मुख्यालय सरदार पटेल भवन, पटना में समिति द्वारा खोला जायेगा। उक्त अवसर पर निविदादाता या उनके प्रतिनिधि उपस्थित रह सकते है।

(a) इस विज्ञापन सूचना को बिहार पुलिस विभाग के वेबसाईट https://police.bihar.gov.in/en/Tender पर

अपर पुलिस महानिदेशक, तकनीकी सेवायें एवं वितन्तु, बिहार, पटना को यह अधिकार सुरक्षित है कि बिना कारण बताये एवं बिना किसी सूचना के किसी भी समय नियिदा को रदद कर दें अथवा निर्धारित मदों में

आवश्यकतानुसार वर्णित संख्या को घटा दे या बढ़ा दें। विस्तृत जानकारी state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर भी देखी जा सकती है। पुलिस अधीक्षक (वितंत्)

PR- 18769 (Police) 2024-25

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

PR-18816 (B & C) 2024-25

6. मद का नाम:--

बिहार, पटना।

बिहार 🏙 सरकार

जल संसाधन विभाग कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय बाढ़ नियंत्रण एवं जल निस्सरण प्रमंडल, पूर्णिया निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या - 09 SBD / 2024-25 (राष्ट्रीय/राजकीय स्पर्द्धा)

(केवल ई-टेन्डर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

1. 中	s. कार्य का विवरण —							
ग्रुप सं0	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख ₹ में)	अग्रधन की राशि (रै में) (ऑन लाईन अथवा फिजिकल / मैनु अल मोंख में भुगतेय)	परिमाण विपन्न का मूल्य (अप्रत्यपंणीय कंवल ऑन लाइन मोड में मुगतेय) (₹ में)	बेल्ट्रॉन की देय बीड प्रोसेसिंग फी (अप्रत्यर्पणीय केवल ऑन लाइन मोड में भुगतेय (₹ में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि		
01	पूर्णिया जिलान्तर्गत कसबा प्रखंड में कारी कोशी दायाँ तटबंघ के उच्चीकरण एवं	537.41	10.75	10000.00	5900	31.01.202		

दिनांक 21.02.2025 को 3:00 बजे अपराहन में

मुख्य अभियंता, बाढ़ नियंत्रण एवं जल निस्सरण, जल

सिर्फ वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

दिनांक 27.02.2025 की समय 3:30 बजे अपराहन।

(सिर्फ देवसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

सक्षम पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में धोषित की जायेगी।

(सिपा वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर

वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर

संसाधन विभाग, कटिहार (शिविर पूर्णिया) के कार्यालय में।

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि :--

सुद्वीकरण के साथ

सुरक्षात्मक एवं

कालीकरण कार्य

 निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड एवं अपलोडे ड :-दिनांक 19.02.2025 से 25.02.2025 के 3:00 बजे अपराहन तक करने की अवधि (सिर्फ वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

4. प्री-बीड मीटिंग का समय, स्थान एवं तिथि :-

5 निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक 2502,2025 को समय 3.00 बजे अपराहन तक।

तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

 विविदा खोलने का स्थान निविदा की वैद्यता अवधि

10. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता

कार्यपालक अभियंता, बाढ नियंत्रण एवं जल निस्सरण प्रमंडल, पूर्णिया। मॉबाईल नं०- 7463889220 11. ई-निविदा मात्र वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर डाउनलोड / अपलोड किया जा सकता है।

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

PR. No.18812 (WRD) 2024-25

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

कार्यपालक अभियंता. बाढ़ नियंत्रण एवं जल निस्सरण प्रमंडल, पूर्णिया



06 months

Excluding

rainy season

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH SAMAGRA SHIKSHA, AMARAVATI

Short Tenders are invited through e-procurement platform for supply of Uniform Cloth under "Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Vidyarthi Mitra" (SRKVM-1) vide Short Tender Notice NIT No. 29 to 36/2024-25, dt.04-02-2025 in Samagra Shiksha, Amaravati at Patamata, Vijayawada for 08 works in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Tenders Downloading Starts from : 07.02.2025 after 10.30 AM

Last date for receipt of Tenders : 15.02.2025 up to 05.00 PM

Note: Further details can be viewed at https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in or contact 0866 2428599. Sd/-B. SRINIVASA RAO, I.A.S. STATE PROJECT DIRECTOR APSS, AMARAVATI.

No: 3509PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22 Dt: 05/02/2025

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE RAJ JAIPUR

M-7(42)PS/MG/2024/941

DATED-23/01/2025 NOTICE INVITING BIDS

Bids for TRAFFIC ROAD SAFETY ITEMS of estimated value INR 5,00,00,000/- are invited from interested bidders up to 13.02.2025 at 11.00 am. Other particulars of the bid may be on the procurement portal (https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) (https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in/) of the state, and https://www.police.rajasthan.gov.in UBN NO. 1 POL2425 GLOB00103 Supdt. of Police

Central Stores, PHQ Raj. Jaipur Tel-0141-2744289

Mail ID-sp.cstore.pmw@rajpolice.gov.in

DIPR/C/1089/24-25

No. 41412/PB

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED Regd. Office: PSPCL Head Office, The Mall, Patiala

Website: www.pspcl.in, Contact No. 96461-17651 Tender Enquiry No. 163/Dy.CE/Th. Op./CD-28/Vol-XIII/O&M/GHTP/2025 Dated: 04/02/2025

(Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813)

Dy. Chief Engineer / Operation Circle, GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites E-Tender for the work: To provide assistance to staff working under Chemical Department, GHTP Lehra Mohabbat, for operation of Water Treatment plant and Coal & Environment Laboratory for a period of one year.

For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in E-Tender Enquiry No. 2025 POWER 134035 1 from 04-02-2025 from 17:00 Hrs.

Note:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

GHTP-12/25

CONSTRUCTION OF ETP WASTE WATER RECYCLING PLANT

E-Tender Notice No. KYQ-CDO-ETP-02-REV-24-25 Dated: 31-01-2025, E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Name of work: Construction of ETP waste water recycling plant for reuse of discharge water of mechanized laundry/Kamakhya at Coach Maintenance Depot ₹3,54,96,032.77/-. Earnest Money: 73,27,500/-. Date & Time of Closing of Tender: 12.00 hrs. of 21-02-2025. The complete information with the tender documents of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in Sr. Coaching Depot Officer/Guwahati

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

विभाग का नाम:--

एवं समय:-

मद का माम:-

निविदा समर्पित करने की तिथि

4. निविदा के तकनीकी भाग को

निविदा समर्पित करने का स्थान:--

उनके प्रतिनिधि उपस्थित रह सकते हैं।

मदों में आवश्यकतानुसार वर्णित संख्या को घटा दे या बढा दें।

विस्तृत जानकारी state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

पर देखा जा सकता है।

PR- 18768 (POLICE) 2024-25

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

खोलने की तिथि:-

Serving Customers With A Smile

बिहार 🌋 सरकार

बिहार पुलिस रेडियो, मुख्यालय, नेहरू मार्ग, पटना

निविदा सूचना संख्या- 04/2024-25/पी0पी0ओ0

विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता:- पुलिस अधीक्षक (वितंत्), बिहार, पटना ।

पुलिस महानिदेशक का कार्यालय, बिहार, पटना।

छठी मंजिल, कमरा नम्बर-612, नेहरू मार्ग, पटना।

निविदा प्रकाशित होने की तिथि से किसी कार्य

दिनांक-27.02.2025 को 16:00 बजे।

(7) निविदा के तकनीकी भाग निर्धारित तिथि 27.02.2025 एवं समय 16:00 बजे को बिहार पुलिस रेडियो,

(8) इस विज्ञापन सूचना को बिहार पुलिस विभाग के वेबसाईट https://police.bihar.gov.in/en/Tender

मुख्यालय, सरदार पटेल भवन, पटना में समिति द्वारा खोला जायेगा। उक्त अवसर पर निविदादाता या

कि बिना कारण बताये एवं बिना किसी सूचना के किसी भी समय निविदा को रदद कर दें अथवा निर्धारित

अपर पुलिस महानिदेशक, तकनीकी सेवायें एवं वितन्तु, बिहार, पटना को यह अधिकार सुरक्षित है

दिवस में दिनांक-27.02.2025 के 15:00 बजे तक।

छठी मंजिल, कमरा नम्बर-612, नेहरू मार्ग, पटना।

Model-XIRM 8668i (Original Motorola)

बिहार पुलिस रेडियो, मुख्यालय, सरदार पटेल भवन 'ई' ब्लॉक,

बिहार पुलिस रेडियो, मुख्यालय, सरदार पटेल भवन 'ई' ब्लॉक,

Handset (Mic) for 25 Watt Digital Motorola VHF Set

सरदार पटेल भवन, बेली रोड, पटना से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

पुलिस अधीक्षक (वितंतु),

बिहार, पटना।

वांछित Specification PPO शाखा, बि०प्०रे०, D/603,

acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies. associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

"IMPORTANT"

Whilst care is taken prior to

JEEVIKA Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society State Rural Livelihoods Mission, Bihar Rural Development Department,

Advertisement No. BRLPS06/2024-25

Add a mission to your career Join a team of committed and passionate Development Professionals.

Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society (BRLPS), an autonomous society under Rural Development Department, Govt. of Bihar has been designated as State Rural Livelihoods Mission by Rural Development Department, Government of Bihar to scale up the "JEEVIKA" model in all 534 Blocks of 38 Districts in Bihar under National Rural Livelihood Mission. So far JEEVIKA has been able to reach out to nearly 135 Lakh rural poor households by a

organizing them into 10.63 Lakh women Self Help Groups under 71000 Village Organizations and 1600 Cluster Level Federations. These institutions have generated nearly Rs. 1350 Crore as their own saving and have leveraged more than Rs. 46000 Crore from the Banks

Bring smile to the faces of poor in Bihar

Walk-In-Interview for the following position of consultants

SI.	Theme	No. of Vacancy	Remuneration	Department
1.	Consultant- E- Commerce (State Level)	1	₹ 30000/- to ₹ 75000/-	Non-Farm
2.	Consultant- Art & Craft & Stitching (State Level)	1	₹ 30000/- to ₹ 75000/-	Non-Farm
3.	Consultant- Beekeeping (State & District Level)	7	₹ 30000/- to ₹ 75000/-	Non-Farm
4.	EPOS Consultant- Grameen Bazar (State Level)	1	₹ 30000/- to ₹ 75000/-	Non-Farm
5.	Regional Consultant- Grameen Bazar (District Level)	6	₹ 30000/- to ₹ 75000/-	Non-Farm
6.	Consultant- Financial Inclusion (State & District Level)	45	₹ 30000/- to ₹ 75000/-	Fin.Inclusion
7.	Consultant- Livestock (State Level)	1	₹ 30000/- to ₹ 75000/-	Livestock
8.	Consultant- Fisheries (District Level)	8	₹ 30000/- to ₹ 75000/-	Livestock
9.	Consultant- Goat Intervention (District Level)	6	₹ 30000/- to ₹ 75000/-	Livestock
10.	MIS Consultant (State & District Level)	15	₹ 30000/- to ₹ 75000/-	MIS
11.	MIS Consultant (Dot Net Framework, SQL Server) (State Level)	1	₹ 30000/- to ₹ 75000/-	MIS
12.	Mobile App Consultant(State Level)	1	₹ 30000/- to ₹ 75000/-	MIS
13.	Consultant- Regional Coordinator SJY (District Level)	10	₹ 30000/- to ₹ 75000/-	SJY
14.	Consultant- Production Expert (State Level)	1	₹ 30000/- to ₹ 75000/-	H&N
15.	Consultant- Production & Marketing (State & District Level)	11	₹ 30000/- to ₹ 75000/-	H&N
16.	Consultant- Nursery Development & Convergence (State & District Level)	6	₹ 30000/- to ₹ 75000/-	SD
17.	Consultant- Gender (State & District Level)	6	₹ 30000/- to ₹ 75000/-	SD
18.	Consultant - Mulberry (State & District Level)	3	₹ 30000/- to ₹ 75000/-	SD
19.	Consultant – Renewable Energy and Business Partnership (State & District Level)	4	₹ 30000/- to ₹ 75000/-	SD
20.	Consultant- Internal Audit & Statutory Matters (State Level)	1	₹ 30000/- to ₹ 75000/-	Finance
21.	Consultant URBAN SM – ID	2	₹ 45000/-	IB & CB

Note: Official website http://brlps.in may be visitedand click on "Career" to apply online and to know detailed eligibility criteria and other details including category of vacancies. All communication will be made through website only.

Applications will be accepted only through online mode.

Last Date for Submission of Online Application: 20.02.2025

Disclaimers: Mere eligibility does not guarantee a job. BRLPS reserves the right to shortlistcandidates based on qualification and relevant experience. Canvassing in any form shall be a disqualification.

This information is available on website www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also PR. No.018731 (B&C) 2024-25

Chief Executive Officer-cum- Mission Director, सुरक्षित जीवन अपनाओ, अपनी नियमित एच.आई.वी. जाँच कराओ। Bihar Rural Livelihood Promotion Society

PWD, Division Beawar.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION BEAWAR

NIB NO.: PWD2425A3891-PWD2425A3893 Notice Inviting Bid No. 35/2024-25

Bids for 03 No. Works are invited from interested bidders upto 12.00 PM 10 Feb. 2025. Other particular of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the State, and DIPR departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs 603.72 Lacs. NIB NO **UBIN NO** Amount (Lac) PWD2425A3891 PWD2425WSOB14035 224.60

363.96 PWD2425A3892 PWD2425WSOB14036 PWD2425A3893 PWD2425WSOB14037 15.16 (V.S. Shekhawat) **Executive Engineer** DIPR/C/1202/2025

राजकीय मेडिकल कॉलेज हल्द्वानी, जिलाः नैनीताल (उत्तराखण्ड) दूरभाष संख्या:(05946) 255255, 255926, Ext. 4216, 4365, ई-मेल : principal.gmchld.uk@gov.in

ई-निविदा सूचना

राजकीय मेडिकल कॉलेज हल्द्वानी एवं सम्बद्ध चिकित्सालय हेत् दो बिड सिस्टम के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखि सामग्री / वस्तुओं की आपूर्ति हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई-निविदा सूचना, बिंड डॉक्यूमेंट एवं विस्तृत विवरण वैबसाईट uktenders.gov.in पर निम्नानुसार उपलब्ध है

ानावदा क्रo संo	26 4 1 1 X 2 3 1 1 A 1	करने की तिथि एवं समय	ाबड अपलाड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
16	Firewal (1800 Series) Rack Mount	06.02.2025 at 6:30 P.M Onwards (I.S.T)	20.02.2025 up to 02:00 P.M (I.S.T)

उपरोक्त ई-निविदा सम्बन्धित अन्य संशोधन/कॉरिजेन्डम निरस्तीकरण सूचना वैबसाईट uktenders.gov.in पर ही उपलब्ध होगी। अधिक जानकारी के लिए कृपया http/:uktenders.gov.in पर लागें इन करें।

विज्ञापन सं0- 357/GMC/Purchase/February/ 2024-25

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION BHARATPUR **NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS –25/2024-25**

Nagar Nigam Bharatpur invites Single-stage Two Part (envelope) Online unconditional open competitive bids through www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in from eligible bidders (AA Class) in any Central/state/ Government/semi Government organization/Contractors for the work of Conditional assessment by CCTV survey, desilting, cleaning and assessment of deficiencies in sewer network main trunk line from Heeradas to Gopal Nagla 24 MLD S.P.S. via Circular Road and rectification by CIPP technique. The document can be seen and downloaded from the website http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in Bids are to be submitted online in electronic format as per schedule given below:

Number of Work 1517.97 Lacs. Bid Download start date and Time from From 04.02.2025, at 10.00 AM to 25.02.2025 upto 06.00 PM Website http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in 25.02.2025 Upto 06.00 PM Bid Upload end date and time on Website http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in Pre-bid Meeting Date and Time 11.02.2025 at 11.00 AM Venue:-The Municipal Corporation Bharatpur Submission of Document Physically/ 26.02.2025 upto 02.00 PM Tender Cost/RISL Fee UTR Slip Technical Bid Opening Date and Time 26.02.2025 at 3.00 PM Financial Bid Opening Date and Time Will be intimated later to technically responsive bidders.

UBN is: DLB2425WLOB16300

Raj.Samwad/C/24/11260

Commissioner **Municipal Corporation Bharatpur**

कामाचे नाव



वसई विरार शहर महानगरपालिका मुख्य कार्यालय, विरार

प्राचार्य

जाहीर ई-निविदा सूचना

(घनकचरा व्यवस्थापन विभाग)

वसई विरार शहर महानगरपालिका कार्यक्षेत्रातील शासकीय विभागातील नोंदणीकृत योग्य त्या वर्गातील ठेकेदारांकडून ई-निविदा मागविण्यात येत आहे.

	वसई विरार शहर महानगरपालिका कार्यक्षेत्रातील भट अंत्यसंस्कार प्रणाली मशीन व प्रकल्प निर्मिती करण्य		रु. १,५०,०००/-	रु. २,०००/- + GST 18%			
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अ.क्र.	टप्पा	दिनांक		वेळ			

|निविदा उघडण्याची वेळ

|ई-निविदा डाऊनलोड व विक्री

दिनांक : ०५.०२.२०२५

अ.क्र.

उपायुक्त वसई विरार शहर महानगरपालिका

सकाळी ११.०० वाजेपासून

पत्रांक :-93 किशनगंज

जल संसाधन विभाग कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय बाढ नियंत्रण एवं जल निस्सरण, प्रमंडल, किशनगंज राष्ट्रीय स्पर्द्धा निविदा आमंत्रण

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या- 02/SBD2024-25 (केवल ई-टेन्डर पद्धित के अनुसार www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

1. कार्य का विवरण :--परिमाण–विपत्र बिल्टॉन को देय ''बिड

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 निवदा अमित्रण सूचना निगत करने का तिथि : दिनाक :—31.01.2025 2. निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड

3. प्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान

4. तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय

करने की अवधि

ः दिनांक 19.02.2025 से 25.02.2025, 3.30 PM अपराहन तक (सिर्फ वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)। : दिनांक 21.02.2025,3.00 PM बजे अपराहन में मुख्य अभियंता, बाढ़ नियंत्रण

एवं जल निस्सरण, जल संसाधन विभाग, कटिहार कैम्प पूर्णियाँ के कार्यालय कक्ष : दिनांक 26.02.2025 के अपराह्न 3.30

www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर घोषित की

ः केवल वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in

बजे। केवल वेबसाईट www.eproc2. bihar.gov.in पर। 5. वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय ः सक्षम पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में वेबसाईट

6. निविदा खोलने का स्थान

7. निविदा वैधता की अवधि

8. विज्ञापनदाता का नाम एवं पदनाम ः कार्यपालक अभियंता, बाढ् नियंत्रण एवं जल निस्सरण प्रमंडल किशनगंज।

: 120 दिन।

9. विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेत् वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in & www.wrd.bih.nic.in पर देखा जा सकता है। कार्यपालक अभियंता

उक्त सूचना state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर भी देखी जा सकती है। बाढ़ नियंत्रण एवं जल निस्सरण प्रमंडल, किशनगंज, फोन-7463889229 PR- 018744 (WRD) 2024-25

epaper.indianexpress.com

०६.०२.२०२५

ऑनलाइन ई-निविदा विक्री बंद दुपारी ०३.०० वाजेपर्यंत २१.०२.२०२५ दुपारी ०३.०० वाजेनंतर २४.०२.२०२५ जावक क्रमांक - विवशम/घ.क.व्य./१५५/२०२५

सही/-

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

15 ECONOMY



₹84,657

USD RATE

SILVER

⊘ ₹87.43 **\$78.42** ₹95,425

SENSEX: 78,271.28 ▼ 312.53 (-0.40%) NIFTY: 23,696.30 ▼ 42.95 (-0.18%) NIKKEI: 38,831.48 ▲ 33.11 HANG SENG: 20,597.09 ▼ 192.87 FTSE: 8,604.65 ▲ 33.88 DAX: 21,541.83 ▲ 36.13

BEGINS GROUNDWORK TO REVAMP 2016 MODEL BILATERAL INVESTMENT TREATY

Amid US-China trade war, India signals better investment protection for partners must receive policy support'

RAVIDUTTA MISHRA& AGGAM WALIA NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

AMID AN anticipated trade and investment shift away from China following the latest US-China trade war, India has signalled that better protection for foreign investors could be on offer for its trade partners as it begins the groundwork to revamp the 2016 model Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT), which took a conservative stance and favoured the state over investors in investor-state disputes.

A revamp of the 2016 model BIT was flagged in the Union Budget after multiple Western trade partners cited burdensome norms during ongoing treaty negotiations. India is currently in talks with the UK and the European Union for an investment treaty and is also expected to negotiate a BIT with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) region, which has committed to investing \$100 billion in India over a 15-year period.

Ajay Seth, Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), told *The Indian Express* that groundwork for the BIT revamp has already begun and that the treaty with the UAE, which offers protection for foreign portfolio investors and includes entity-based protection, reflects the new approach towards more investor-

BRIEFLY

Rupee drops

to all-time low

of 87.43/USD

New Delhi: Rupee plunged 36

paise to close at an all-time

low of 87.43 against the US

dollar on Wednesday, as

global trade war concerns fu-

elled risk aversion among in-

vestors. Forex traders said the

rupee is trading with a nega-

tive bias over trade war as

participants mulled the im-

pact of tariffs being imposed

by the US and China.

deliberations on

New Delhi: The RBI has started

deliberations on the mone-

tary policy amid expectations

interest rates

LIC gets GST

of ₹105 crore

demand notice

New Delhi: Life Insurance

Corporation of India has said

it has received a demand no-

tice of about Rs 105.42 crore

for short payment of GST for

seven financial years. Meanw-

hile, authorities have imposed

penalties totalling Rs 115.86

crore on IndiGo, the airline

said in a regulatory filing. **PTI**

RBI starts

of a rate cut.

'UAE TREATY REFLECTS THE NEW APPROACH'



Secretary, told *The Indian* Express that groundwork for the BIT revamp has already begun and that the treaty with the UAE, which offers protection for foreign portfolio investors and includes entity-based protection, reflects the new approach towards more investor-friendly investment norms

face high regulatory risks while

operating in India, the latest in-

stance being the Nestlé case. In

December, Switzerland sus-

pended the Most-Favoured-

Nation(MFN) clause in the Double

Taxation Avoidance Agreement

(DTAA) originally signed between

by the Indian Supreme Court last

year, which determined that the

DTAA cannot be enforced unless

it is notified under the Income Tax

Act. As a result, Swiss companies

such as Nestlé face higher taxes on

brought against India were due to

poor regulations. "If you change

tax laws retroactively, as hap-

pened with Vodafone, or cancel li-

cences without following due

process, as happened with Devas,

Ranjan said that most disputes

This decision followed a ruling

India and Switzerland in 1994.

friendly investment norms.

"The UAE BIT is already in the public domain. For instance, the model BIT talks about entitybased protection. An entity has to be registered in India. Whereas in the UAE, we have moved over to an asset-based definition. Investment coming through the foreign portfolio investment (FPI) route will also get BIT protection. This is just one example. It could move in that direction, and a review has to be undertaken. Groundwork or homework has started," Seth said

Nestle case & regulatory risks

Prabhash Ranjan, Professor and Vice Dean at the Iindal Global Law School, said that additional protection for investors is needed to attract investment, as investors **AJAY SETH, Ajay Seth, DEA**

A REVAMP of the 2016 model Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) was flagged in the Union Budget after multiple Western trade partners cited burdensome norms during ongoing treaty negotiations.

BIT revamp

flagged in

Budget

and your judiciary takes forever to decide on arbitration awards, what option does the investor have?" Ranjan said.

Notably, the government had annulled BITs based on older model texts framed in 1993 after receiving adverse judgments in multibillion-dollar disputes in international courts. To prevent this, the model BIT included the clause "exhaustion of local remedies," emphasising state rights over investor rights.

Contention: Emphasis on local remedy

One of the key elements in the UAE BIT was that UAE investors in India must exhaust domestic remedies for at least three years before commencing international arbitration, as per the treaty text. This contrasts with the model BIT, which required investors to at-

tempt to resolve disputes through India's legal system for at least five years before seeking international arbitration. However, experts believe that several countries, particularly in the West, may not even be willing to accept the three-year clause and would prefer easier norms. And much of the negotiations with the EU and UK are held up for years. India has been involved in trade negotiations with the UK for over two years and is yet to reach even close to signing a deal with the EU. In contrast, EU has signed a deal with India's competitors such as Vietnam giving it an advantage over India.

"In my opinion, India should do away with this waiting period requirement completely. What India should introduce is what is known as a fork-in-the-road clause. This essentially means that if an investor has a dispute with the state, they choose whether to submit the dispute to domestic courts or pursue international arbitration. Once that choice is made, it is final and irrevocable." Ranjan said.

Ranjan added that with this approach, India can argue that the state is neither stopping investors nor forcing them to go through domestic courts. "Now, it is quite possible that some investors may still opt for domestic courts because they do not want to antagonise the state by pursuing international arbitration. That would serve India's objective as well," he added.

'Every electrified technology - hybrids, electric vehicles -NOTING THAT India is still at a India is doing it right.

Note: Gold, silver rates are at Mumbai spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) per barrel as of February 3

nascent stage as far as electric mobility is concerned, **SWAPNESH MARU**, Deputy Managing Director — Corporate Planning, Green Field Project — at Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said that the country may have prioritised a few technologies in its push towards sustainability. In an interaction with AGGAM WALIA and SOUMYARENDRA BARIK, Maru emphasised that there should be a focus on eliminating cost disparities between petrol/diesel cars and hybrid cars. He also spoke about China's dominance in EVs, growing

trade protectionism, and Toyota's partnership with Maruti Suzuki. Edited excerpts:

How is the partnership with Maruti Suzuki playing out, and how do you see it evolve going forward?

If you look at both companies, and I'm talking specifically about India, there is a strong belief that we have a huge contribution to make to solving one of the biggest problems, which is about fossil fuels. In that sense, given the lar market will choose a product strengths that Toyota has in terms of the technologies and the excellence that Maruti has demonstrated sequentially in terms of bringing in small to medium cars at cost price points and technologies which are liked by the customers, I think these strengths have combined very well for the Indian consumer and for the companies. We believe this will only accelerate. This partnership will have a lot more to contribute.

Emissions is a big area of focus for the government. There are ongoing discussions on the CAFE 3 norms. How do you see compliance burden when sustainability is such a big area of concern?

We are witnessing one of the most landmark shifts, that is the massive energy transition every country is tackling. India has taken a lot of proactive steps, not just now, but for quite some time now in terms of leapfrogging from Bharat Stage 4 to 6. And in that trajectory, I think the CAFE norms are just a normal extension.

What these norms have already done with CAFE 2, and now with the planned CAFE 3, will be to align us closer towards meeting our national objectives of sustainability. The auto industry is extremely proactive in ensuring that these norms are digested. Of course, there are matters of detail and how we work out the compliances. Those things are still a work in progress. But overall, I believe these norms are extremely important for a country like India from a sustainability perspective and for integration into the global marketplace.

Many manufacturers are now exporting cars that are made in India. But China is also exporting a lot. There, the technology, especially for EVs, is understood to be among the best in the world currently. How can India-made products compete with Chinese exports globally?

THE EXPRESS

INTERVIEW

SWAPNESH MARU

DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR,

CORPORATE PLANNING,

GREEN FIELD PROJECT,

which best fits their preferences,

their recognition of the brands

and the countries those come

from. We must credit China for

the excellence that they've had,

not just now, but for many, many

decades in terms of this. But I be-

lieve that given the geopolitical

condition, the way in which a lot

of balancing happens, globally,

there is a lot of accommodation

to look at opportunities along

replacing another, but how coun-

tries other than China can also vie

for a consumer's attention, and

then through their manufactur-

ing and quality assurances maybe

gain some of the traction. In that

sense, we need to work hard. We

need to ensure that it's not just

simply about matching China,

beating China, but we must im-

bibe their core capabilities for a

sustainable, competitive advan-

tage not just on cost but also on

quality and reliability.

protectionism in this

industry going forward?

We were living in a world

where globalisation was a trend

for more than a decade. Now, it's

more about individual countries.

Businesses have to evolve and tai-

lor to these realities. So for that

matter, Make in India is also about

a very powerful narrative about

the growing consumption capa-

many other countries, which is

where India is excellently poised,

given the depth of relationships

that we have managed in a

world which is widely conflicted.

On one hand we continue to

work with Russia, we continue

to work with Europe, we con-

tinue to work with the USA and

everybody recognises that India

is being extremely deft at man-

aging these relations. These are

realities which we cannot

change. How we work around

them to ensure that we can offer

our best is something that we

And that may be true for

bility of India internally.

How do you see

So it's not about one country

with China.

The clear theme of this year's Auto Expo (January 2025) was EVs. Almost everyone has showcased their EV technology. But, globally, there is a slowdown in EV demand. Do you think that is a temporary blip, or a cause of larger concern?

The world is amidst a mega trend, which is about the shift from a fossil fuel to a sustainable energy mix.

Every country is making its choices based on the energy mix the infrastructure and of course the consumer preferences. And these are the trifecta which are manifesting — with a hybrid getting popular in a particular region or a BEV being more popular in European regions where sustainable energy consumption is a little more. These are trends which are kind of rooted in each country's conviction about their energy mix.

So, we should not look at it as a technology preference, but rather as a policy preference. Finally, we should not forget that it is the consumer who has to make the final choice.

But overall, we believe that given the magnitude of what we are trying to solve globally and locally, there is no one single technology that can solve this problem. It's a mega trend and which is why an approach of multi pathway, a bouquet of technologies should contribute to reaching this outcome at speed and at scale.

In India, we are seeing a regional divergence. Some states are incentivising hybrids, while others are offering benefits for EVs. Do you think there is a need for a more unified approach?

We must again recognise that the problem that we are trying to solve is humongous. No one technology can solve it at speed and scale. Our belief is that any technology, taking a very agnostic approach, which helps in reducing our fossil fuel imprint at speed at scale must get some kind of a recognition. I would just like to point out that the consumer should not get burdened and therefore alter his choices simply because a greener technology is

driven vehicle. As long as these parities can be maintained, I think the movement towards sustainability will be very strong.

slightly costlier than a fossil fuel

In that context, and we must recognise that we are still a very early player on the electrified technology platform. States are making their policies, inadvertently, without really intending to, we might have ended up supporting one or two technologies but not get the clear focus on other technologies which could have had an equal importance. So just to ensure that there is a level playing field for the consumer, we believe there is a cause to just remove this cost inefficiency for the customer on hybrid vis-a-vis ICE (internal combustion engines) We believe that every electrified technology must get recognised

India is second-biggest market for OpenAI, says Sam Altman

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

INDIA IS the second-biggest market for ChatGPT creator OpenAI, where it has tripled its user base in the last year, the firm's founder and CEO Sam Altman said Wednesday.

Altman is on a whirlwind world tour and landed in India late Tuesday night. On Wednesday, he met IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, along with a number of the country's start-ups and venture capital funds. He is also expected to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "India is an incredibly impor-

tant market for AI in general and OpenAI in particular. It is our second-biggest market, we tripled our users here in the last year," Altman said during a discussion hosted by OpenAI. Vaishnaw was also present at the talk, and spoke about India's three-pronged approach to AI, where the country is focusing on designing chips, building foundational models, and AI applications.

"But mostly seeing what people in India are building, the stack, chips, models, all the incredible applications — India should be doing everything, India should be among the leaders of the AI revolution. It's really quite amazing to see what the country has done..." Altman said.

Altman's Asia tour also coin-



Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw with OpenAI CEO Sam Altman in Delhi.

cided with the meteoric rise in popularity of DeepSeek, a foundational model created by a Chinese Al lab at a fraction of cost of OpenAI's which is said to match the firm's models on many fronts.

DeepSeek's model has shown to the world that cutting edge foundational models could be built at cheaper costs, unlike the huge investments that have gone into making OpenAI's models.

Altman was in India last in June 2023, and his latest world tour is being seen by many as a rush to counter the impact of DeepSeek's achievement.

"We are now in a world where we have made incredible progress with distillation. We have learned to do small models and these reasoning models in particular... It's not cheap, it's still expensive to models, drawing comparisons to

train them, but that is going to lead to an explosion of really great creativity. India should be a leader there, of course," Altman said, addressing a question on the lowering costs of building AI models.

"There are two different ways to look at the cost of the models: to stay at the frontier, we believe, those costs will continue to rise on this exponential curve. But also the returns to increase the intelligence are exponential..." he said.

"On the other side of it, the cost of a given unit of intelligence one year later seems to fall by 10x... but I don't think the world is going to need any less AI hardware," Altman said.

During the discussion, Vaishnaw emphasised India's ability to develop cost-effective AI the country's low-cost space missions. "Our country sent a mission to the Moon at a fraction of the cost... why can't we do a model which will be a fraction of the cost... So yes, innovation will bring that cost down within applications in healthcare and education, agriculture, weather forecasting, disaster management...," he said.

Following the discussion, Vaishnaw said in a post on X, "Had a super cool discussion with @sama (Altman) on our strategy of creating the entire AI stack — GPUs, model, and apps. Willing to collaborate with India on all

During his earlier visit to India, Altman had quoted controversy when he said that companies around the world, including in India, may find it difficult to build a product like ChatGPT. "It's totally impossible to rival

us in training these core models, and we'll advise you not to even attempt it. But it's your responsibility to try anyway. I genuinely believe in both those aspects. I reckon it's quite a futile pursuit," he had said at an event.

Following a backlash, Altman had later clarified that his comments had been taken out of context. "...this is really taken out of context! the question was about competing with us with \$10 million, which i really do think is not going to work. but i still said try! however, i think it's the wrong question," he had said in a tweet.

The consumer of any particu-should do more of, and I think and supported.

'Nissan likely to scrap \$60-bn merger talks with Honda'

REUTERS

TOKYO. FEBRUARY 5

NISSAN LOOKS set to step back from merger talks with rival Honda, two sources said on Wednesday, calling into question a \$60 billion tie-up to create the world's no.3 automaker and potentially leaving Nissan to drive its turnaround alone.

Talks between the two Japanese automakers have been complicated by growing differences, according to multiple people familiar with the matter, all of whom declined to be named because they were not authorised to speak to the media.

Reuters reported earlier that Nissan could call off talks after Honda sounded it out about becoming a subsidiary. Nissan baulked as this was a departure from what was originally framed

NISSAN MOTOR CORPORATION





HONDA

Makoto Uchida (left), director, representative executive officer, president and CEO of Nissan Motor Corporation and Toshihiro Mibe, director, president and representative executive officer of Honda, in Tokyo on December 23, 2024. Reuters File

as a merger of equals, one of the people said. Honda, whose market value of about 7.92 trillion yen (\$51.90 billion) is more than five times bigger than Nissan's at 1.44 trillion ven, was increasingly worried about its smaller rival's progress on the turnaround plan, another source said. A Nikkei business daily report that the automaker would pull out of talks.

Nissan and Honda said in separate statements that the Nikkei report was not based on informa tion announced by the companies and that they aimed to finalise a future direction by mid-February Nissan's long-term alliance

partner, French carmaker Renault would "vigorously" defend the interests of the group and its stakeholders, a spokesperson said.

Jio building world's best AI infra in India: Ambani

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 5

IN THE midst of a global competition for artificial intelligence (AI) leadership, Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani stated on Wednesday that RIL's digital arm Jio is working on building the world's best AI infrastructure in India. "AI is indispensable for India's transformation into a Deep-Tech Nation with advanced manufacturing capabilities," he said.

"Jio is currently building the world's best AI infrastructure in India," he said. Data centres are at the heart of AI infrastructure. "It gives me great pleasure to announce today that we have modified our data centre in Kolkata to a state-of-the-art AI-ready data centre, and that will be ready in the next 9 months," he said while addressing the Bengal Global Business Summit. "In 2016, when



Reliance Industries.

I first attended this Summit, Reliance's investments stood below Rs 2,000 crore. Today, in less than a decade, our investments in Bengal have increased 20 times, and we are invested over Rs 50,000 crore," Ambani said.

He said RIL will double this investment in Bengal by the end of this decade. Ambani said Reliance's new energy Initiative will begin its operations in the end of 2025. "It is our endeavour to make India the world's biggest manufacturing hub for clean and



"strictly" avoid use of such tools "like ChatGPT and DeepSeek" in office computers and devices over concerns pertaining to confidentiality of government documents and data. The directive was issued by the Finance Ministry's Department of Expenditure on January 29, it is learnt.

"It has been determined that AI tools and AI apps (such as ChatGPT, DeepSeek etc) in the office computers and devices pose risks for confidentiality of Govt data and documents," the directive is learnt to have said. green energy," he said. "It is, therefore, advised that

FinMin directs employees to not use AI tools like ChatGPT, DeepSeek

DATA CONFIDENTIALITY FEARS

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU 🌈 🌈 It has been NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5 determined that AI tools and Al apps (such AMID RAPIDLY growing popuas ChatGPT. DeepSeek larity of artificial intelligence (AI)

etc) in the office chatbots, the Finance Ministry has directed its employees to computers and devices pose risks for confidentiality of Govt

> - DIRECTIVE ISSUED BY THE **DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE**

data and documents"

use of AI tools/AI apps in office devices may be strictly avoided. This may be brought to the notice of all employees," the directive is understood to have said.

A few other countries have already acted to protect their official systems from AI tools, particularly Chinese foundational model DeepSeek, over privacy

On Wednesday, Sam Altman,

and data security concerns.

CEO of OpenAI, which developed the popular AI chatbot ChatGPT. said that India is now the second-biggest market for OpenAI, and the company's user base in the country has trebled in the last year. Altman is on an India visit for meetings with top government officials, start-ups and venture capital funds. Altman's visit coincides with

the meteoric rise in popularity of DeepSeek, a foundational model created by a Chinese AI lab at a fraction of cost of OpenAI's which is said to match the firm's models on many fronts. DeepSeek's model has shown to the world that cutting edge foundational models could be built at cheaper costs, unlike the huge investments that have gone into making OpenAI's

models. epaper.indianexpress.com

SOUTH AFRICA PRESIDENT DIALS MUSK

SOUTH AFRICAN President Cyril Ramaphosa spoke with Donald Trump's "influential" billionaire adviser Elon Musk a day after the new US president promised to cut funding for South Africa over a land expropriation law. AP

Protesters torch

home of Mujibur

online speech

Protesters vandalise the residence of Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman at Dhanmondi, Dhaka, Wednesday. AP

TOPOFTHE WORLD



Philippine Vice **President Sara Duterte.** File

THE PHILIPPINES

V-P impeached by House, faces senate trial

Manila: Philippine Vice President Sara Duterte was impeached by the House of Representatives Wednesday after more than the required number of legislators, many of them allies of the president with whom she has had a bitter political feud, signed a petition to remove her. House of Representatives

Secretary General Reginald Velasco told a plenary meeting of the lower chamber of Congress that at least 215 lawmakers have signed a petition to impeach Duterte. The impeachment complaint was ordered transmitted to the Senate, which will serve as an impeachment tribunal that would try the vice president, daughter of ex-President Rodrigo Duterte.

SINGAPORE

'Promoting ill will': India-born rapper jailed

Singapore: Indian-origin rapper Subhas Nair on Wednesday began his six-week jail term for attempting to promote ill will among racial and religious groups through online posts in multi-ethnic Singapore. The 32year-old Singaporean, whose full name is Subhas Govin Prabhakar Nair, appealed against his conviction and sentence before Justice Hoo Sheau Peng over two days starting last year. The High Court had dismissed his appeals, the Channel News Asia reported. **PTI**

NEPAL

Govt stops solo expeditions to **Mount Everest**

Kathmandul: The Nepal government has formally ended solo expeditions on Mt Everest and other mountain peaks above 8,000 metres by making one mountain guide mandatory for two climbers, according to revised mountaineering regulations.The sixth amendment to the

Mountaineering Regulation came into force on Tuesday after it was published in the Nepal Gazette, the government's official publica-

ALLIES AND ADVERSARIES TERM TRUMP PROPOSAL UNACCEPTABLE

Gaza plan draws global flak, Saudi says no Israel ties without Palestine during Hasina's

REUTERS WASHINGTON, PARIS, FEB 5

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump's plan for the US to take over wartorn Gaza and create a "Riviera of the Middle East" after reset-

tling Palestinians elsewhere has shattered US policy on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and sparked widespread criticism. The shock move from Trump, a former New York property developer, was swiftly condemned

by international powers, with regional heavyweight Saudi Arabia, which Trump hopes will establish ties with Israel, rejecting the plan outright. Turkey called the proposal "unacceptable" and France said

it risked destabilising West Asia. Russia, China, Germany, Spain, Ireland and the UK, meanwhile, said they continued to support the two-state solution.

Over 15 months of Israeli bombardment have devastated the tiny coastal enclave and killed more than 47,000 people, by Palestinian tallies.

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the White House on Tuesday, Trump said he would support an effort to permanently resettle Palestinians from Gaza to places where they can live without fear of violence, and he and his team had been discussing this possibility with Jordan, Egypt and other regional countries.

In a news conference, Trump said Jordan's King Abdullah and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi would come around to the idea despite their rejections. Netanyahu would not be drawn into discussing the proposal, other than to praise Trump for trying a new approach.

The casual proposal sent diplomatic shockwaves across West Asia and the globe. China said it opposed the forced trans-

Trump to sign

order barring

female athletes

transgender

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 5

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump

will sign an executive order de-

signed to prevent people who

were biologically assigned male

at birth from participating in

women's or girls' sporting events.

gressive shift by the Republican

president's second administra-

tion in the way the federal gov-

ernment deals with transgender

sweeping order on his first day

in office last month that called

for the federal government to

define sex as only male or female

and for that to be reflected on of-

ficial documents such as pass-

ports and in policies such as fed-

Trump found during the

campaign that his pledge to

"keep men out of women's

usual party lines. More than half

VoteCast said support for trans-

gender rights in government and

society has gone too far.

eral prison assignments.

The president put out a

people and their rights.

The order marks another ag-

Not going anywhere, say Gaza residents

Cairo, Gaza: Gazans criticised US President Donald Trump's plan to take over the Gaza Strip and resettle Palestinians elsewhere, vowing to never leave the ruins of their homes. "Trump can go to hell, with his ideas, with his money, and with his beliefs. We are going nowhere. We are not some of his assets," said Samir Abu Basel in Gaza City. "We are the owners of the land." **REUTERS**

fer of Palestinians. "China has always believed that Palestinians governing Palestine is the basic principle of post-conflict governance," China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said, backing a two-state solution.

Some of the toughest criti-Welcoming Israeli Prime cism came from France, which said the forced displacement of Gazans would be a serious violation of international law, an attack on the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinians and destabilise the region.

Palestinian militant group Hamas said Trump's statement was "ridiculous and absurd".

Saudi Arabia said it would not establish ties with Israel without the creation of a Palestinian state, contradicting Trump's claim that Riyadh was not demanding a Palestinian homeland when he said the US wants to take over the Gaza Strip.

Saudi Arabia rejects any attempts to displace the Palestinians from their land, it stated on Wednesday, adding that its stance towards the Palestinians is not negotiable.

REUTERS

OREBRO. FEBRUARY 5

STUDENTS AND teachers re-

called trying to save the lives of

their comrades before fleeing the

scene of a mass shooting in

Sweden described by the prime

minister on Wednesday as a

'dark day' in the country's history.

dence the suspect, described by

media as a 35-year-old unem-

ployed recluse, had "ideological

motives", adding that the at-

tacker appeared to have acted

Police said there was no evi-



Aid trucks in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on Wednesday. Reuters

Why plan faces serious hurdles

ASSOCIATED PRESS JERUSALEM, FEBRUARY 5

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump's stunning proposal to forcibly transfer hundreds of thousands of Palestinians out of the Gaza Strip and develop it as a tourist destination faces major obstacles.

Palestinians don't want to leave

Palestinians view Gaza as an integral part of their national homeland and aspire to an independent state in Gaza, the West Bank and east Jerusalem, territories Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war.

Most of Gaza's population are descendants of refugees from the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation, when hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled or were driven out of what is now Israel. They were not allowed to

Sweden shooting: Death toll reaches 11,

eyewitnesses describe panic, bloodshed

outnumbered the new state's Jewish population.

Arab countries will not accept Palestinians Egypt and Jordan, which

made peace with Israel decades ago, have repeatedly rejected previous proposals to resettle Palestinians within their borders. They too fear that Israel

would never allow the Palestinians to return, and that a mass influx of Palestinian refugees would once again destabilize the region, as it did in

the decades after 1948, when it was a key factor in Lebanon's civil war and Israel's two invasions of that country. Both countries also have struggling economies that would have a hard time absorbing large numbers of refugees.

Trump suggested that wealthy Gulf countries could pay

many people were wounded in

the attack at the Risbergska adult

education centre in Orebro, cen-

tral Sweden, on Tuesday. Five of

the six victims who were treated

in hospital - four women and

two men - had required surgery

for gunshot wounds and re-

while others were having lunch

when the gunman began firing.

the shoulder. He was bleeding a

lot. When I looked behind me I

saw three people on the floor

bleeding. Everyone was shocked.

Some students were in class

"A guy next to me was shot in

mained in a serious condition.

return because they would have to resettle the Palestinians, but that appears unlikely.

Trump has leverage, but so does West Asia Trump seems to relish using

tariffs, sanctions and aid cutoffs to pressure allies and adversaries alike, and could apply economic pressure on countries like Egypt and Jordan, which have long relied on American aid. But those coun-

tries have levers of

their own in the face of

what they see as a major threat to their national security. And wealthy Gulf countries, which have also historically provided aid to Egypt and Jordan, could

help cushion any economic blow. The idea of mass transfer has historically been confined to the far-right in Israel, but main-

stream leaders said Trump's plan was worth considering.

They said: "Go out! Get out!"," a

school student, Marwa, told

broadcaster TV4. "I took my

friend's shawl and tied it tightly

around his shoulder so that he

the school, said someone threw

open the door to her classroom

just after the lunch break and

shouted to everyone to get out. She

and her students then started run-

ning out of the school. "I think of

my students," said Pegado. "Many

of them have fled from countries

where things like this happen and

disarray since President

now they experience it here."

Maria Pegado, 54, a teacher at

wouldn't bleed so much."

A LARGE group of protesters on

Wednesday vandalised and set on fire Bangladesh founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's residence in Dhaka during a live online address by his daughter, deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina. Witnesses said several thou-

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

sand people rallied in front of the house at the capital's Dhanmondi area, which was earlier turned into a memorial museum, since evening following a social media call for "Bulldozer Procession" as Hasina was supposed to make her address at 9 pm (BST).

Hasina delivered her address organised by the Awami League's now disbanded student wing Chhatra League and called upon the countrymen to organise a resistance against the current regime. "They are yet to have the strength to destroy the national flag, the constitution and the independence that we earned at the cost of lives of millions of martyrs with a bulldozer," Hasina said in an apparent reference to Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus's incumbent regime, installed by the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement.

She said: "They can demolish a building, but not the history... but they must also remember that the history takes its revenge."

The student movement had vowed to scrap Bangladesh's 1972 Constitution as they promised to bury the "Mujibist constitution". Some far-right groups also suggested change of the national anthem adopted by the

Sheikh Mujib-led post-independence government.

The house was an iconic symbol in Bangladesh history. Sheikh Mujib largely led the pre-independence autonomy movement for decades from the house. During the successive Awami League governments it was turned into a museum. Foreign heads of state or dignitaries used

to visit in line with state protocol The 32 Dhanmondi resi dence was set on fire August 5 last year, too, when Hasina's nearly 16-year Awami League regime was toppled and she se-

cretly left the country for India. Sheikh Mujib was fondly called "Bangabandhu" or "Friend of Bengal" since the late 1960s when his movement for autonomy from Pakistan turned into a mass upheaval in 1969. He was killed along with most of his family members in a coup on August 15, 1975, when Hasina and her sister Rehana were in

Germany. The deposed premier in a slight emotion-choked voice said that the Pakistani troops also looted the house during the 1971 Liberation War but did not

demolish or set it on fire. "Today, this house is being demolished. What crime it had committed? Why they were so afraid of the house... I seek justice from the people of the country. Didn't I do anything for you?"

she said. Witnesses said a group of army troops emerged at the scene to persuade the protestors but were greeted with boos. The protesters damaged a mural of

the assassinated leader on the building's boundary wall.

After US, Argentina withdraws from WHO

REUTERS

BUENOS AIRES, FEBRUARY 5

ARGENTINA'S PRESIDENT has ordered the country's withdrawal from the World Health Organisation due to "profound differences" with the UN agency, a presidential spokesperson said Wednesday.

President Javier Milei's decision echoes that of his ally, U.S. President Donald Trump, who began the process of pulling the United States out of WHO with an executive order on his first day back in office on January 21.

country will further fracture co-

operation in global health, though Argentina was expected to provide only about \$8 million to WHO for the agency's estimated \$6.9 billion 2024-2025 budget.

Argentina's decision is based on "profound differences in health management, especially during the (COVID-19) pandemic," spokesperson Manuel Adorni said.

He said WHO guidelines at the time led to the largest shutdown "in the history of mankind."Argentina will not allow an international organization to intervene in its soverhealth," he added.

eignty "and much less in our

France govt survives no-confidence vote

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS, FEBRUARY 5

FRANCE'S GOVERNMENT survived a no-confidence vote Wednesday in parliament, and the state budget for 2025 was finally adopted.

sports" resonated beyond the Prime Minister François the voters surveyed by AP Bayrou had used special constitutional powers to get the budget bill approved without a vote by lawmakers, which trig-



Mourners in Orebro on

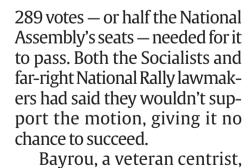
alone and shot himself dead at

At least 11 people died and

Wednesday. AP

PM François Bayrou. AP/File

gered the no-confidence motion. Only 128 lawmakers approved the motion, far from the



was appointed in December amid a chaotic political crisis prompted by budget disputes that led to the collapse of his predecessor's government.

French politics have been in

Emmanuel Macron called snap elections last year that left no party with a majority in parlia-Under France's ment. Constitution, the motion's failure automatically turns the 2025 budget into law.

The budget is meant to reduce France's deficit to 5.4% of GDP this year, including through spending cuts and tax increases worth a total of 50 billion euros, the Bayrou government said.

The loss of another member

POURED BILLIONS OF DOLLARS INTO BUILDING HOMES, HOSPITALS AND SCHOOLS FOR THE POOREST

The Aga Khan, spiritual leader who left his mark on developing world, dies at 88

ASSOCIATED PRESS PARIS, FEBRUARY 5

THE AGA Khan, who became the spiritual leader of the world's millions of Ismaili Muslims at age 20 as a Harvard undergraduate and poured a material empire built on billions of dollars in tithes into building homes, hospitals and schools in developing countries,

died Tuesday. He was 88. His Aga Khan Development Network and the Ismaili religious community announced that His Highness Prince Karim Al-Hussaini, the Aga Khan IV and

49th hereditary imam of the Shiite Ismaili Muslims, died in Portugal surrounded by his family.

On Wednesday, his son Rahim was named the Aga Khan V, the 50th hereditary imam of the Shiite Ismaili Muslims, in accordance with his father's will.

The Ismaili community's website said the late Aga Khan's burial will be held in the coming days, followed by an homage ceremony.

Considered by his followers to be a direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad and treated as a head of state, he was a student when his grandfather

named him as successor to lead the diaspora of Ismaili Muslims. passing over his playboy father.

Over decades, the Aga Khan evolved into a business magnate and a philanthropist, moving between the spiritual and the worldly with ease.

Secretary-General António Guterres called him "a symbol of peace, tolerance and compassion in our troubled world," Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called him a very good friend and "an extraordinarily compassionate global leader." Condolences poured in online from charity groups he



The Aga Khan became the spiritual head of the Ismaili Muslim community at age 20

supported, as well as the equestrian world, where he was a well-known figure.

The Aga Khan was given the title of "His Highness" by Queen Elizabeth in July 1957, two weeks after his grandfather the Aga Khan III made him heir to the family's 1,300-year dynasty as leader of the Ismaili Muslim sect.

He became the Aga Khan IV on July 11, 1957, in Geneva, Switzerland and later that year had an installation ceremony in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on the spot where his grandfather once had his weight equaled in diamonds in gifts from his followers.

He had left Harvard to be at his ailing grandfather's side, and returned to school 18 months later with an entourage and a deep sense of responsibility.

A defender of Islamic culture and values, he was widely regarded as a builder of bridges between Muslim societies and the West despite — or perhaps because of — his reticence to become involved in politics.

The Aga Khan Development Network, his main philanthropic organization, deals mainly with issues of health care, housing, education and rural economic development. It says it works in over

30 countries and has an annual budget of about \$1 billion for nonprofit development activities.

A network of hospitals bearing his name are scattered in places where health care had lacked for the poorest, including Bangladesh, Tajikistan and Afghanistan, where he spent tens of millions of dollars for development of local economies.

The extent of the Aga Khan's financial empire is hard to measure. Some estimated his per-

sonal wealth to be in the billions. Ismailis lived for many generations in Iran, Syria and South Asia

as well as Europe, North America and Australia. They consider it a duty to tithe up to 12.5% of income to the Aga Khan as steward. The Aga Khan lived at length in France and had been based in

Portugal for several years. He is

Central Asia and the Middle East

survived by three sons, a daughter and several grandchildren. "We have no notion of the accumulation of wealth being

evil," he told Vanity Fair in 2012 "The Islamic ethic is that if God has given you the capacity or good fortune to be a privileged individual in society, you have a before also settling in east Africa, moral responsibility to society."

#ExpressExplained

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

What does Rajasthan's Bill against 'unlawful' religious conversions say

EXPLAINED

LAW

HAMZAKHAN

JAIPUR. FEBRUARY 5

RAJASTHAN HEALTH Minister Gajendra Singh Khinvsar on Tuesday tabled a Bill in the state Legislative Assembly to stop "unlawful" religious conversions. Known as the Rajasthan Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, it is expected to be passed during the ongoing Budget session after a debate.

The Bill, which states that marriages for the "sole purpose of unlawful conversion or vice-versa" will be declared void, is in line with similar legislation introduced in other states such as Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

What does the Bill say?

In the Bill, unlawful conversion mainly refers to religious conversion through coercion, force, allurement or fraud, with allurement including cash, material benefits, employment, free education, etc.

The burden of proof — that a religious conversion did not take place through misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurement or by any fraudulent means or marriage — lies on the person who has "caused" the conversion, according to the Bill. This is a reversal of the principle of assumption of innocence, which normally applies to the accused person in a criminal case.

The Bill empowers blood relatives to lodge an FIR in a suspected case. It says, "Any aggrieved person, his/her parents, brother, sister, or any other person who is related to him/her by blood, marriage or adoption may lodge a FIR".

It further states that those involved in unlawful conversion can be punished with one to five years in jail with a minimum fine of Rs 15,000. In case of an unlawful conversion targeting a minor, a woman or a person belonging to the Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST), the punishment can be between two and 10 years with a fine of Rs 25,000.

For an unlawful mass conversion, the imprisonment would be three to 10 years with a minimum fine of Rs 50,000. Repeat offenders would face a punishment not exceeding double what is pro-

vided under the law for each subsequent offence. All offences under the Bill

are cognizable (where the po-

lice can make an arrest without a warrant) and non-bailable (where bail is not a matter of right and a magistrate determines if the accused is fit to be released on bail).

What about those wanting to convert voluntarily?

Those converting voluntarily would undergo a seemingly exhaustive process. A prescribed declaration form should be filled and submitted to the District Magistrate (DM) or the relevant authority 60 days in advance. Violations would invite up to three years imprisonment and a minimum fine of Rs 10,000.

Then, the "convertor" or the person performing the ceremony would give a month's advance notice to the DM

through a prescribed form. Violating this would invite up to five years imprisonment and a minimum fine of Rs 25,000. Subsequently, an officer not

Trump's plan to 'own' Gaza

What does Trump mean, and what are the implications for Arab states, Palestinians, and Israel? Why have

Jordan and Egypt opposed the idea? And what are the regional implications of renewed US pressure on Iran?

below the rank of Additional DM will "get an enquiry conducted through police with regard to real intention, purpose and cause of the proposed religious conversion."

The converted person will then have to send a declaration in a prescribed form within 60 days of conversion to the DM. A copy of the declaration has to be displayed on the notice board of the DM's office till the

date of confirmation. Said declaration will include the convert's date of birth, permanent/present address, father's/husband's name, the religion before and after conversion, the date and place of conversion etc. The convert then has to appear before the DM within 21 days from the date of filing the declaration, to establish their identity and confirm the contents of the declaration.

Why has the Bill been introduced?

The Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharmaled government has cited the conversion of "gullible persons" as a key reason behind the Bill.

According to the Bill's "Statement of Objects and Reasons", "The Constitution confers on each individual the fundamental right to profess, practise and propagate his religion. However, the individual right to freedom of conscience and religion cannot be extended to construe a collective right to

proselytize; the right to religious freedom belongs equally to the person converting and the individual sought to be converted."

In an interview with The Indian Express last year, Rajasthan Law Minister Jogaram Patel said the Bill was being introduced to prevent forcible conversions, especially those of vulnerable communities such as tribal people, and to check what the BJP calls "love jihad", among other things.

This is not the first time that such a Bill has been introduced in the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly. In 2006, during then Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje's first term, an anti-conversion Bill was brought in. However, after opposition from the Congress Party and others, the Bill was returned by then President Pratibha Patil.

During her second term (2013-2018) Raje pushed for an amended version of the Bill but the Centre returned it in 2017, claiming the Bill "deviated from national policy".

EXPLAINED CLIMATE

Why temperatures at North Pole reached 20° Celsius above average

ALIND CHAUHAN NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

TEMPERATURES AT the North Pole increased to more than 20 degrees Celsius above average on February 2, crossing the threshold to melt ice, during the depths of the polar winter (which is from November to February).

"This was a very extreme winter warming event... Probably not the most extreme ever observed, but still at the upper edge of what can happen in the Arctic," Mika Rantanen, a scientist at the Finnish Meteorological Institute, told *The Guardian*. Since 1979, the Arctic has warmed four

times faster than the global average. This is a problem since the region acts as a refrigerator for the rest of the planet, keeping things cool. Severe consequences can take place if temperatures continue to soar at this rate, from a rise in sea levels to the disruption of global weather patterns.

Why did the North Pole experience such high temperatures?

The unusually high temperatures at the North Pole were the product of a deep low-pressure system — a region where the atmospheric pressure is lower than that of surrounding locations — over

Another factor was really hot sea surface temperatures in the north-east Atlantic, which further intensified the wind-driven warming. Absolute temperatures at the North Pole reached more than negative one degree celsius on February 2.

Iceland. The system opened gates for the arrival of warmer air from lower latitudes, effectively bringing heat to the region.

than the global average?

The global temperatures have increased by around 1.3 degrees Celsius compared to the 1850-1900 baseline. The



faster than the global average since the late 1970s, according to a 2022 study published in the journal Communications *Earth and Environment.*

There are multiple reasons for this.

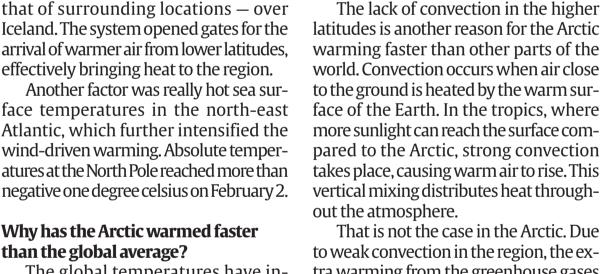
the albedo effect or how much sunlight a surface reflects. Sea ice keeps temperatures down in the polar regions, with its bright, white surface reflecting more sunlight to space than liquid water. But as the Arctic's ice cover is melting, more land or water is getting exposed to the Sun, and as a result, more heat is getting absorbed. This causes warming.

tra warming from the greenhouse gases



Arctic, however, has warmed 3.8 times

One of the most prominent factors is





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RAS Foundat



ON TUESDAY, ahead of and during an ex-

traordinary press conference that he addressed with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, United States President Donald Trump made some major policy announcements on the Middle East.

BASHIR ALI ABBAS

First, he said that Palestinians should leave Gaza — and that Jordan and Egypt should take them in: "They (Jordanians and Egyptians) say they're not going to accept, I say they will." Any number of "alternate" sites could be identified for displaced Gazans; "why would they want to return [to Gaza]? The place has been hell," Trump said.

Second, he said that the US will "take over Gaza and...do a job with it too". America will "own" Gaza, and turn it into the "Riviera of the Middle East", he said. Last year, Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner had spoken about Gaza's "very valuable" "waterfront property".

Third, he signed an executive order to bring back "maximum pressure" on Iran that his administration employed during his first term (2017-21), and re-designated the Yemeni Houthis a terrorist organisation.

What are the takeaways from President Trump's proposals?

■ The new proposal for Gaza (and Palestine) risks violating long-standing resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly supporting Palestinians' right of self-determination (which India has proactively backed), and several peremptory norms of international law (jus cogens) including those that prohibit ethnic cleansing.

■Trump's claim that Gazans do not want to return contradicts visible evidence on the ground — following the ceasefire, thousands have returned to North Gaza, even though Israeli bombardment has reduced the homes of many to rubble.

■ The proposal to identify "1, 2, 3, 4, or 8 or 12" alternative sites for Palestinians to live in peace while Gaza is turned into the "Riviera" amounts to the biggest displacement and scattering of the Palestinian population since the 1948 Nakba — and recalls the fate of European Jews before the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine.

■ The radical shift in Trump's vision for Palestine contrasts his own "Peace to Prosperity" plan of 2020, which presented a



ered "a declaration of war" and a breach of their

state, albeit with severely limited sovereignty and unprecedented concessions to Israel by legitimising its illegal settlements in occupied territory and the annexation of more Palestinian land. ■This new approach is more clearly trans-

actional than before. Trump clarified that by

"taking over" Gaza, he meant "a long term

ownership position". This language is distinct from framings of sovereignty or occupation, and sounds closer to a real estate deal. ■Trump expressly refused to clarify if the US had stopped supporting the two-state so-

lution, saying it would be clear in the coming weeks.

■ Politically for Netanyahu, the new Trump plan is ideal — his ruling coalition is dependent on support from Bezalel Smotrich's Religious Zionism party, a vociferous advocate for settlement expansion.

■ Trump's statements, and Netanyahu's assertion that Israel still seeks the complete elimination of Hamas from Gaza complicates the post-ceasefire scenario infinitely. With negotiations over stage 2 of the ceasefire officially underway since February 4, statements by Trump and Netanyahu have created uncertainty over the sustenance of the Israel-Hamas agreement after the hostages are released.

Why won't Egypt and Jordan accept **Palestinians?**

Both countries had pushed back fiercely the last two times Trump fleetingly voiced the idea.

IORDAN: Iordanian officials have now reiterated their Foreign Ministry's September 2024 statement that any Israeli attempt to displace Palestinians to Jordan would be consid-

1994 peace treaty. Both countries have already amassed more troops at their border — and the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) have even created a new eastern division. Jordan's resistance is driven less by ideological or moral stakes in the Palestinian ques-

tion and more by existential factors — both demographic and political. It is the world's third poorest state in terms of water resources, and it already hosts about 2.4 million registered Palestinian refugees.

This large Palestinian population has long been a political powder keg, which has often grown restive over Jordan's perceived deep security ties with Israel and the US. The Hashemite monarchy has kept a close watch on them, especially since the events of Black September in 1970, when an armed rebellion by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) threatened the rule of King Hussein, until it

In the decades since, Amman has used a mix of political, social, and cultural instruments to combat and contain both Islamist and Palestinian nationalist currents within Jordan.

was put down through brute force.

Trump's plan risks reigniting these currents especially as the Muslim Brotherhood-linked Islamic Action Front won their largest ever seat share (31 seats) in the September 2024 Parliamentary elections after expressing strong support for Hamas during the Gaza war.

EGYPT: The political concern for Cairo is largely similar, apart from the fact that accepting Trump's ideas and actively participating in scuttling the Palestinian question will have unpredictable political consequences, both domestically and internationally.

For President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, whose politics was founded on fighting against the

Muslim Brotherhood since the 2013 coup, these consequences might include fresh political fuel for a movement that he has fought hard to remove from Egypt.

How will maximum pressure on Iran play out in the region?

Trump's actions and statements thus far have flowed against the political tide in the Middle East.

Arab leaders have long rejected the idea of Palestinian resettlement. The Foreign Ministers of Jordan, UAE, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar jointly reiterated this four days ago. On Wednesday, the Saudis issued a swift rejection of Trump's claim that the kingdom does not insist on a Palestinian state to normalise ties with Israel.

Even as he revived his "maximum pressure" policy, Trump said he would "love to be able to make a great deal" with Iran. But regardless of the position he takes, the relationship between the Gulf Arab states and Iran

have been on a positive trajectory. Consider: ■ Saudi-Iran bilateral trade resumed in April 2023, and the Iran-UAE Joint Economic Committee for multi-sectoral cooperation held

its first session in Abu Dhabi in May 2024. ■ In November 2024, Fayyadh al-Ruwaili Chief of General Staff of the Saudi military, visited Tehran in an unprecedented defence contact between the two countries.

Four Iranian naval vessels are currently docked at Port Khalid in Sharjah, a remarkable first in the history of the UAE and the Islamic Republic. These include the newest warships of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, and pictures have shown IRGC officers being welcomed by Emirati government and military officials.

IRGC attacks on commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz had strained the UAE-Iran relationship for a decade, and the first Trump administration designated the IRGC "as a whole" as a foreign terrorist organisation in 2019.

Tehran on its part has long criticised Abu Dhabi for having normalised ties with Israel.

Collectively, these developments raise questions over the implications of fresh US sanctions on Iranian entities, and on the new economic and military bridges that Gulf Arab states are building with Iran. Also, Iran last week expressed willingness for talks on its nuclear program if the "West" is serious, and Iranian state media has lauded Trump's decision to end the foreign aid that Tehran believes helped Iranian dissidents and foreignbased-opposition.

> Bashir Ali Abbas is a Senior Research Associate at the Council for Strategic and Defense Research, New Delhi

Story of NavIC: crucial indigenous SatNav system, hurdles in development path

EXPLAINED

SCIENCE

JOHNSON TA

BENGALURU, FEBRUARY 5

INDIA'S SPACE agency on Sunday reported the partial failure of its NVS-02 navigation satellite due to the non-firing of its engines in space. This was the latest in a series of setbacks suffered by the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), operationally referred to as the Navigation with India Constellation (NavIC) system.

The IRNSS was conceived in 1999 following the war in Kargil, during which India's military could not use the American Global Positioning System (GPS) in the conflict zone. (India and the US now cooperate in many fields, and Washington has approved the system.)

An indigenous seven-satellite constellation serving both defence and civilian needs was proposed to be put in place by 2016, and the first satellite, IRNSS 1A, was launched on July 1, 2013.

Eleven years later, however, only five of the 11 satellites launched in the Rs 2,250 crore NavIC program — including replace-

ments for failed satellites — are fully operational, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has said.

After IRNSS-1A in 2013, the IRNSS-1B, 1C, 1D, 1E, 1F, 1G, 1H, 1I, 1J, and 1K were launched between April 4, 2014 and January 29, 2025. After the launch of IRNSS-1G, the seventh in the series on April 28, 2016, ISRO had said "the successful launch... [of the satellite] signifies the completion of the IRNSS constellation".

What went wrong with the satellites? Mid-2016 onward, there were reports

of failures of the rubidium atomic clocks used in several navigation satellites, including ISRO's IRNSS and the European Space Agency's (ESA's) Galileo Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS). There are three atomic clocks on each IRNSS satellite.

Then ISRO chairman A S Kiran Kumar announced in July 2016 that all the atomic clocks on IRNSS 1A had "stopped working",

even though the "overall performance of

our navigation system" had not been af-

fected, and the "rest of the satellite compo-

nents [were] functioning perfectly". A re-

placement satellite, IRNSS 1H, with

modified clocks, would be launched in 2017, the space agency said.

An ISRO satellite navigation program official had said at the time that "six of the seven IRNSS satellites that were launched [until April 2016] are still working", but there were "inherent hardware related problems on the rubidium atomic clocks in some of these satellites". The clocks used in the Galileo system had developed similar problems, the official had said.

The atomic clocks on four other IRNSS satellites — 1C, 1D, 1E, and 1G — also developed problems subsequently. The engine failure on the IRNSS-1K (or NVS-02) launched last month, which has left it in a sub-optimal

launch.

11 IRNSS satellites launched so far have been partial failures. Also, the IRNSS-1H, launched on August 31, 2017 to replace the IRNSS-1A, did not reach the desired orbit after a heat shield protecting the satellite on board the PSLV-C39 rocket did not detach during the

orbit around Earth, means that six of the

So how many satellites in the NavIC system are operational currently?

It is estimated that only four IRNSS satellites are fully operational currently — 1B, 1F, 1I (the replacement for 1A after the launch of 1H, the original replacement, failed), and 1J (the replacement for the partially failed 1G).

ISRO's 2023-24 annual report says that following the launch of NVS-01 on May 28. 2023, five NavIC satellites are operational – IRNSS-1B. 1C. 1F. and 1I. and

NVS-01 (IRNSS-1]). However, according to some estimates. 1C is only partially operational due to the presence of the old series of atomic clocks that were reported to be malfunctioning.

First-generation IRNSS satellites launched after July 2016 — that is, 1H and 1I — carried modified versions of the original clocks provided by a European supplier under a €4 million deal for an estimated 45 clocks.

1I, which is operational, and 1K, which reported an engine failure last month, be-

lites, and are, on that account, called NVS-01

are equipped with a mix of indigenous and foreign clocks instead of the defective clocks used in the first generation satellites.

Why is the IRNSS/ NavIC system important for India?

The NavIC satellites provide two types of services — Standard Positioning Service which is for general and commercial use, and Restricted Service which is meant for the defence forces — over the Indian landmass and neighbouring regions.

According to AS Ganeshan, a former director of ISRO's Satellite Navigation Program, the indigenous system provides positioning data "at all times with position accuracy better than 20 metres during all weather conditions, anywhere within India and a region extending about 1,500 km around India on dual frequencies in L5 and S band". ('Benefits of an Indian Navigation System', *Science* and Culture, 2017)

A primary reason to develop an indigenous satellite navigation system like the long to the next generation of IRNSS satel-IRNSS despite the existence of global systems such as the GPS (US) and GLONASS (Russia), and NVS-02 respectively. These satellites is the reliability that it offers in defence use.

"Since the first Global NSS systems (GPS and GLONASS) were primarily developed for military purposes, the military applications are one of the drivers for these systems....GPS offers encrypted Precise Positioning Service which is available only to the US military and its allies. GNSS is used for different types of military applications such as military naviga-

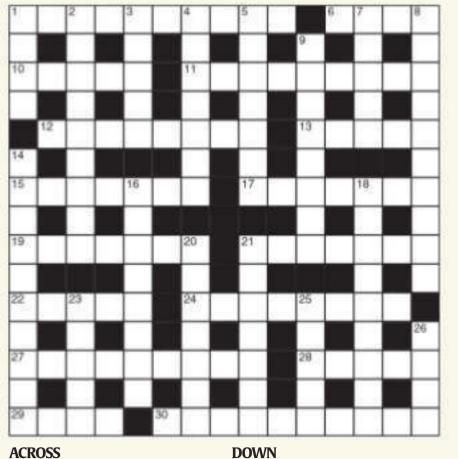
tion and target acquisition," Ganeshan wrote. For NavIC to become ubiquitous in the Indian subcontinent, ISRO will have to sell its capabilities to general positioning service providers such as mobile phone and vehicle manufacturers, etc.

In December 2023, a few months after the successful launch and deployment of the NVS-01 (IRNSS-1J) satellite on May 29, 2023, the American mobile communications chipmaker Qualcomm reported an agreement to incorporate NavIC support in some of its chipsets.

The partial failure of NVS-02 (1K) notwithstanding, ISRO plans to launch three more second-generation NavIC satellites -NVS-03.04. and 05 — "to augment NavIC base layer constellation with enhanced features for ensuring continuity of services".

18 CALENDAR

CROSSWORD 5593



1 Whaler's cry of surprise touches

2 A carry-over of marriage ritual (9)

5 Nurse in bizarre sex case holds

7 Do come up with our bouquet (5)

9 Brief notes jazz fans sent up to

14 Give the players the wrong

16 Whiskey starts machine

operator in lively dance (5,3)

18 Bill is brought to heel by what

20 US politician who could resort

21 Creates a secret passage (7)

23 Largely drank up a store of

25 It's worth having a change so

8 Fast transport to be passed with

3 It's for putting on colour (5)

4 Punishment for lying in

the sun?(7)

difficulty (10)

the censor (8)

things cost(5,4)

to treason (7)

supplies (5)

time?(10)

out(7)

ACROSS 1 The lager to change to on the whole (10)

6 Disputes in banks (4) **10** Don't argue (5) 11 Out to make one uneasy?(3,2,4)12 When Chile's capital is in alliance to Paraguay's

13 Well salted (5) **15** Hot evening? (7) **17** The head cleaner (7) 19 No gentleman loses his life on the golf course (7) **21** I am uppermost in his thoughts (7) 22 Nick's not at

24 Refinements of elegant neckwear(8) **27** Not impressed (9) 28 Money one may charge in Africa(5)

church(5)

29 Such a fuss getting to the party (2-2)**30** An armed timing device?(10)

have a fling (5) **26** His vessel had a full complement of mates (4) Solutions Crossword 5592 Across: 1 Rooster, 5 Troop, 8 Checkmate, 9 Eye, 10 Sobs,

12 Measures, 14 Caters, 15 Errand, 17 Exertion, 18 Thus, 21 Tic, 22 Embroider, 24 Hopes, 25 Take off Down: 1 Races, 2 Ore, 3 Take, 4 Reaper, 5 Treasure, 6 Overreach, 7 Pressed, 11 Buttercup, 13 Fritters, 14 Cheetah, 16 Combat, 19 Serif, 20 Rook, 23 Duo

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis





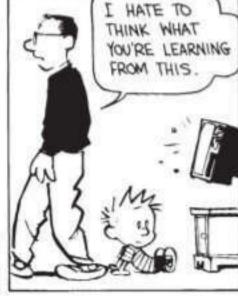




CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



ANOTHER SHOW EXTOLLING LOVE AND PEACE INTERRUPTED EVERY SEVEN MINUTES BY COMMERCIALS EXTOLLING GREED AND WASTE.



5857

SOLUTION SUDOKU

9



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong

Difficulty Level 3s

To solve a Sudoku puzzle,

must appear in each of the

nine vertical columns, in

rows and in each of the

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;

3s = Medium: 4s = Hard:

each of the nine horizontal

every digit from 1 to 9

Instructions

nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

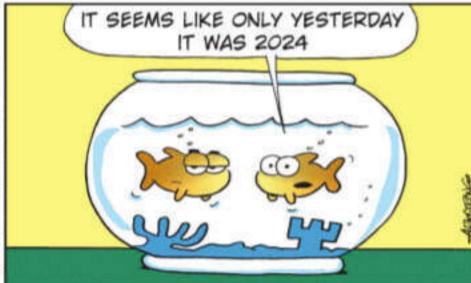
5s = Very Hard;

6s = Genius

58

SUDOKU





JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip. Everything in the world exists to ___ in a ___. - Hosea Ballou (3,2,.,4)

NSEOO ISTUDP ACPNU ENORBK

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

BORDER SECURITY FORCE

in Teliamura area, Tripura.

in Teliamura area, Tripura.

BORDER SECURITY FORCE

Answer: Everything in the world exists to end up in a book. - Hosea Ballou Solution: NOOSE, UNCAP, STUPID, BROKEN

SH MOHAN SINGH KOLI, AC,

PMG 12.12.1942 - 06.02.1996

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember

today their brave comrade, who made

supreme sacrifice while fighting militants

CT/DVR PURUSHOTTAM SINGH.

PMG 05.03.1971 - 06.02.1996

Bordermen Salute and proudly remember

today their brave comrade, who made

supreme sacrifice while fighting militants

ASI/EXE BIDHI CHAND

DHEP DULHASTI

06-02-1993

CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice

of the brave-heart. On this day, he laid

down his life at the altar of duty while

fighting with militants. His courage and

In yet another blow to insurgency,

a patrol of 66 Battalion of CRPF

was ambushed in Tezpur, Assam.

Displaying remarkable grit, the

troops repulsed the attack,

forcing the insurgents to flee.

This success came at a cost

bravery would remain an abiding source

of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE

6 February 1999

indebted to him for this noblest deed.

Shaheed

Constable

Rama Shankar

Ram

66 Bn

1-7-1969 To

6-2-1999

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE WORKS DEPARTMENT

6

8

E-mail: ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com

Bid Identification No. CE-Bridges-18/2024-25

1. The Chief Engineer (Bridges), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid i double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Road & Bridge work as detailed below Nature of Work Bridge work 3 No. of work 01 No.

Tender cost Rs. 10,000.00 (on-line) Class of Contractor Special/Super Class Contractor 6 Available of bid document From 10.00 A.M. of 05.02.2025 to 5.00 PM of 20.02.2025 in the website

Date of opening of Bid Dt. 21.02.2025 at 11.30 AM 8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Futher details can be seen from the website: https:tenderodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website

OIPR 34174/11/0035/2425

Chief Engineer, Bridges, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

Govt. of Bihar



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:

SI, No.	Equipment Name
1	Negative Ionizer/Air purifier
Tender Schedule	

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE 6 February 2004

Constable Rama Shankar Ram, leading from the front, bore

the brunt of an IED blast, making the ultimate sacrifice for the



DIPR/C/1016/2025

nation.

Shaheed Constable Raghuraj Sharma 34 Bn 1-3-1977 To 6-2-2004



Shaheed Constable Ram Sewak 34 Bn 25-10-1969 To 6-2-2004

In a coordinated assault, around 300 Maoists stormed nine key locations in Koraput. After killing one policeman and looting nearly 400 weapons, they fled in three directions. Troops of 34 Battalion of CRPF rushed to intercept them but were ambushed en route. As an IED blast struck the convoy, the troops swiftly counterattacked, forcing the Maoists to retreat. In this valiant fight, Constable Raghuraj Sharma and Constable Ram Sewak laid down their lives, while Constable Prem Prakash, despite severe injuries, fought bravely before attaining martyrdom on 12 February.

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED, Churu E-mail – ace.chu.phed@rajasthan.gov.in Corrigendum NO. 03 For this office NIT NO. 03/2024-25

Date: Corrigendum No. 03 for this office NIT NO. 03/ 2024-25 (UBN is PHE2425WLOE06216 & Tender ID: 2024_PHCJ_431617_1) may be visited on the procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in. http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in. SAVE WATER – SAVE LIFE

> (Rammurti) Add. Chief Engineer (P) PHED, Project Region Churu

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 Bh awan, IGIMS Campus, Sheikhpura, Patna (Bihar) All Pre-bid queries to be submitted through e-mail onbmsicItenderequipment@gmail.com Upto20 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 2025upto 17:00 Hrs,
Last date and time for submission of original documents of EMD.	12 th March 2025upto 14:00 Hrs.
Date, Time and Place of opening of Technical Bid	12th 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

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

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

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

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

GM (Procurement) **BMSICL**, Patna

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार। epaper.indianexpress.com

https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे

ई-ऑक्शन आमंत्रित करने की सूचना No. - Comml/E-auction/2025/04 Date: 03.02.2025. उक्त के सन्दर्भ में विभिन्न गाडियों में एसएलआर और वीपीय लीजिंग हाइब्रिड NFR (ऑन बोर्ड खरीदारी) एवं विभिन्न स्टेशनों पर पे एंड यूज टॉयलेट (Pay & Use Toilets) / विज्ञापन के साथ बैटरी ऑपरेटेड कार्ट्स (BCA) / पार्किंग स्टैंड / विज्ञापन- (OOH / रेल कोच रेस्टोरेंट (RCR) / एम.पी.एस (MPS) प्लास्टिक बोटल क्रशिंग मशीन (PBCM) के ठेके हेत् ई-ऑक्शन आमंत्रित की गई है। कैटलॉंग IREPS वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित किए जा चुके हैं कार्य का नाम: (1) जोधपुर मंडल के स्टेशन पर प एंड यूज टॉयलेट (Pay & Use Toilets) के ठेके हेतु ई-ऑक्शन (2) जोधपुर मंडल के से संचालित गाडियों के एसएलआर और वीपीय लीजिंग मे स्थान लीज पर माल पार्सल की लोडिंग हेत् ई-ऑक्शन (3) जोधपुर मंडल के स्टेशन फ विज्ञापन के साथ बैटरी ऑपरेटेड कार्ट्स (BCA) के ठेके हेत् ई-ऑक्शन (4) जोधपुर मंडल के विभिन्न स्टेशनों पर पार्किंग स्टैंड के ठेके हेत् ई-ऑक्शन (5) जोधपुर मंडल के विभिन्न स्टेशनों पर वाणिज्यिक विज्ञापन के ठेके हेत् आउट ऑफ़ होम (OOH आदि का ई-ऑक्शन (6) जोधपुर मंडल के विभिन्न स्टेशनों पर रेल कोच रेस्टोरिंट (RCR) के ठेके हेत ई-ऑक्शन (7) जोधपुर मंडल के विभिन्न स्टेशन पर एम,पी.एस. (MPS) के ठेके हेत् ई-ऑक्शन (8) जोधपुर मंडल के गाडियों में हाइब्रिड NFR (ऑन बोर्ड खरीदारी) के ठेके हेतु ई-ऑक्शन (9) जोधपुर मंडल के विभिन्न स्टेशनों पर प्लास्टिक बोटल क्रशिंग मशीन (PBCM) के ठेके हेतु ई ऑक्शन कार्य की अवधि : (1) पे एंड यूज टॉयलेट (Pay & Use Toilets) - 3 वर्ष (2) एसएलआर और वीपीयु लीजिंग - 2 वर्ष (3) विज्ञापन के साथ बैटरी ऑपरेटेड कार्ट्स (BCA) : 3 वर्ष (4) पार्किंग 3 वर्ष (5) विज्ञापन (आउट ऑफ़ होम) - 5 वर्ष (6) रेल कोच रेस्टोरेंट (RCR) - 5 वर्ष (7) एम.पी.एस (MPS) - 5 वर्ष (8) हाइब्रिड NFR (ऑन-बोर्ड खरीदारी) - 3 वर्ष (9) प्लास्टिक बोटल क्रशिंग मशीन (PBCM) - 5 वर्ष. लॉट के ई- ऑक्शन प्रारंभ की तिथि व समयः (1) Pay & Use Toilets (PnU): PnU-JU-10 दिनांक 07.02.2025 को 10:00 बजे से (2) SLRs & VPUs: EA-Parcel-JU-25 दिनांक 15.02.25 को 12:00 बजे से Parcel-JU-89 दिनांक 17.02.25 को 13:00 बजे से (3) Battery Operated Carts with Advertisement BCA-JU-13 दिनांक 17.02.25 को 11:00 बजे से (4) PARKING: Parking-JU-55 दिनांक 17.02.25 को 14:00 बजे से (5) ADVT: OOH-JU-48 दिनांक 17.02.2025 को 15:00 ਕਤੇ ਦੇ (6) Rail Coach Restaurant: RCR-JU-24 दिनांक 18.02.25 को 11:00 बजे से (7) MPS MPS-JU-25 दिनांक 18.02.25 को 13:00 ਕਤੇ से (8) Hybrid NFR: HYB-OnB-JU-12 दिनांक 18.02.25 की 15:00 बजे से (9) Plastic Bottle Crushing Machine: PBCM-JU-12 दिनांक 19.02.25 को 11:00 बजे से. वेबसाइट जहाँ से लॉट वाइज ई-ऑक्शन के सम्बन्ध मे जानकारी प्राप्त की जा सकती है www.ireps.gov.in 153-AR/24 हमें 🚰 🖼 🖂 /NWRailways 📓 NWRailways_ पर फॉलो करें

<u>"IMPORTANT"</u>

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manner whatsoever.

6 8

6 8 3 2 6 5 5 9 3 6 2 9 8

DAY TODAY

occupy your

Even at work there'll be a

sense in which you're part of one big family. This is all

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

if you'll be able to pull off a

stakes. Do you have enough

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

cheek to get away with it?

A close partner may have

iust lost their sense

of humour.

minor coup in the eccentricity

that close relations are

likely to squabble.

very nice, but just remember

attention today.

People sometimes

do the strangest

things. Just now it

looks very much as

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) Home and family foibles seem to

However, in the astrological

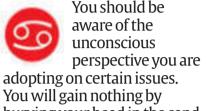
for you but not for a partner. SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23) The great news is and remind you that unless you keep a careful check on

your ambitions, you will stir up

You have a great deal of creative energy, which is just as well. You see, if you are to prevent life being any more than a humdrum shuffle from one rut to another, you are going to have to inject some excitement into your routine. And, if you don't do it, then

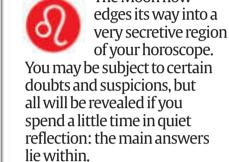
CANCER (June 22 - July 23) You should be

other people will.

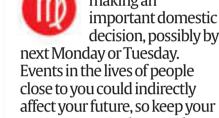


You will gain nothing by burying your head in the sand or ignoring problems in the hope that they'll go away. Perhaps your best move is to get sympathetic relations.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23) The Moon now



VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23) You will soon be making an



प्रदेश

next Monday or Tuesday. Events in the lives of people close to you could indirectly affect your future, so keep your antennae up. And remember. the only thing that counts now is the truth.

कारपोरेशन

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

It's a fine time for deep inner revelations. You may imagine that you know more than anyone else, especially concerning other people's motivations.

BY PETER VIDAL

and your ideas may be right that battles at work should now be well in the past. I'd like to look at the long-term though,

universe all truth is relative,

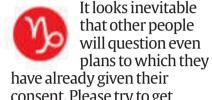
coming months. SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22) It's surprising how

many forgotten and long-

buried emotions over the

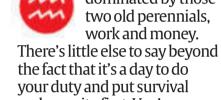
× much your attitudes to money are bound up with fears and feelings about emotional security. I told you yesterday how cash complaints could come between you and a colleague or partner. Now is the time to understand why so.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)



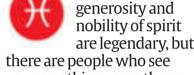
consent. Please try to get everything you can out of whatever co-operation is offered and do listen to constructive criticism.

AOUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) Life seems to be dominated by those



and security first. You're still keeping your deepest desires to yourself, and there's nothing wrong with enjoying your day-dreams. **PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**

Your faith,



you as nothing more than a weed to be trodden into the ground. How surprised they will be when their little plans backfire.

/ शुद्धिपत्र हेतु ई-टेण्डरिंग पोर्टल/वेब साइट पर

सजग रहे/देख सकते है। 12. शासनादेश सं०

टान्समिशन लि० ई-निविदा आमंत्रण

सूचाना-01/2024-25 विद्युत जानपद पारेषण खंण्ड, आगरा अद्योहस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेत् पृथक-पृथक ई-निविदाएं दो भागों में (प्रथम भाग में टेक्नीकल बिड के अन्तर्गत धरोहर धनराशि, निविदा शुल्क एवं संलग्न Pre Qualification के अनुसार प्रपत्र तथा द्वितीय भाग में फाइनेन्शियल बिड के अन्तर्गत मात्र निविदित दरों का विवरण होगा) एवं अनुभवी ठेकेदारों से ई-टेण्डरिंग पोर्टल http://etender.up.nic.in के माध्यम से ऑन लाइन आमंत्रित की जाती है। क्रम सं०, 01 : कार्य का नाम : मुख्य अभियन्ता (पारेषण दक्षिण पश्चिम) उ०प्र०पा०टा० का०लि०, आगरा के कार्यालय परिसर में स्थित पार्क एवं प्लान्टेशन के अनुरक्षण एवं परिसर की साफ सफाई के कार्य। कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (रू० लाख में): 1.94, कार्यावधि : 12 माह, निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (रू०) 590.00 (जी॰एस॰टी॰ सहित), धरोहर धनराशि (रू०) : 3900.00, निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय : 05.03.2025 समय 12:00 बजे, निविदा खोले जाने का समय : 05.03.2025 समय 16:00 बजे, 1. प्रतिभागी निविदाकार को निविदा में भाग लेने हेतु निविदा मूल्य तथा धरोहर धनराशि जमा कराना आवश्यक होगा। पूर्व में किसी भी कार्य की निविदा में जमा किया गया निविदा मुल्य तथा धरोहर धनराशि वर्तमान निविदा में मान्य नहीं होगी। 2. निविदा हेतु निविदा मूल्य एवं धरोहर धनराशि जो "Executive Engineer, Electricity Civil Transmission Division, Agra" के State Bank of India, Foundry Nagar, Agra के खाते के चालू A/C No 30065294923 (IFSC Code:-SBIN0005717) में RTGS/NEFT के माध्यम से सीधे खाते में जमा की जायेगी। साक्ष्य के रूप में योज्य यु०टी०आर० सं०, खाते के नाम सहित प्रति, पार्ट-1 के साथ अपलोड करना आवश्यक होगा, अन्यथा निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। 3. निविदा में प्रतिभागी किसी भी निविदादाता का निविदा शुल्क वापस नहीं किया जायेगा तथा कार्य की L.O.I. निर्गत होने के पश्चात अन्य असफल निविदादाता की धरोहर धनराशि निर्गत की जायेगी। 4. उपरोक्त सभी कार्य को यू०पी०पी०डब्लू०डी०/ यू०पी०पी० टी०सी०एल० की विशिष्टियों के अनसार सम्पादित कराया जायेगा। 5. निविदादाता द्वारा सभी अभिलेखों स्केन कर निविदा के साथ ई-टेण्डर पोर्टल http://etender.up.nic.in पर ऑनलाइन अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा। 6. निविदादाता की

पात्रता संलग्न PQR के अनुसार मान्य होगी। 7.

निविदा की वैद्यता, निविदा खुलने की तिथि से चार

माह तक मान्य होगी। ८. निविदा समिति को बिना

कारण बताये, किसी या सभी निविदाओं को निरस्त

करने अथवा दो या दो से अधिक ठेकेदारों में विभक्त

करने का पूर्ण अधिकार सुरक्षित होगा। 9. निविदा

का विवरण http://upptcl.org एवं

http://etender.up.nic.in साइट पर देखा जा

सकता है। कार्य की निविदा डालने हेतु निविदादाता

को उपरोक्त वेब साइट http://etender.up.nic.in

पर पंजीकृत करना अनिवार्य है। 10. निविदा खुलने

की तिथि पर आकरिमक अवकाश पड़ जाने या

इन्टरनेट / तकनीकी बाधित होने पर निविदा अगले

कार्य दिवस में खोली जायेगी। 11. निविदादाता

निविदा में किसी भी प्रकार के परिवर्तन / संशोधन

622/23-12-2012-2 आडिट/08 में निहित आदेशों के अनुसार परफॉरमेन्स गारण्टी (in the form of FDR only) जमा कराया जाना सुनिश्चित किया जायेगा। 13. फर्म/ठेकेदार के प्रत्येक चालित बीजक से 10 प्रतिशत की सुरक्षा धनराशि काटी जायेगी जोकि कार्य के सफलता पूर्वक पूर्ण होने के 06 माह पश्चात ही निर्गत की जायेगी, केवल सड़क व ट्यूबवैल बोरिंग के कार्य के अनुबन्ध में सुरक्षा धनराशि कार्य समाप्ति के 12 माह बाद अवमुक्त की जायेगी। 14. किसी भी सरकारी विभाग में काली सूची में दर्ज अथवा Debarred (वंचित/विवर्जित/प्रतिबन्धित) हुये निविदाकार/फर्म निविदा में प्रतिभग नहीं कर सकते। यदि काली सुची में दर्ज अथवा Debarred (वंचित/विवर्जित/प्रतिबन्धित) हुए निविदाकार/फर्म निविदा प्राप्त कर लेता है या तत्पश्चात कार्य करने के दौरान यदि काली सुची में अथवा Debarred (वंचित/विवर्जित/प्रतिबन्धित) होने की सूचना प्राप्त होती है तो निविदाकार / फर्म का अनुबन्ध तत्काल

प्रभाव से निरस्त कर दिया जोयेगा, जिसकी समस्त जिम्मेदारी निविदाकार / फर्म की होगी तथा निविदाकार / फर्म के विरूद्ध कानुनी कार्यवाही की जायेगी। 15. लेबर सैस, रॉयल्टी एवं अन्य समस्त टैक्स की देयता फर्म/कान्ट्रैक्टर की होगी, विभाग द्वारा मात्र जी॰एस॰टी॰ का भुगतान किया जायेगा 16. निविदाओं के मात्रा बीजक के आइटमों में ली गई मात्राएं अनुमानित है जिसमें किसी भी स्तर तक परिर्वतन सम्भव है। 17. निविदादाता द्वारा डाली गई दरें अनुबन्धित अथवा विस्तारित समयाविध तक अपरिर्वतनीय रहेंगी। 18. निविदादाता द्वारा सभी निर्माण सामग्रीयों का टेस्ट NABL के स्वीकृत लैब से Engineer In-Charge के निदेशीनुसार कराया जायेगा जिसका व्यय निविदादाता को वहन करना होगा। टेस्ट रिपोर्ट संतोषजनक न होने पर निर्माण कार्य को तोड़ने एवं पुनः निर्माण का कार्य फर्म/ठेकेदार द्वारा अपने व्यय पर कराया जायेगा 19. कार्य के दौरान निर्माण स्थल पर नियक्त किये गये मानव शक्ति (लेबर, मेसन इत्यादि) की सुरक्षा की सम्पूर्ण जिम्मेदारी फर्म/ठेकेदार की होगी तथा किसी भी अप्रिय घटना की सम्पूर्ण जिम्मेदारी फर्म/ठेकेदार की होगी। 20. ठेकेदार द्वारा निर्माण कार्य के दौरान पारेषण/जानपद स्कन्ध के कर्मियों/अधिकारियों के साथ शालीन व्यवहार सनिश्चित करना होगा अन्यथा की स्थिति में नियमानुसार विधिक कार्यवाही की जायेगी। 21. फर्म को निविदा में भाग लेने से पूर्ण निर्माण स्थल का अवलोकन कर लेना चाहिये। 22. कार्य के दौरान निर्माण स्थल पर आवश्यकतानुसार जल निकासी का कार्य फर्म/ठेकेदार द्वारा अपने व्यय पर किया जायेगा। 23. कार्यस्थल पर जानपदीय कार्यों में प्रयोग होने वाले जल की व्यवस्था कार्यदायी

संस्था को स्वय के व्यय पर करनी होगी। 24. श्रम विभाग में फर्म का रजिस्ट्रेशन आवश्यक होगा। 25. यह ठेकेदार की जिम्मेदारी होगी कि वह अनबन्ध के अन्तर्गत जानपदीय कार्यों में उपयोग की गई सभी खनन सामग्री पर सरकारी मानदंडों के अनुसार रॉयल्टी (eMM-11 form) भूगतान का प्रमाण सम्बन्धित अधिशासी अभियन्ता (जानपद) को प्रदान करें। Email ideectcagr@upptcl.org, "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचायें" हस्ता./-अधिशासी अभियन्ता वि०जा०पा० खं०, आगरा। पत्रांक: 105/वि०जा०पा०ख०/ आगरा/2024-25 दिनांक : 05/02/2025

PLAYING TODAY

India vs England First ODI, 1.30 pm onwards, Live on Star Sports Network, Hotstar

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CHAMPS TROPHY

SKIPPER MISSING

Cummins 'heavily unlikely' to play, Smith or Head could lead

AUSTRALIAN HEAD coach Andrew McDonald revealed that it is "heavily unlikely" that Pat Cummins will participate in the upcoming Champions Trophy. And there are discussions to make either Travis Head or Steven Smith captain of the side for the tournament.

"Pat Cummins hasn't been able to resume any type of bowling so he's heavily unlikely, so that would mean that we do need a captain," McDonald told SEN. "Steve Smith and Travis Head are the two that we've been having conversations with while we've been building out that Champions Trophy team along with Pat back home. They'll be the two that we look at for that leadership post."

Due to an ankle injury and the birth of his second child, Cummins has not been selected for Australia's ongoing two-match Test series against Sri Lanka. Smith has been given the reigns and Australia thrashed Sri Lanka in the opening Test in Galle by an innings and 242 runs.

"They're the two obvious ones. Steve has done a great job here in the [first] Test match. He's done some good work in one-day international cricket across the journey as well. So it's between those two," McDonald said. ENS

HYPE BUILDS

Ind-Pak tickets sell out in less than an hour

Tickets for the high-octane India vs Pakistan clash scheduled to be played in Dubai in the upcoming Champions Trophy have been sold out in less than an hour. The match is set to be played on February 23 and tickets were open for sale on Monday with about 1,40,000 fans queuing up online. The minimum price for the tickets of the India-Pakistan clash has been at 500 AED (11,863 Indian rupees) and went up to as high as 12,500 AED (2,96,595 Indian rupees) as per Geo News. Tickets for four games in Dubai have been up alongside tickets for a couple of games in Pakistan.

'Format change can give Virat, Rohit confidence'

Former India batting coach Sanjay Bangar on Wednesday reckoned the change in format and their past exploits in ODIs could bring glad tidings for the struggling duo of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in the series against England and the Champions Trophy. "See, both these players will go down as the best white ball players of all times. If you make a list of all-time greats in 50-over cricket, they are automatic choices. So, the format and their past performances would certainly give them a lot of confidence in the way they would approach," Bangar, a Star Sports *Network* expert, said during an interaction organised by the

newspaper

INDIA VS ENGLAND: FIRST ODI

Wanted: Support act to perform lead roles

In Bumrah's absence, India would hope his associates and accomplices emerge from his shadow and deliver

PRATYUSH RAJ

NAGPUR, FEBRUARY 5

JASPRIT BUMRAH, like Sachin Tendulkar once, carries the mood of a nation. With a single, devastating spell, he could bring joy, as he has provided numerous times in his career. A bad day on the field, those rare days when nothing quite works for him, he plunges the millions watching him into despair. Now, they anxiously wait for his fitness updates for the Champions Trophy.

A chain of questions arises. At what stage of the tournament would he be fit enough to feature in the tournament? How fit would he be? Would he not feature at all? What would India do? Who would replace him? It's just like Tendulkar's injury-ridden late 90s. Whenever India have performed well, there has been the stamp of Bumrah's sleight-ofhand mastery. Be it the 2024 World T20 final, the 2023 ODI World Cup—it's little coincidence that India's lone defeat in the tournament arrived on his rare off-day, which cruelly came in the final against Australia—or the Test wins in England, Australia and South Africa.

Put it simply, India would miss Bumrah. Not just the skills, wickets and moments, but the fear he instills in batsmen, and his ability to inspire his team. Virat Kohli would say at the felicitation function of the triumphant T20 team at Wankhede. "What I want everyone to do is applaud a guy who brought us back into the tournament again and again and again," he would say.

But with just a fortnight for the start of Champions Trophy, India can't brood on his absence or sweat over his return date. Rather, they have to discover the perfect bowling combo—for finding a like-for-like replacement—to compensate for his absence. In this regard, the return of Mohammed Shami spells relief. There is the fast improving Arshdeep Singh and the promising Harshit Rana too, who though would have just three ODIs against England, kickstarting in Nagpur from Wednesday, to find their ODI gears.

But there are caveats too. Shami, who on his day could be as lethal as Bumrah, is returning from a lengthy injury-induced lay-off. His last ODI was the World Cup final in Ahmedabad, 15 months ago. He did squeeze in a couple of games in the T20-leg against England. But how his body holds up to the rigours of bowling 10 overs, and whether he could sustain his intensity throughout the match, are uncertain. Even the most seasoned bowlers take time to regain their optimal rhythm.

Then there is Arshdeep, one of India's heroes in the T20 World Cup. The joint wickettaker with 17 scalps, he, like Shami in the 50over World Cup, benefitted from Bumrah's tight spells at the other end. In ODIs, though, his sample size is not big enough to draw conclusions about his long-term promise. In eight games, he has picked up 12 wickets including a five-for against South Africa. But he reinforced his 50-overs values with a haul of 20 wickets, the highest, in the 50-over Vijay Hazare Trophy. With his ability to swing and seam the ball both ways, apart from the variations at his disposal, he holds promise to reproduce his T20 heroics in ODIs too. England's batsmen would offer a stiff examination of his virtues.

The third seamer in the squad, Harshit, has not yet made his debut in this format, despite encouraging starts in other forms. He is not a vastly experienced List A hand either—having featured in only 14 games, though the numbers of 22 wickets at an average of 23.45 stand

impressively. It's important that at least two of the three frontline seamers along with Hardik Pandva. click collectively. One man alone cannot move the mountain, as the Test series in Australia

demonstrated.



Virat Kohli, Arshdeep Singh, Shubman Gill and Rohit Sharma during a training session ahead of the first ODI against England in Nagpur.

The concerns, then, are not limited to the seam department. Like Shami, lead spinner Kuldeep Yadav is also returning from a surgery, even though it did not keep him on the sidelines for a lengthy period. He played India's last ODI series in Sri Lanka as well as the last round of the Ranji Trophy group games recently, wherein he logged 31 overs. Still, there would be a few anxious eyes following his bowling.

The identity of his partner has sparked considerable interest and speculation. The late addition of leg-spinner Varun Chakaravarthy, who troubled England in the T20s, adds a layer of intrigue. Like Harshit, Varun is an ODI fresher, but he has bowled spectacularly in this format as well (average of 14.13, economy rate of 4.28 in 23 outings). He was also the leading wicket-taker among spinners in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, snapping up 18 wickets with a best of 5/9 and an average of 12.16.

Whether a heap of wickets would seal him a late spot in the Champions Trophy is uncertain but India captain Rohit Sharma has hinted that Varun is in contention for the Champions Trophy. "He has certainly shown something different. I understand that it is a T20 format but he has clearly got something different about him. So we just wanted to have an option and see what we can do with him," he said.

"Clearly during the series it presents us an opportunity to play him at some stage and see what he is capable of. If things plan out really well for us and he does what is required then definitely there is something that we need to think about." he added.

Thus, the absence of Bumrah has breathed an extra skin of context and importance to the three-match series. But every answer brings us back to the same set of Bumrah-centric questions. He is irreplaceable, but with collective brilliance, India could make his absence less pronounced. The series will throw vital clues on India's ability to cope without Bumrah against quality sides.

Combative Rohit loses cool on questions about form and future

PRATYUSH RAJ NAGPUR, FEBRUARY 5

ROHIT SHARMA didn't seem too pleased with questions on his current form and his future after the ICC Champions Trophy in the press conference on the eve of the first ODI against England in Nagpur on Wednesday.

When asked about his lack of runs over the last several months and the return to his favourite format, the Indian captain lost his composure.

"What kind of a question is that? This is a different format, a different time. As usual, as cricketers, we know there will be ups and downs and I have faced a lot in my career, so this is nothing new to me. We know every day is a fresh day, every series is a fresh series," Rohit shot back.

"I am looking forward to the challenge, not looking at what has happened in the past. Clearly you don't, so obviously for me also there is no reason to look back too much. A lot of good things have happened as well. It's important that I focus on what is coming up and what lies ahead for me. It is as simple as that. Look to try and start the series on a high."

It was unlike any Rohit press conference one has seen over the years. Even after India were bowled out for 46 against New Zealand last year, the India captain had come for the presser and answered all questions coolly. But at Nagpur on Wednesday, he got angsty and aggressive, like his predecessor Virat Kohli.



Rohit Sharma was in fighting form on the eve of the first ODI. PTI

When coaxed about his future, the captain termed the question irrelevant.

"How is it relevant that I talk about my future plans sitting here when there are three ODIs and a Champions Trophy coming up. Reports have been going around for a number of years, but I am not here to clarify those reports. For me, these three games and the Champions Trophy are very important, so my focus is on these games. We will see what happens afterwards."

Captain on edge

Rohit also lost his cool when asked about any Plan B if all-rounder Hardik Pandya, who has had a chequered fitness history,

gets injured like he did during the ODI World Cup.

"Why are we thinking about the negatives? That he will get injured, this will happen, that will happen. In the minds of the selectors, there are things. I can't say that here. We played the World Cup when they got injured. He got injured in the third or fourth match. After that, we played the whole tournament. Although we lost the final, we played good cricket till the final. So now, I won't think about what will happen if we get injured.

You are playing good cricket now. So we will hope that you keep playing good cricket and nothing happens," he said.

Mohammed Shami has been included in the squad despite ordinary domestic returns, but Rohit wasn't reading too much into it, asking people to keep a player's performances over a long time in mind.

"He has not played cricket for a year and a half. Don't be quick to judge players. The boy has been playing cricket for the last 10-12 years and performed for the team. He bowled so well in the (ODI) World Cup. If he doesn't get the results in some domestic matches as expected, it doesn't make him a bad bowler," he argued.

"He has bowled so much, taken so many wickets and won many games, so think about it. We just see what has happened now, but don't see what has happened in the past. We have a short-term memory. He single-handedly won us matches in the World Cup, and took a lot of five-wicket

Root holds key in line-up full of firecrackers

PRATYUSH RAJ NAGPUR, FEBRUARY 5

broadcasters."

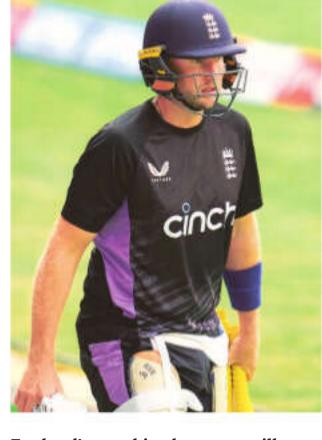
THERE'S SOMETHING classy and stylish about the way Joe Root goes about his job. The sense of assurance he brings to the table is evident in the way he batted in the Nagpur nets on Wednesday. He looked at ease against the local spin bowlers. Instead of trying to hit every ball out of the park, he looked to use his feet and play it down the ground. He also showed his range of shots, including the conventional sweep and the 'reverse' ver-

The "cheeky smile," as mentioned by his captain Jos Buttler, never leaves his face, and he is probably the batsman the England team management will be banking on to combat their spin threat from India.

"He'll be at number three," Buttler revealed Root's batting position on the eve of the match.

"He's one of the great players of the game and obviously a vital part of ODI cricket for England for a long time.

"I'm excited to see him in this phase of his career, when he's not had the captaincy. He is back with that cheeky smile on his face and really enjoying his cricket. I expect him to do exactly the same in this environment. He's



England's attacking batsmen will hope to be anchored by the composed **Joe Root.**

obviously got loads of experience in ODI cricket, which would be great for some of the guys who haven't played as much in our

Brendon McCullum, who was head coach of the England Test team, has been charged with turning around the white-ball team's fortunes as well. But his first series did not go well, as they were bamboozled by spin during a 4-1 series defeat in India. England lost 29 wickets to spin over the five games.

All the England batsmen seemed to have the same mindset: attack the first ball of the over. Citing Harry Brook as an example, former England captain Michael Vaughan said the current generation of England cricketers disrespects spin while trying to whack every ball out of the park.

"I'd love him (Brook) to watch Joe Root, who is a master of going back, hitting into the legside, nabbing a two, getting off strike," Vaughan wrote in a column for *The Telegraph*.

"Sweeps and reverse sweeps to manoeuvre the field and create gaps. Do not just think boundary, boundary all the time. If Brook marries his own game with a bit of Root, he will be much better for it."

After the group-stage exit at the 2015 ODI World Cup, Eoin Morgan changed the template England were playing with over the years. They became the first team to smash 350 in ODIs on a regular basis. And Root's pragmatic approach, manoeuvring the ball into the gaps, allowed everyone else to be firecrackers.

In the current England set-up, all the batsmen love to whack the ball out of the park. But to do well in this ODI series and the Champions Trophy, they need a fulcrum.

Root will have to remind England's swashbucklers that the ODI game lasts more than double the time a T20 does.

'Want to be aggressive'

Buttler admitted their inability to execute their plans has hurt England in ODIs recently. "I'll just say this in terms of execution. Whether you want to be aggressive, you want to be conservative, you want to be measured, you've still got to go out there and execute it and play it well," he said. "If I look back at that World Cup, the two teams in the final were playing a really positive and aggressive brand of cricket. You may think of the way Travis Head took that final with the bat. It can be successful. This can be a great part of the world to play that fashion of cricket."

However. Buttler maintained that his team will stick to its ultra-aggressive style, despite current results not going their way.

"We want to play in exactly the same way. We want to find ways to put pressure on the opposition with the bat.

"We played well in phases in the T20s, never quite long enough to run away with games and end up getting the results.

epaper.indianexpress.com

ODI cricket 'has been pushed to the margins,' says Buttler

PRATYUSHRAJ NAGPUR, FEBRUARY 5

OVER THE past few years, there is a growing consensus that ODIs are nearing the end and England captain **Jos Buttler** agrees with it.

Buttler, an ODI World Cup winner himself feels the format has been pushed to its margin and he is unsure about its relevance and future.

"I'm unsure, to be honest," he told reporters on the eve of the first ODI against India in Nagpur. "I think I've actually really enjoyed 50 over cricket, it's always been one of my favourite formats actually, but it's certainly been pushed a little bit towards the margins, in the recent years," he said.

As it stands, the men's Cricket World Cup is likely to live on, with broadcast rights sold in India until the 2027 edition being hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Namibia, and 2031 is to be staged by India and Bangladesh. But the question is for how long will it survive? At a time when attention spans appear to be diminishing and T20 cricket continues on its inexorable domination of the sport's calendar,

the future of ODI is under the hammer. Buttler also blames the packed schedule



and the rise of the T20 leagues around the cricketing circuit. "The way scheduling is, and obviously the rise of T20 and franchise cricket, "he said.

Buttler says for him winning the 50-over World Cup is still ahead than winning the World T20. "I still believe if you talk to guys about winning a World Cup, they'd probably say a 50 over World Cup ahead of a T20 World Cup at the moment," he said.

"Whether that continues to be the case moving forward I don't know, but the schedules are always the thing. If you can get the best players on the park, playing against each other in whatever the format, I think people are always going to be excited to watch it," he said.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE FEBRUARY 5

THERE WAS a temporary truce in the world of chess after FIDE announced that organisers of Freestyle Chess Grand Slam Tour had removed the phrase 'world championship' from their regulations. This means that the winner of the Freestyle Chess Tour will not be officially called a Freestyle World Champion, as the organisers had initially intended.

"Today, the organisers of the 'Freestyle Chess Tour' fully deleted from its regulations the reference to the 'World Championship' title. Following this change in the regulations, players wishing to participate in the 2025 'Freestyle Chess Tour' are no longer required to sign the waiver note," FIDE posted on their social media handles. The intent of Freestyle Tour's organisers to crown the winner of their event as a 'world champion' had been the sticking point between the global governing body of chess and organisers. The first event of the Freestyle Tour will be held in Weissenhaus later this week, with events also planned for New York, Paris, New Delhi and Cape Town.

"As the regulations of 'freestyle tour' have been changed and do not contain "world chess champion(ship)" notion anymore, no further signatures from players are required," FIDE president Arkady Dvorkovich announced on social media. The waiver note that Dvorkovich referred to had been sent to players in an email by the FIDE Legal Director. FIDE had made it mandatory for players to sign the waiver note by Tuesday. Dvorkovich had told The Indian Express that about 10 players — about half of the players who had been emailed the waiver notes by FIDE — had signed them before the deadline on Tuesday. FIDE said the waiver notes gave the players exemption to compete in the Freestyle event despite them having existing contracts that prohibited them from playing in any rival "world championships" not regulated by FIDE.

FIDE and Freestyle Tour had been involved in a bitter battle over the past two months, which had seen plenty of name-calling on social media, accusations thrown at each other from both sides and even private text messages being leaked. Both parties had started amicably, before talks had collapsed at the end of last year. The man behind the Freestyle Tour, Jan Henric Buettner, had declared that they were ready for war with FIDE.

Then, Dvorkovich and Buettner had resumed conversation to try and find a middle ground before talks collapsed again. This time, FIDE Council had raised objections and had also stated that there was very little faith in organisers of Freestyle Chess.

Gukesh to play

The ugly fight had led to five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand, who is a FIDE Deputy President, to pull out of the first series, which will be held in Weissenhaus.

However, the event will see two world champions competing: five-time champion Magnus Carlsen and Gukesh. Besides, Carlsen and Gukesh, the event will also see World No 2 Fabiano Caruana, World No 3 Hikaru Nakamura, World No 6 Nodirbek Abdusattarov and World No 7 Alireza Firouzja in action at a luxury resort. Uzbek prodigy Javokhir Sindarov will replace Anand.

The intent of Freestyle Tour's organisers to crown the winner of their event as a 'world champion' had been the sticking point between the global governing body of chess and organisers

The Hundred, the Millions & the Billionaires

Behind the \$144 mn 'strategic' investment in the Lord's-based franchise: nostalgia, love for the game and a potential to own Kohli

SANDEEP DWIVEDI NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

GROWING UP in Hyderabad, the bedroom wall at Microsoft chief executive officer Satya Nadella's home had three posters that probably would have never been pasted together. Alongside philosopher Karl Marx and Goddess of wealth Lakshmi was good-looking batsman ML Jaisimha, a long-time favourite cricketer among the game's connoisseurs. In an old interview, Nadella has also spoken about missing the heady days of Sachin Tendulkar's debut as he moved to the United States in 1988.

Another desi corporate czar in the US, Nikesh Arora of cyber-security company Palo Alto Networks, recently said how he and his other Silicon Valley friends, most Fortune 1000 regulars with Indian roots, get up at 4 am to watch the Indian Premier League. They would tune in for Tests too. At the height of the antitrust law debate in 2021, Google CEO Sundar Pichai would find time to follow Rishabh Pant's daredevilry in Brisbane. "One of the greatest Test series wins ever..." - he would tweet.

It isn't just cricket but also the longing to reconnect with their childhood passion in the land of baseball that brings most Indians together - even business rivals. Last week, 11 Indian-American cricket romantics got the right to be called part-owners of the Home of cricket - the iconic Lord's cricket ground in London. The privilege to be the first-ever private partners at Lord's in more than 200 years came at a price - 144 million pounds. Converted into rupees, the amount makes Indian eyes water - Rs 1,500 crore.

The opportunity arose when the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) decided to auction 49 percent of the eight teams playing 'The Hundred' - the contest for supremacy in cricket's latest variation, the four-year-old barely breathing format in need of a cylinderful of fiscal oxygen. This opened the door to some exclusive cricket clubs. Silicon Valley cricket enthusiasts wouldn't have missed this chance. It was just a minority stake of ownership for one tournament with no rights or say in anything else. It was still worth it, it seems.

This rare chance saw the coming together

The Oval Invincibles, representing the county of Surrey in The Hundred, will now have Mumbai Indians as co-owners. Reuters

about Rs 650 crore to be the

franchise — Oval Invincibles.

■ Sanjeev Goenka of Lucknow

stakeholders of the other London

LORD'S @ 49%: RS 1500 CR; LEEDS @ 100%: RS 1100 CR

A Silicon Valley consortium of mostly investors with Indian roots, headed by Nikesh Arora of Palo Alto Networks, now has 49 percent stake in Lord'sbased The Hundred franchise London Spirit. They paid about Rs 1,500 crore.

Others part of the Cricket Investor **Holdings Limited are CEOs Sundar** Pichai (Alphabet), Satya Nadella (Microsoft), Adobe (Shantanu Narayen), and Silver Lake Management (Egon Durban). Satyan Gajwani, vice-chairman of Times Internet, too is part of the consortium.

■ In a steal, Mumbai Indians paid

Alto's Arora, has Pichai and Nadella along

with CEOs of Adobe and Silver Lake

Management - Shantanu Narayen and Egon

Durban. Also part of the consortium is Satyan

Gajwani, vice-chairman of Times Internet.

SuperGiants became the majority owner of Manchester Originals. He paid Rs 885 crore. Welsh Fire, the Cardif franchise, too has an Indian investor in IT magnet Sanjay Govil for about Rs 437 crore.

> ■ Yorkshire, based at Headingley in Leeds, sold its entire stake in the Northern Superchargers franchise to the Sun Group, which owns Sunrisers Hyderabad, for about Rs 1,093 crore.

of a consortium that can pass off a corporate Dream Team. Called Cricket Investor Holdings Limited, this group, headed by Palo

Mind you, these are individual investments of high-profile cricket enthusiasts with no involvement of the institutions they work in. The names of other investors in the consortium haven't yet been made public.

Along with these American NRIs, there will be several other Indians enjoying ownership status at iconic English grounds this The

Hundred season. Is this the start of the Indian takeover of the English game in England?

From the onset, it was a no-brainer that those who threw their silk hats, or kitchen sink, at the auction had their eyes on the two London clubs - London Spirit and Oval Invincibles. Also up for grabs were teams based in Leeds, Birmingham, Manchester, Southampton, Nottingham and Cardiff but they couldn't beat Lord's, Oval or London.

While the Silicon Valley deep pockets swooped the jewel of the crown for an astronomical amount, the other London venue, the Oval, became the new home of the Reliance Industries-backed global cricketing behemoth Mumbai Indians. In what is being called a steal MI paid half of what the Silicon Valley consortium shelled out. For 60 million pounds - about Rs 650 crore - they got a London team with the most successful The Hundred record, and a tieup with a county that has a better balance sheet than Lord's. Plus a much larger stadium too.

With MI aiming to be a multi-team global franchise, this was a 'must buy' auction. And so it was for IPL's newer owner Sanjeev Goenka of the Lucknow SuperGiants. He shelled about Rs 885 crore to be at Old Trafford as the majority owner of Manchester's Originals. Goenka got 70 percent as Lancashire became the first county to part with its own share.

IPL side Sunrisers Hyderabad would make

the biggest splash. On Wednesday, they became the first team to own 100 per cent of a Hundred side. They reportedly paid Rs 1100 crores for Northern Superchargers, the Yorkshire franchise. Welsh Fire, the Cardif franchise, too has an Indian investor in former IBM employee and IT magnet Sanjay Govil for about Rs 437 crore. Does this mean that Lord's new partners, the Silicon Valley investors went overboard in forking out Rs 1,500 crore? Were they blinded by their passion or the dream to be part of an incredible legacy? Those in the know say that it is foolish to question the spending of a group of business tycoons known for their vision of the future.

"This is not a P&L (Profit and Loss) game this is all about valuation. This is a strategic investment, you are putting your money in cricket, how can you miss out on England? It's where every innovation has started," a source says. But in a world where T20 rules, was The Hundred the wrong horse to back? Though the MoUs remain classified and dots not placed on i's and t's yet to be crossed, the grapevine has it that nothing is etched in stone.

"It can start as The Hundred but things can always change. It can one day become a T20 tournament since it's the most popular format. The investors have paid a lot, their voice will be important," said someone in the know. But can yet another T20 league be a

game-changer or worthy of a hefty investment since there are so many around the world? Even Indian T20 investment isn't unique - most IPL teams are part of leagues in South Africa, USA and the Emirates. Silicon Valley bigwigs are also bankrolling Major League Cricket - so even that isn't new.

The big reason for IPL being the undisputed global flagship limited-over franchise tournament is the presence of Indian megastars. So far, BCCI has guarded its monopoly stringently, they haven't allowed their players to venture to other leagues. It is only after a player retires and is not part of the IPL that he gets a chance to play in other leagues.

Wicketkeeper Dinesh Karthik turning up for Rajasthan Royals' Paarl Royals outfit in the SA20 is the latest example. With few of India's top stars in the last phase of their international careers, The Hundred's Indian investors see a glimmer of hope. "Now that there are owners with hefty funds, India's superstars can be wooed to play in England. This league is also during the time when there is monsoon in India and it's off-season," says the source before the nudge and wink comment "Virat Kohli has moved to London, hasn't he?"

For the American billionaires who have watched cricket from a distance, what's Rs 1,500 crore for a chance to be owner of a team that has Virat Kohli?

Proposed new scoring system could change badminton's landscape

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 5

A NEW scoring system could be in place for badminton, as the Badminton World Federation has said



this week that its chief decision-making body (BWF Council) has endorsed the 3x15 scoring system to replace the current 3x21 system. The

decision was taken at the BWF Council's meeting on 9 November 2024 in Kuala Lumpur. What does this mean for badminton? Here are some answers:

What is the 3x15 system?

The 3x15 is already defined as part of the 'Alternative Laws of Badminton' – in simple terms. a match will consist of the best of

three games. The game shall be won by the side that first scores 15 points (instead of the current 21). What happens at 14-14? We will continue to play on till one side gains a twopoint lead first. In the current scoring system, 29-29 becomes the decisive point in a game, which will now change to 20-all. So the side scoring the 21st point will win the game.

Will this rule change be immediate?

There is some time yet. The BWF Council has only approved a plan where the 3x15 will be tested at selected Continental Championships, Grade 3 tournaments, national and international leagues, and national tournaments. The testing period is set to be approximately April to September/October 2025. Towards the end of the testing period, BWF said it will survey key stakeholders at each tournament as well as an overall survey of all Members, Athletes' Commissions (players), technical officials, and commercial partners. "BWF Council will make a final decision whether to propose this new system to the BWF Annual General Meeting 2026," the governing body said.

What are the reasons for this proposed

The BWF has listed three main factors. a) more exciting points and a higher probability that each point is more exciting; b) Getting to more exciting points sooner; c) the shorter matches will lead to better scheduling and help sustain fan interest while also helping with player health and longevity.

Wasn't 15 points the OG system?

Yes, historically, badminton was a 15point sport, but this proposed change is not a return to the older days. Originally, all disciplines were played to 15, while women's singles was till 11. But the key aspect in that erstwhile system was that only the serving side could win a point. Every time a side lost serve, there was no change to the scoreboard. So, a game could be decided 15-2, for instance, but that was no guarantee of it being a short game if the serve kept changing hands.

What was the last big experiment?

There was the whirlwind 7x5 period in 2001 and 2002, when each match was played as the best of five games and a game was won by the first side to score seven points. It was used at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester, but that's where it stopped. According to BBC, the decision to abort the experiment was taken after a six-hour debate at an International Badminton Federation (IBF was the predecessor to BWF) council meeting where it "was apparent the majority of the members still favoured the old scoring system," according to the president Korn Dabbaransi.

How long has the current system been

When the 21x3 (setting to 30) system was introduced, it was a significant departure from the older scoring system. Under rally accounted for a point, and not just the player or team holding serve. It was introduced at the start of the 2006 season and has been in use since then internationally, but attempts have been made to change this.

the "rally point" system, as it is known, each

So there was a recent attempt to change? Indeed. As recently as 2021, there was a big push from BWF to change the scoring system to 11 x 5 (best of 5, with 11 points to win a game). That proposal had been put forward

by the Indonesian Badminton Association. It turned out to be an incredibly close vote at the 82nd BWF AGM. The 11x5 proposal received 66.31% votes for and 33.69% against but it was marginally short of the two-thirds majority needed (>66.67%). BWF President Poul-Erik Høyer had said then: "...proposed scoring system change has been part of my vision to make badminton more exciting and to increase the entertainment value for stakeholders." A total of 282 votes were cast in that AGM.

Meet Suruchi Phogat, the former wrestler who now wields a pistol

NIHAL KOSHIE

DEHRADUN, FEBRUARY 5

WRESTLER VIRENDER Singh, better known as goonga pehelwan and India's Deaflympics hero, inspired Inder Singh Phogat. So much so that when Inder's daughter Suruchi was born a year after Virender won a gold medal at the 2005 Melbourne Deaflympics, he set his mind on making her a wrestler. The champion lived down the road. Inder and Virender's homes were less than a kilometer apart in Sasroli village, Jhajjar.

By 11, Suruchi joined a local wrestling academy, spurred on by Virender's second medal. But tragedy struck a year later when Suruchi broke her shoulder bone. The fracture took nearly a year to heal fully. And wrestling's loss became shooting's gain. At the MPSC Shooting range on Wednesday at the National Games, 18-year-old Suruchi lived up to her rating as one to watch out for by winning the 10m air pistol gold medal. It was a Haryana 1-2 on the podium with 2022 Asian Games gold medalist Palak Gulia winning the silver - Suruchi with a final score of 245.7 and Palak 243.6. Punjab's Simranpreet Kaur Brar (218.8) won the bronze, while Paris Olympian Rhythm Sangwan was off the podium.

Being in the limelight in double Olympic medalist Manu Bhaker's pet event

is both a challenge and an opportunity, Suruchi said. There's anticipation of Manu and Suruchi in the same field at the domestic trials that begin later this week in New Delhi, if the Olympic bronze medallist makes an appearance.

Suruchi's progress captured the imagination when she won a hat-trick of individual medals at the National shooting championship in New Delhi in December. Gold medals in the women, junior and youth categories. "The medals at the National championships were a boost of confidence. I am pleased to continue with my good form," Suruchi said. "I didn't think twice when switching from wrestling to shooting. All I wanted was to be a sportsperson and win medals."

A grand welcome, organised by the village elders when she returned to Sasroli after December's nationals gave Suruchi her brush with mini-stardom. In her secondchoice sport, she's starting to come of age.

When Suruchi broke her shoulder, Inder, because of the severity of the injury, felt returning to the mat would be a high-risk move. "There was a chance of the shoulder getting injured again. She wanted to play a sport. Shooting seemed the sensible choice. Today my son, Nishant, 15, is also a shooter. When Suruchi was born, I was fascinated by Virender pehelwan's achievements so wanted her to become a wrestler. Shooting



Suruchi Phogat with her father Inder Singh Phogat (L) and coach Suresh Singh after winning the gold at the National Games in Dehradun on Wednesday. Nihal Koshie

has been rewarding," Inder said.

By 14, Suruchi had enrolled at the Guru Dronacharya Shooting Academy in Bhiwani, 60 km from her home. The up-and-down train journey took three hours. First, a 2 km walk to Jharli station, then by train, followed by an e-rickshaw ride. It's a journey the father and daughter undertake even today, seven days a week.

"I retired when she took up shooting and travelling with my daughter is my full-time job," Inder said. When in the army, Inder was posted in J&K and was part of anti-militant operations but his heart rate goes up when his daughter is competing. "That was a different life. This is different. There I was giving my all for the country, now it is for my children."

To fund her shooting dreams, Inder had used his army pension money and also took the help of well-wishers. Since September, the Olympic Gold Quest has signed up Suruchi. "They take care of weapon-related expenses, pellets, and travel," Inder said.

There is another army connection and a Manu Bhaker link. Suresh Singh, a retired army coach, runs the Guru Dronacharya Shooting Academy, Suruchi's training base. "Manu Bhaker trained at my academy for two years in her early days. Initially, I had a manual system (paper target), now it is all electronic. There has been a renewed interest in shooting since the Paris Olympics," Suresh said. After the medal ceremony, Suruchi got her father and coach, pillars of her shooting career, to pose beside her with the medal.

Coach Suresh thinks an Olympic medalist and a high-quality domestic field of shooters makes the women's 10m air pistol event one of the most competitive. "Suruchi has started off well. Bigger tests are awaited. She will be ready for it. The competition will keep her motivated," Suresh said.

Suruchi has set Los Angeles 2028 as her big target. She has an Olympic pin in her possession, given to her by a foreign competitor at a junior world cup. With dreams of an Olympic medal, Suruchi is proving she's inching her way to the big league, one shot at a time.

CWG Lawn Bowls champions shine

Dehradun: India's historic gold winning team members of 2022 Commonwealth Games — Lovely Choubey and Rupa Tirkey — shone on lawn bowls field while Balraj Panwar strengthened his status as a top rower as star performers from minor sports grabbed the spotlight at the National Games here Wednesday.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands cyclist David Beckham Elkatohchoongo, whose middle name saved him from being denied entry in the United Kingdom for the 2022 CWG, claimed his second gold of the Games, winning the men's time trial 1km event to add to his top podium finish in sprint on Tuesday.

As the Games entered its halfway stage, Karnataka led the medal tally with 28 gold, 11 silver and 15 bronze for a total haul of 54. Services, who added six gold to their kitty on Wednesday, bridged the gap with 27 gold, 10 silver and 9 bronze for a total of 46.

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