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U.S. WEAPONS FLOW TO UKRAINE AGAIN, KREMLIN MULLS A CEASEFIRE PROPOSAL
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ISM Dhanbad, 4 IITs, 2 IIMs among 9 Indian institutes in QS global top 50

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

THE INDIAN School of Mines in Dhanbad, which is an IIT, has secured the highest ranking for an Indian institution in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025, standing at rank 20 globally in ‘Engineering – Mineral and Mining’ subject, up from rank 41 last year.

Global higher education analysts Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) released the rankings by subject for 2025 on Wednesday. A total of 79 Indian institutions featured in the rankings, 10 more than last year.

Nine Indian institutions featured in the top 50 across subjects. In addition to the Indian School of Mines Dhanbad, these included the IITs in Delhi, Bombay, Madras, and Kharagpur; the IIMs in Ahmedabad and Bangalore; and the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). The only private Indian institution that featured in the top 50 across subjects was Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, which was ranked 26 in Dentistry.

While it remains among the top 50, IIT Madras has seen a drop in its ranking, from 16 last year to 31 this year in Petroleum Engineering.

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16 steps to end discrimination: In a Bengal village, 5 Dalits enter temple for the first time

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA
KOLKATA, MARCH 12

IT’S 10 am, and the village of Gidhagram in West Bengal’s Purba Bardhaman district — about 150 km from Kolkata — has turned into a fortress. The village is preparing for a historic, never-before-seen event: in a few minutes, a group of Dalits from the village will enter the village’s Gidheshwar temple — an event that they hope marks the beginning of the end of centuries

DAY AFTER BALOCH REBELS HIJACKED TRAIN WITH 440 ON BOARD

Pakistan train siege ends: 21 hostages dead, all 33 attackers killed, says Army

SALEEM AHMED & ASIF SHAHZAD
QUETTA, MARCH 12

PAKISTANI SECURITY forces stormed a train on Wednesday that had been hijacked by separatist militants, killing all 33 attackers and ending a day-long standoff involving hundreds of hostages, the military said.

Separatist Baloch militants on Tuesday blew up the railway track and hurled rockets at the Jaffar Express when it was on its way to Peshawar in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province from Balochistan’s capital of Quetta, a security source said. The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) had



A security person stands guard near a train carrying empty coffins at a railway station in Quetta Wednesday. The coffins are being sent to Bolan, where a train was hijacked. Reuters

India needs to grow 8% for progress, core sector must invest: SBI chief

HITESH VYAS, GEORGE MATHEW & SANDEEP SINGH
MUMBAI, MARCH 12

INDIA DEFINITELY needs to grow at 8 per cent to progress, and this needs consumption and private capital expenditure, said Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, Chairman, State Bank of India, the largest bank in the country with a deposit base of Rs 52.29 lakh crore.

“India definitely requires a growth rate of 8 per cent to progress, but this (current) growth rate (of around 6 per cent) is not to be really worried about... We must realise that the slowdown which we are talking



C S SETTY
CHAIRMAN, STATE BANK OF INDIA

about could be a blip. The long-term story of India is intact,” Setty told *The Indian Express* in an interview.

According to him, while private capital expenditure is

Telangana arrests two women journalists for video critical of CM

RAHUL V PISHARODY & NIKHILA HENRY
HYDERABAD, MARCH 12

HYDERABAD POLICE arrested two YouTube journalists on Wednesday over a video critical of Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. The two women were arrested based on a complaint filed by a Congress worker.

According to police, Revathi Pogadadanda (44), managing director of YouTube channel Pulse Digital News Network, and Tanvi Yadav alias Bandi Sandhya (25), an employee of the channel, were arrested in connection with a “derogatory” video shot at the headquarters of the opposition

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS).

The two, who police say were involved in “social media trolling” and implicated in two previous cases, have been remanded in judicial custody for 14 days.

The complainant, a state secretary of the Congress Social Media Cell, had alleged that a video was being circulated on X, where a representative from Pulse News could be seen interviewing an individual, provoking derogatory and abusive statements against the Chief Minister.

He alleged this indicated a deliberate attempt by the channel to defame and spread false propaganda, adding that such posts could incite divisions

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ENHANCED STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

India, Mauritius sign eight pacts as PMs decide to elevate ties

India to build new Mauritius Parliament building, train 500 civil servants

SHUBHAJIT ROY

NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi and Mauritius Prime Minister Navin Chandra Ramgoolam decided Wednesday to elevate the status of the India-Mauritius partnership to an “Enhanced Strategic Partnership”.

The Indian government announced new infrastructure projects — small in scale and meant for the local communities — worth 500 million Mauritian rupees (about Rs 100 crore). It will also build the new Parliament building in Mauritius. The two countries agreed to settle their mutual trade in local currency.

After the bilateral meeting in Port Louis, Prime Minister Modi said, “Today, Prime Minister Navin Chandra Ramgoolam and I decided to give the India-Mauritius partnership the status of ‘Enhanced Strategic Partnership.’”

“In the second phase of community development projects, new projects worth 500 million Mauritian rupees will be started. Five hundred civil servants from Mauritius will be trained in India in the next five years,” he said.



PM Narendra Modi with Mauritius President Dharambeer Gokhool (left) and PM Navinchandra Ramgoolam in Port Louis. PTI

“We decided that India will cooperate in building the new Parliament building in Mauritius. This will be a gift to Mauritius from the Mother of

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RELATED REPORT
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EXPLAINED
E Behind Delhi’s outreach

CHINA’S ASSERTION and its expanding footprint in the Indian Ocean has been closely tracked by Delhi. For this very reason, it has been firming up alliances, especially those related to maritime security, with island nations in the region.

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One dialect, one fable at a time: A Telugu model opens a window for India AI dream

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

VIDHATRI RAO

HYDERABAD, MARCH 12

“HOW WOULD you describe a cloud when it’s about to rain?”

For close to a year now, an army of volunteers in Telangana has been getting people to talk. And so, they talk — family stories, the humdrum of their daily lives, the day’s weather, fables, leg-



Student volunteers recording voice samples for Swacha’s Telugu LLM project. Swacha

ends. Sometimes, they read — from newspaper reports, books. All of which is precious data, the kind that Swacha, a Hyderabad-based non-profit, hopes will some day add up to a Telugu Large Language Model (LLM).

As India attempts to build its own LLM, Swacha’s experience with documenting the language — in this case, Telugu — offers a window into what an Indian model will need to factor in.

Indian languages, rich in detail, are known to have numerous

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RANYA RAO GOLD SMUGGLING CASE

DRI seeks CBI help to probe ‘coordinated smuggling syndicate’, role of govt officials

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

DAYS AFTER Kannada actor Ranya Rao was arrested by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) with 14.2 kg of gold at the Bengaluru International Airport on March 3, the agency has asked the CBI to probe a larger conspiracy of a “coordinated smuggling syndicate” operating from Dubai and the role of government officials in it.

The DRI approached the CBI after it arrested two foreign nationals from Oman and UAE at the Mumbai airport earlier this month with 21.28 kg of gold worth ₹18.92 crore.

The CBI registered an FIR on March 7 after they received a complaint from Additional Director, DRI, Abhishek Chandra Gupta. Director General, DRI, Abhai Kumar Srivastav sent his letter to CBI Director Praveen Sood, along with Gupta’s letter, stating that the complaint pertains to detection of two cases of attempted gold smuggling in huge quantities in quick succession (March 3 and March 6), involving Indian and foreign passengers, making trips from Dubai. “DRI has arrested two foreigners at Mumbai international airport attempting to smuggle

21.28 kg of gold into India worth around ₹18.92 crore on March 6. These two passengers had come from Dubai and had previously arrived at Mumbai airport multiple times,” Gupta said in his complaint. He said earlier DRI had intercepted an Indian lady passenger (Ranya Rao) coming from Dubai at Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru, on March 3.

“She was attempting to smuggle 14.2 kg gold worth ₹12.56 crore and was arrested. Searches at her residence led to recovery of gold jewellery worth ₹2.06 crore and Indian currency amounting to ₹2.67 crore. These passengers also had multiple international travels, including Dubai,” he said.

“These two cases detected in quick succession involving passengers making trips from Dubai, the attempted smuggling of large quantities of gold into India and the high frequency of these visits involving Indian and foreign nationals point to a possible nexus with a coordinated smuggling syndicate, possibly operating from Dubai... This may have larger national and international ramifications. The possibility of involvement of unknown public servants of the government of India and unknown others with such a coordinated network needs to be investigated,” he said.

HC: Suspension of Dalit PhD student by TISS ‘not outcome of discrimination’

OMKAR GOKHALE
MUMBAI, MARCH 12

THE BOMBAY High Court on Wednesday dismissed a plea by Dalit PhD student Ramadas KS last year challenging his suspension by TISS over “repetitive misconduct and anti-national activities”.

The court observed the institute’s action was “not out of discrimination or against freedom of expression.”

A bench of Justices Chandurkar and MM Sathaye passed the judgment on Ramadas’s plea seeking revocation of the order on April 18, 2024, which suspended him from TISS’s School of Developmental Studies for two years.

“We find that this is not a fit case to interfere. There is no merit in the petition and the same is dismissed,” the HC held.

The plea filed by Ramadas sought to set aside a report by the empowered committee of TISS,

which recommended his suspension, claiming that the panel had conducted an arbitrary inquiry without giving him the opportunity of a personal hearing and did not follow due process.

In July last year, the HC had directed TISS to upload the documents of the petitioner so that his fellowship continued pending his plea.

In May last year, TISS sought to dismiss the plea stating that Ramadas had filed it without exercising an alternative remedy of appeal before its Vice-Chancellor, which it said was available to him. However, senior advocate Mihir Desai and advocate Lara Jesani, appearing for the petitioner, denied the institute’s claim.

TISS, in its reply filed through its registrar, had claimed that “as per the 2016-2017 Handbook for PhD students, appellate authority for decisions made by the Empowered Committee lies with the Director of Institute (now V-C).”

● Pakistan train siege ends

Officials did not immediately account for the remaining passengers.

(PTI adds: Lt Gen Chaudhry told Dunya News TV that four paramilitary Frontier Corps soldiers were also killed in the incident. He said that on Tuesday, around 1 pm, terrorists blew up a railway track in the Bolan Pass area of Osī Pur. He described the area as difficult terrain, where the terrorists initially used hostages, including women and children, as human shields. “The rescue operation began immediately, with participation from the Army, Air Force, Frontier Corps, and Special Services Group commandos,” he said.

During the operation, the terrorists remained in contact with their facilitators and masterminds in Afghanistan via satellite phones, he said, adding that it showed their foreign nexus. He said the forces took time to complete the operation because the terrorists were using the hostages as human shields.

“The rescue operation continued periodically, and in the final clearance operation in the evening, all remaining hostages were secured. Since the terrorists were using passengers as human shields, the operation was conducted with extreme precision and caution,” he told Dunya News.

He said efforts were also underway to gather passengers who had fled in different directions during the operation.

He warned that “the train attack has changed the rule of the game”, and said the terrorists and their facilitators would be hunted down wherever they were. “We cannot allow anyone to target Pakistanis on behalf of their foreign paymasters,” he said.)

Earlier in the day, Junior Interior Minister Talal Chaudhry told Geo TV that BLA militants, with bombs strapped to their bodies, were sitting next to passengers. “They are wearing suicide vests and... that’s making the rescue difficult,” he said.

The group had threatened to start executing hostages unless authorities met its 48-hour deadline for the release of Baloch political prisoners, activists, and missing people it says were abducted by the military.

The BLA also released a purported video of the hijack, which shows the train travelling through a barren pass when an explosion on the track sends up plumes of black smoke as the locomotive approaches, while a group of militants watch from a hill above.

The video, posted on messaging app Telegram by the group’s spokesperson, then cuts to images of people being pulled off the train halted outside a tunnel.

On Wednesday evening, before the Army announcement, the BLA said it had killed 50 passengers. A junior government minister had earlier said 70-80 attackers had hijacked the train.

Baloch militant groups say they have been fighting for a larger share in the regional wealth of mines and minerals. The BLA regularly targets Pakistani security forces and has also attacked civilians, including Chinese nationals among the thousands working on multibillion-dollar projects in Balochistan related to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said her country “will continue to firmly support Pakistan in advancing its counterterrorism efforts.”

-REUTERS, WITH AP INPUTS

FROM PAGE ONE India, Mauritius sign eight pacts as PMs decide to elevate ties

FULL REPORTSON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Democracy,” Modi said.

He also outlined the vision for Global South — MAHASAGAR or “Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions”. This, from the Indian viewpoint, is important given China’s aggressive behaviour and expanding strategic footprint in the region, especially in the island countries.

Modi said a free, open, secure and safe Indian Ocean is the common priority of India and Mauritius and that he and Ramgoolam agreed that defence cooperation and maritime security are an important part of the strategic partnership between the two countries.

“We are committed to extend full cooperation in the security of

Mauritius’ Exclusive Economic Zone,” he said.

Ramgoolam said, “The Prime Minister of India and myself had very constructive discussions on how to take our bilateral relations to even greater heights. In this perspective, we have further agreed to strengthen our relations through a Mauritius-India joint vision document for an enhanced strategic partnership. Our shared vision is to increase our cooperation in existing and emerging sectors such as space, space research, artificial intelligence, digital health, ocean economy, pharmaceuticals, ICT, FinTech and cyber security.”

He expressed gratitude that India will continue to assist Mauritius in modernising the

health sector.

“Our two countries will continue to reinforce trade relations through the comprehensive economic cooperation and partnership agreement and set up such innovative mechanisms that would further facilitate exchanges for our mutual benefit,” he said.

The two sides signed eight pacts that will provide for promoting the use of national currencies for cross-border transactions, sharing of maritime data, joint work in combating money laundering and enhancing cooperation in the MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) sector. Modi said every possible help will be provided to Mauritius to help it meet the needs of its Coast

Guard and that New Delhi will assist in the establishment of a police academy and national maritime information sharing centre in the country.

“Cooperation on white shipping, blue economy and hydrography will be strengthened. We fully respect Mauritius’ sovereignty in the context of Chagos,” he said.

India has been supporting the island nation in its efforts to reach a mutually beneficial deal with the UK over the Chagos Islands in the Indian Ocean.

The two Prime Ministers also jointly inaugurated the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation. Modi said the institute will serve as the hub for learning and research.

● UP, Maharashtra top list of those freed from cyber crime centres

They landed at Hindon airbase and were taken to the CBI Academy in Ghaziabad, where they were questioned by senior officers of the CBI, NIA, and police from their respective states.

According to data compiled so far by the CBI after examining their documents, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Punjab accounted for a chunk of those brought back. The other states are: Karnataka (34), Tamil Nadu (33), Rajasthan (29), Haryana (26), Telangana (23), West Bengal (20), Andhra Pradesh (19), Uttarakhand (18), Bihar and New Delhi (16 each), Jammu and Kashmir (14), Kerala (11), Jharkhand (6) and Himachal Pradesh (5). The documents of the rest are still under verification to ascertain their states.

During their questioning, investigators found a common thread — the manner in which they were lured into the trap. They claimed they were all approached by a placement agency, which offered data entry operator jobs with a good salary package.

“They accepted the offer letter, but got shocked after reaching the place where they were forced to commit online fraud by their employers. Now after their questioning, the concerned state police has been asked to take legal action against the concerned alleged placement agency, travel agent for duping them,” a source said. “No decision has been taken yet to take legal action against these people.”

Data from the National Cyber Reporting Platform (NCRP), under the Ministry of Home Affairs,

shows fraudsters cheated people of Rs 551 crore in 2021; Rs 2,306 crore in 2022; and Rs 7,496 in 2023. A total of 1,37,254 complaints were received in 2021; 5,15,083 in 2022; 11,31,649 in 2023; and 17,10,505 complaints were received last year, according to the data.

According to data from the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), a division under the MHA, about 45% of the cyber-crimes targeted at India originate from the Southeast Asia region, mainly Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos PDR.

In a written response in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said that the ‘Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management

System’, under I4C, was launched in 2021 for immediate reporting of financial frauds and to stop siphoning off funds by the fraudsters.

So far, an amount of more than Rs 4,386 crore has been saved in more than 13.36 lakh complaints, he said.

“I4C proactively identified and blocked more than 3,962 Skype IDs and 83,668 WhatsApp accounts used for Digital Arrest. Till February 28 this year, more than 7.81 lakhs SIM cards and 2,08,469 IMEIs as reported by Police authorities have been blocked by Centre,” the minister said.

As first reported by The Indian Express on March 28, 2024, more than 5,000 Indians are suspected of being stuck in Cambodia and forced to carry out cyber fraud.

● Telangana arrests two women journalists for video critical of CM

within society and disturb law and order.

P Viswasprasad, ACP (Crimes and SIT), said, “The alleged video was shot at BRS headquarters in Banjara Hills in February and released on March 10, just ahead of the Budget session, as per an orchestrated plan to insult, defame, and abuse the CM. The content of the video is vulgar, derogatory, insulting, and abusive, crossing all levels of decency. The accused have been doing this repeatedly and posting on social media for fame and views. We have evidence that they received monetary incentives from the BRS party. We will investigate every aspect.”

The officer said the person who was interviewed and hurled abuses at the Chief Minister would also be identified and booked. “The YouTube channel has been operational for the last two months, and as part of a plan, the reporter has been provoking people to hurl abuses at the CM.”

Asked if the FIR was meant as a warning to anyone who criticises the Chief Minister, Viswasprasad told The Indian Express that “anyone who crosses all levels of decency is liable to face the law”. “The YouTube channel works hand in glove with the BRS,” he said.

He said freedom of speech should be respected just as a per-

son’s reputation and privacy should be. “It should conform to the standards of society.”

Jakkula Laxman, a lawyer who represented the two journalists, said, “The two women were arrested for doing their job. They interviewed a common man who was angry with the government and put it on their channel. They were well within their right to do so.” He alleged that the police “misbehaved” with the two women, and said that the judge had “taken note of the police excesses”.

Police seized two laptops, two hard disks, seven CPUs, and other items from the Pulse News office in Madhapur.

Before her arrest in the morning, Revathi shared a video in which she said, “Cops at my doorstep! They want to arrest me. They may pick me up and take me. One thing is clear: Revanth Reddy wants to put pressure on me and my family and threaten me.”

The two were picked up around 5 am.

On Tuesday afternoon, Revathi shared the video and a part of the FIR on her handle on X, stating, “DON’T SHARE THIS VIDEO PLEASE!!! CASES WILL BE FILED. Here is a video of my team speaking to an old man. He expresses his frustration about various issues in his own language.

The Telangana Congress is busy filing cases, and Telangana police are very religiously filing FIRs on people sharing this video.”

Tagging Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, Revathi wrote, “Is this the democracy you talk about? Is this part of the Constitution? Please teach your government Article 19 first! And I hope your government lets the media that doesn’t fall at their feet stay free. Also, how is sharing an opinion a crime? And if you can’t handle a one-minute opinion of a 60-70-year-old man, I pity you... When the CM of Telangana speaks about CHINA + 1, most of us assumed the wrong thing! He meant this! Control media, stifle voices!”

The FIR has been filed under the Information Technology Act section 67 (transmitting obscene material) and BNS sections 111, 61(2), 353(2), and 352. The BNS sections deal with publishing or circulating any statement or report containing false information, rumour, or alarming news, and also with intentionally insulting someone to provoke a breach of peace.

The arrests prompted a sharp reaction from the Opposition, including BRS leaders K T Rama Rao, T Harish Rao, and Kalvakuntla Kavitha.

“Kya yahi hain aap ki ‘Mohabbat Ki Dukaan’ Rahul Gandhi ji? Arresting two women

journalists in the wee hours of the morning! What is their crime? Giving voice to public opinion on the incompetent and corrupt Congress government? Last I checked, the Constitution of India that you hold regularly upholds freedom of speech, Mr Gandhi,” KTR wrote after sharing a video of Revathi talking about police at her doorstep.

Harish Rao posted, “Is this democracy or dictatorship? Revanth Reddy government responds to questions with arrests. The illegal arrest of a senior journalist at 5 am today exposes how insecure and cowardly this government has become.”

The ruling Congress defended the police, saying the officers have gathered “enough evidence against the two YouTubers”.

“Revathi and her team have links with the BRS and have been, since the past two months, propagating the social media content of the BRS party. In this social media content, police have gathered evidence that there are derogatory comments and untruths which are being spread to hoodwink the common people. They have also been spreading defamatory content. The two were arrested for violating several sections of the IT Act and BNS,” said general secretary of Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee Manavata Rai.

● A Telugu model opens a window for India AI dream

peculiarities — dialects change within a few kilometres, and there are variations depending on religion, communities, castes and so on.

Certain nuances of the language remain spoken, and are rarely documented or codified. For instance, when a cyclone approaches coastal Andhra Pradesh, people say “gaali guralu padutumayi” (literal translation: the wind horses are singing). Among Telugu-speaking farming communities, people describe ailments using agricultural metaphors. A popular example: “Naa oopiri panta kotala undi” (My breast feels like the cutting of crops).

Existing LLMs such as ChatGPT, Gemini, or Grok, which are trained on large datasets, fail to capture these nuances. It’s here that Swecha and other research groups and startups that are working on creating India-specific LLMs hope to make a difference. Swecha’s is one of the 67 proposals the India AI Mission has received since the government announced its intention to create an indigenous foundational AI model — one that would account for the peculiarities and the context in which languages are spoken in India.

The process of data collection for Swecha started in 2024, led entirely by volunteers from engineering colleges in Telangana.

In collaboration with the government of Telangana, the International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT)

Hyderabad, and software companies Ozonetel and Tech Vedika, Swecha organised an “AI yatra” to familiarise the engineering students with the emerging technology and enrol them as volunteers to build the Telugu-language LLM.

A network of 40,000 volunteers emerged through this. “These volunteers collected voice and video samples of people across districts in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. We asked people to talk about their occupations, way of life... We collected fables, local sayings... To identify dialects, we got people to read an old newspaper article. Collecting such digital-first data is not just important for tech going forward but also for cultural preservation,” explains Kiran Chandra Yarlagadda, who co-founded Swecha in 2001.

In 2005, Swecha, which is part of the Free Software Movement of India, a larger coalition of groups across the country looking to bridge the digital divide, created an operating system that enabled users to use a computer in Telugu — the first such for a regional language in India. In 2023, they created a Telugu Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) system — which converts speech into text — with 1.5 million voice samples and 45,000 contributors.

In January 2024, Swecha released an AI storytelling project called Chandamama Kathalu, which digitised 40,000 Telugu stories from the monthly children’s magazine Chandamama.

Then, in January 2025, as the race for building AI models picked

up, Yarlagadda and his team of volunteers, along with IIIT Hyderabad, started an initiative called Viswam AI to work on “AI Solutions for the Global South”.

Now, as they work on the LLM, Swecha is in the process of labelling data — categorising disparate information in a way Machine Learning (a type of AI) models can understand. The next step is to bring on board software developers who can build the AI models that can be ready for use.

Building the Telugu LLM has become a community activity for Swecha and Viswam AI. Over the past few months, they have been organising AI workshops for students and Telugu indie singer Ram Miryala has agreed to perform free concerts across Telangana to encourage data collection for the LLM. But building an LLM is no mean task. It requires extensive computational resources, specialised chips called Graphic Processing Units (GPUs), and high energy.

“Running an LLM on the scale of ChatGPT costs crores of rupees per day,” explains Yarlagadda. “But is that the way to do it? No, it is not, fundamentally. We have very different kinds of use cases (for AI in India). All our cultural connections and everything are very different. When we go forward on our journey to build our AI models, we have to think of efficient ways of doing it. The BigTech companies in America use brute force. But there are other ways of going about it.”

Yarlagadda goes on to talk

about DeepSeek, the Chinese AI company that shook the world by building AI models at the fraction of the cost of the tech giants in America and with similar performance on benchmarks in the field. While Yarlagadda has high hopes for AI and where it will position itself, he says the technology needs to take everyone along. “AI will play the role of due diligence and intelligence as opposed to just automation,” he says.

But what are the use-cases of creating an LLM for an Indian language? Yarlagadda says the possibilities are endless. “The first thing is that it opens up a lot of things for Indian users who do not even know how to write. If the models are voice integrated, we will be able to communicate to anyone in another part of the world. That is the kind of a leveller it is going to be,” he says, adding that it could help with solving region-specific problems in health and agriculture.

He says that once we have this foundational model that understands regional nuances and dialects, anyone from a farmer in Srikakulam to a labourer in Nizamabad can use AI.

“Imagine a voice-integrated AI application for a farmer in Telangana where irrigation is done through borewells. Deaths due to electrocution while switching on borewells are pretty common in this area. What if a farmer is able to give a command to switch off the borewell in their own dialect and in the way they would speak,” Yarlagadda says.

● 16 steps to end discrimination

to set foot in the village.

The development came about after the village’s Dalits, who form about six per cent of the village’s total population of around 2,000 families, wrote to the district administration highlighting the discrimination.

As a result, the five Dalits were escorted to the temple by police and the civic volunteers as they walked from the predominantly SC neighbourhood of Daspara to the temple 10 minutes away. At the temple, they offered prayers for an hour while the entire area was cordoned off by the police and the Rapid Action Force.

For the Dalits of the village, this is a significant step that came about after years of resistance from the village upper castes. According to locals, the Gidheshwar Shiva temple is around 200 years old, with a plaque on the temple stating that it was renovated in 1997 (Bengali year 1404).

“For us, it’s historic since, for the first time in history, we got the right to worship in this temple. For generations, we were driven away. I came to offer prayers even last year but they didn’t allow me to even climb the steps. But, from today, I hope for peace in the village,” says Sasthi Das, 45.

On February 24 — just ahead of Mahashiva Ratri — they wrote to the district administration, the block development officer and the district police seeking their intervention. In that letter, they argued that they had, for centuries, been considered “untouchables” and called “choto jaat” (low caste) whose presence would render the temple “apabitra” (impure).

However, despite their pleas, they were kept out of the temple during the festival. Then on February 28, the sub-divisional officer (Katwa) called a meeting of all stakeholders — the residents of Daspara, the temple committee, the local MLA, TMC’s Apurba Chowdhury, and the BDO. A res-

olution taken at the meeting said that such discrimination had been banned by the Constitution and asserted the Dalit village residents’ right to pray at the temple.

“Everyone has the right to worship. Therefore, Das families will be allowed to enter Gidheshwar Shiv Mandir in Gidhagram, under Katwa 1 Block,” the resolution read.

However, according to officials, it wasn’t until a meeting on March 11 that the resolution turned into action. In that meeting headed by the district administration and chaired by the SDO, the stakeholders involved finally resolved to allow five members of Das community to enter the temple and offer “puja” as a symbolic gesture. Chowdhury, the TMC MLA from Mangalkot, also attended this meeting.

Puja Das, who was one of the five persons who entered the temple Wednesday, hopes the village’s Dalits can do what her forefathers could never do — continue to offer prayers at the temple.

“But we are educated now, and the times have changed. That’s why we appealed to the administration and police. With their help, we finally managed to get our rights,” she said. Another Dalit village resident, Lakkhi, said: “I saw the god of our village temple with my own eyes for the first time”.

It was a team effort, said Katwa Sub-divisional Officer (SDO) Ahimsa Jain.

“Such discrimination cannot be allowed. We held multiple meetings keeping in mind that it’s a sensitive issue and finally convinced the people involved,” she said.

Locals believe that Dalits will continue to be allowed to visit the temple. “There was a tradition according to which they were not allowed in but that has been broken today. I think they will continue to offer prayers here,” Mintu Kumar, the temple caretaker, said.

● Core sector should invest: SBI chief

happening in certain sectors, the core sectors, such as steel and cement, must start to invest. “They all have reached the capacity utilisation of 75-76 per cent,” he said.

Setty, who took charge as SBI Chairman in August 2024, is of the view 8 per cent growth needs consumption to pick pace. “Rural consumption is alright, but we may have to see the trend post rabi harvesting. But broadly some of the indicators are better. In terms of urban consumption, the expectations of consumption have been created. Now, the Budget proposed there will be no tax on annual income up to Rs 12 lakh,” he said.

The Indian economy grew 6.2 per cent during the quarter-ended December 2024 and is estimated to grow 6.5 per cent for the full year 2024-25. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has projected a GDP growth rate of 6.7 per cent for the next financial year 2025-26.

Setty said the economic data indicates private consumption in the current quarter has picked up. The Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) has reached 7.6 per cent, which means that the consumption is coming back. “There are certain sectors which are slightly slower than others, such as the auto segment. The auto sector witnessed very good growth in October-November, but December onwards it has slowed

down. But overall, private consumption seems to be moving in a positive direction,” he said.

Referring to private sector investment, the SBI Chairman said companies seem to be worried about external factors. “...how tariffs are going to work out or if a particular country is not able to export, then whether the dumping will happen here. But I think these are all concerns which we feel that can be overcome,” Setty said.

Once consumption picks up, private capital expenditure will happen in the sector which is not witnessing (private capex). “Otherwise, if you see our (SBI’s) pipeline of corporate lending is about Rs 4 lakh crore... half of it is sanctioned but yet to be disbursed and half of it is under discussion. This is a significant pipeline and the sectors also are diversified other than the core sector,” the SBI Chairman said.

On tariff wars, Setty said the broader assessment is that the export basket of India is diversified, both in terms of products and also in terms of geographies. “While every export matters, and even if you are exporting \$10 billion or \$20 billion to the US, the impact will be there, but it will not be as significant in our view. What is the most important in the whole tariff talk is about the narrative,” he said.

● 9 Indian institutes in QS top 50

IIT Delhi was ranked 26 in Engineering and Technology, making it the best performing Indian institution in the subject, followed by IIT Bombay at rank 28. Both IITs have performed better compared to their ranking of 45 last year.

IIM Ahmedabad was ranked 27 in Business and Management Studies, while IIM Bangalore secured rank 40 in the same subject. Both institutions have dropped in their rankings compared to last year — IIM Ahmedabad was ranked 22, while IIM Bangalore was 32 last year.

The JNU has also seen a drop in its ranking from 20 last year to 29 this year in Development Studies.

India’s top performing institutions in terms of the number of subjects they featured in (ranging from 18 to 29 subjects) in the rankings are the IITs — Bombay, Kharagpur, Kanpur, Madras, Delhi, Guwahati and Roorkee — and the University of Delhi, JNU, and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc). Of these 10, IISc recorded a fall in rank in more subjects than a rise — its performance improved in five subjects and fell in six compared to the 2024 ranks.

Of these 10 institutions, eight saw their best ranks fall this year compared to last year. Among these are the older IITs — Bombay saw a highest rank of 25 last year

and 28 this year; Kharagpur secured highest rank of 28 last year and 45 this year; Madras saw highest rank of 16 last year and 31 this year; Kanpur recorded highest rank of 36 last year and 51-100 this year; Guwahati saw highest rank of 42 last year and 51-100 this year.

IIT Delhi saw an improvement in its best rank, from 35 last year to 26 this year.

The highest rank that the University of Delhi secured was 51-100 in the Anthropology and Development Studies categories. In Development Studies, DU saw its rank drop from 43 last year, while in Anthropology it retained the 51-100 rank.

In law, O P Jindal Global Law University was the highest ranked Indian institution, in the 78th position. It was ranked 72 last year. National Law School of India University stood in the 201-250 rank band this year, having seen a fall from the 151-200 rank band last year.

The rankings cover 1,700 universities and 55 academic disciplines across 100 locations. The five indicators based on which the rankings by subject were determined: academic reputation, employer reputation, research citations per paper, H-index (based on number of citations), and the institution’s international research network.

SEEKS TO WITHDRAW CASES

Govt to move court for early hearing in cases filed by AAP against Centre, L-G

GAYATHRIMANI
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

THE BJP government is set to move court seeking "early hearing" in cases that the previous AAP regime had lodged against the Union government, the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) and the heads of some departments in Delhi, so that these cases can be "withdrawn immediately", sources said Wednesday.

According to sources, the government has already initiated the process to withdraw cases related to the appointment of Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) chairman, Services Department, Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), funding for Delhi Jal Board, appointment of lawyers in Delhi riot cases, and formation of a high-level committee on Yamuna river pollution, among others.

"We have already begun the process. Within a week, applications before judges of all concerned courts will be moved. Different cases are being heard on different dates, so we will file separate applications before judges seeking early

hearing, so that these cases can be withdrawn immediately...", said a source. "These cases are not only a waste of resources but also politically motivated... with intention to harm Delhi government's projects and schemes," the source added.

Officials said that the Law Department has moved a proposal saying that such litigations not only cause "hardship" for the bureaucracy but also leads to "administrative paralysis", which delays policy-making and execution of projects.

"The proposal has already been approved by the L-G Secretariat and the proceedings to withdraw cases have begun... The Health Department has moved an application to withdraw cases filed by the previous minister, Saurabh Bhargava," said an official, adding that eight to nine such cases have been filed by AAP ministers.

An internal note of the Law Department has stated, "After coming to power in 2014, a large number of court cases were filed by the minister-in-charges of then government against the Union of India questioning its authority debors the provisions of Articles 239 and 239AA of the Constitution and the GNCTD Act, 1991."



L-G VK Saxena

It added, "...primary concern was related to the constitutional status of NCT of Delhi, which was re-iterated by judgment dated 04.07.2018 by the Constitution Bench of Supreme Court... upholding the constitutional status of NCT (National Capital Territory) of Delhi, as a Union Territory. However, after this judgment, another round of litigation was initiated over administrative control, particularly over bureaucratic appointments, law enforcement, and governance powers and even the authority of L-G."

The department has obtained a list of court cases moved by then chief minister/minister-in-charges against the Union of India, L-G and some heads of departments, from the L-G Secretariat, the note said, adding that there may be more such cases in the knowledge of the administrative secretaries.

According to the note, "One of such cases... (was) implementation of Ayushman Bharat health schemes (in Delhi)... During exam-

ination of the proposal, it came to light that a special leave petition... had been filed by the then minister (Health) challenging the order..."

Officials said the Health and Family Welfare Department had filed the application before the Supreme Court. Officials, meanwhile, said the department has withdrawn one major case related to the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

The note further said, "Such cases not only create an embarrassing situation before courts of law but also have the potential to adversely affect the relations of government of NCT of Delhi with the Central government within the meaning of the GNCTD Act, 1991."

It added that in the "interest of constitutional harmony" with the Centre and the L-G, "it is proposed in public interest that all such cases... filed by then minister-in-charge be withdrawn by filing appropriate applications/petition before concerned courts by the concerned administrative departments".

"Necessary action may be taken immediately by the concerned administrative secretary and compliance report be submitted within 15 days," said the note. After approval by the concerned minister and chief

secretary, the department may send the matter to the Chief Minister for a final call, it added.

Officials said that with the approval of the ministers, the government has also decided to withdraw any similar case as "identified by the administrative secretaries".

Among the several cases filed by the previous government that are pending before the SC, the most significant is the 2023 case challenging the Services Ordinance that was referred to a Constitution Bench. A five-judge bench is yet to be formed to hear the matter. Since the case involves the powers of the state government, the BJP government's decision to withdraw it could mean that SC may not hear the issue based on challenge by a private party.

Another case, challenging the appointment of DERC chairperson, is also pending before SC. This case would, however, be contingent upon the Constitution Bench verdict. Other such cases included a couple challenging the orders of the National Green Tribunal, where the L-G was appointed as head of high-level committees looking into cleaning of Yamuna and solid waste management.

At DDMA meet, heatwave and flooding issues discussed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

THE DELHI Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) on Wednesday held its first meeting since reconstitution last November to assess the city's vulnerability to earthquakes, flooding, and extreme heat. The meeting also reviewed the State Heat Action Plan for 2025.

The meeting was chaired by L-G VK Saxena and attended by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, the DDMA vice chairperson.

Underlining that DDMA was extremely "in equipped" in terms of infrastructure, manpower and technology, Saxena directed officials to make land and building available at the earliest and requested the CM to "address the issues of logistics that had been hitherto neglected by the previous government", said officials. "With Delhi still lacking a State Disaster Response Force and a Command and Control Centre (CCC), the NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority) was asked... and it agreed to provide all necessary technological support in renovation and restructuring of DDMA and setting up the CCC," said an official.



The SUV is seen crashing into parked vehicles and then hitting a two-wheeler (right) in the purported video.

Man arrested after clip shows SUV crashing into multiple vehicles in Noida

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOIDA, MARCH 12

A DAY after he allegedly crashed his SUV into several vehicles at a busy stretch in Noida's Sector 16 and sped away, a 27-year-old man was arrested on Wednesday, said police. The purported video of the incident, widely shared on social media, captured a Black Thar hitting multiple vehicles recklessly. The man has been identified as Sachin Kumar Lohiya. He is a resident of Delhi and works as a property dealer, said an officer. "The incident occurred on Tuesday after he visited a mechanic in the Noida Phase-1 area to install a speaker in his Mahindra Thar," said Noida Phase-1 Station House Officer (SHO) Amit Bhadana.

Lohiya allegedly picked up an argument with the mechanic as

Atishi alleges bias against Opposition, raises 3 demands in letter to Speaker

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

AHEAD OF the start of the Budget session on March 24, Leader of Opposition (LoP) and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Atishi on Wednesday raised three demands in her letter to Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta as she accused him of "biased conduct" in the recently-concluded session.

Same standards should be applied to the ruling party and the Opposition for creating a ruckus, time allotted to each discussion should be divided in proportion to the number of MLAs and suspended MLAs should be allowed to peacefully protest in the Assembly lawns, and access the LoP's office, said the former chief minister in her letter as she referred to the suspension of 21 AAP MLAs for three days in the first session of the Assembly following the government formation.

Gupta, however, wrote back to the LoP, calling her allegations "baseless" and factually incorrect. He also insisted that the sus-

pended AAP MLAs should apologise.

In the recently-concluded session, a controversy had erupted after 21 of 22 AAP MLAs were suspended amid their protest over the alleged removal of portraits of B R Ambedkar and Shaheed Bhagat Singh from the Chief Minister's office. Following the suspension, the MLAs were denied entry into the premises of the Delhi Secretariat.

In her letter, Atishi mentioned that the AAP MLAs were marshalled out of the Assembly for sloganeering, but no BJP MLAs were asked to leave even as they were sloganeering too. The former CM alleged that the suspension of Opposition MLAs and the restricted access to the Assembly were deliberate attempts to stifle dissent.

In his reply, Gupta, however, insisted that AAP MLAs should apologise. "The floor time is definitely allotted as per party strength. However, kindly bear in mind that the time would also be determined depending on the members present in the House," he further said.



AAP holds protest at ITO in New Delhi. ANI

AAP reminds BJP of poll promise on free LPG cylinders on Holi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

REMINDING THE ruling BJP of its "unfulfilled" election promise to give free LPG cylinders to women on Holi, the AAP on Wednesday held demonstrations at 40 locations across Delhi.

As the demonstrations intensified, the Delhi Police detained former MLA Rituraj Jha and several AAP workers.

Referring to the election promise, Jha said, "How will the women celebrate Holi? People believed the PM's 'guarantee' would be genuine. But it turned

out to be false. Our mothers and sisters in Delhi are waiting to refill their empty cylinders. But at this rate, the BJP might just say, 'Bura namano, Holi hai—your cylinders will remain empty'."

Ever since it lost the Assembly elections, the AAP has repeatedly cited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's election speeches to refer to the poll promises. In her statement to the press, former CM Atishi said, "The BJP's promise of giving Rs 2,500 to women by March 8 turned out to be a jumble and a betrayal. PM Modi also made a second promise—to give one free LPG cylinder to every woman on Holi and Diwali."

OBITUARY

It is with profound grief that we announce the sad demise of our beloved students :

MS. AARUSHI GUPTA, MR. AARAV MIDHA & MR. V. HARSHITH

They were like blooming flowers and the sudden cruel hand of Fate in nipping our young buds untimely, is a loss hard to bear.

May their souls rest in peace!

:: Grieving ::

National Law University Jodhpur Family

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
Green Campus, Ganderbal-191201 (J&K)

EXTENSION IN LAST DATE

The last date for submission of online Application Form/s for appointment of Assistant Professor/s on substantive basis advertised vide notification No.s. 04 of 2025 dated 07/02/2025, is hereby extended till **21st March, 2025** & the date of submission of downloaded application form/s along with annexures is hereby extended till **27th March, 2025**. The detailed notifications and the link of online application form is available on University website www.cukashmir.ac.in.

No.CUKmr/RCT/F.No.487/25/2442 **Sd/-Registrar**
Dated: 11.03.2025

MAHARASHTRA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(A Government of Maharashtra Undertaking)

Invest in PM Mitra Amravati Textile Park
India's next textile hub

Date: 13th March 2025

The Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) is pleased to invite manufacturers, investors from global & domestic industry leaders in textiles to establish their business at PM MITRA Amravati Textile Park - a state-of-the-art, 1020 acre integrated textile hub designed to promote sustainable and globally competitive textile manufacturing.

Features and Facility:

1. Well connected by Road, Expressway, Railway, Airport, Port, Multimodal Logistic Park
2. Water and electricity are available
3. CETP
4. Plug and Play facilities
5. Land rate: Rs. 1,580 per sq. m.

For investment inquiries and further information, please contact the following officials from the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC):

1. Dr. Vijay Rathod, Jt. CEO (V), MIDC (Email: pmmitraamravati@midsindia.org)
2. Dr. Vikas Suryawanshi, GM Marketing, MIDC Phone No. 8108555686
3. Ms. Ridhi Singh, Consultant, MIDC Phone No. 7718023735

Address issues without delay, Sood tells officials as he visits Janakpuri

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

DELHI HOME Minister Ashish Sood, along with department officials, visited his constituency Janakpuri on Wednesday, where he directed the officials concerned to address public grievances without delay.

Accusing the former AAP government of neglecting Janakpuri, he said, "I don't want to dwell on what has not been done in the past 11 years. My focus is on what my government can do now."



Minister Ashish Sood in his constituency. X/@ashishsood_bjp

He instructed MCD officials to deploy additional automatic garbage collection vehicles and provide drinking water in corporation-run schools. He also asked the Delhi Police to increase patrolling and Delhi government officials to expedite work on pension-related issues.

20TH META MAHINDRA EXCELLENCE IN THEATRE AWARDS

13-20 MARCH

13 CHANDAA BEDNI
Kamran Auditorium | 8.00 PM
(Hindi | 1 hour 40 mins)

15 DASHANANA SWAPNASIDDHI
Shri Ram Centre | 6.00 PM
(Kannada | 1 hour 15 mins)

16 BE-LOVED: THEATRE, MUSIC, QUEERNESS AND ISHQ!
Shri Ram Centre | 6.00 PM
(Hindi / English | 1 hour 20 mins)

17 NIHSANGO ISHWAR
Shri Ram Centre | 6.00 PM
(Bengali | 1 hour 15 mins)

18 BOB MARLEY FROM KODIHALLI
Shri Ram Centre | 6.00 PM
(Kannada | 1 hour 30 mins)

19 PORTAL WAITING
Shri Ram Centre | 6.00 PM
(English | 1 hour 14 mins)

15-19 LEARNINGS @ META
Kamran Auditorium | 12.00 PM onwards

15 SWANG: JAS KI TAS
Kamran Auditorium | 8.00 PM
(Hindi | 1 hour 25 mins)

16 JEEVANTEY MAALAKAH
Kamran Auditorium | 8.00 PM
(Malayalam | 1 hour 40 mins)

17 KANDO NINGAL ENTE KUTTIYE KANDO- HAVE YOU SEEN MY SON?
Kamran Auditorium | 8.00 PM
(Malayalam | 1 hour 25 mins)

18 MATTIAH 22:39
Kamran Auditorium | 8.00 PM
(Kannada | 1 hour 30 mins)

20 AWARDS NIGHT
Kamran Auditorium | 6.30 PM

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Aeronautical Development Agency
(Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India)
PB No. 1718, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore-560017

Advt Reference No. : ADA:ADV-131 **28-02-2025**

Filling up of one post in the Designation of 'Joint Director' in Pay Level-13 (123100-215900) on Deputation Basis at ADA

Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) is a Society and an Autonomous Organization under the Department of Defence R&D, Ministry of Defence (MOD), Government of India, entrusted with the task of Design and Development of Tejas (LCA), AMCA and other projects of national importance. Applications are hereby invited from eligible officers of Central / State Government / Central Autonomous Bodies / Public Sector Undertakings / Union Territory Administration for filling up one post of 'Joint Director (Finance & Accounts)' on deputation basis at ADA, Bangalore. The details are as mentioned below:

Name of the Post	Pay Level	No. of Post	Initial Term of Deputation
Joint Director (Finance & Accounts)	13	01	3 Years

2. **Eligibility:** Officers of the organizations as mentioned above holding analogous post on regular basis in the parent cadre/department OR WITH three years regular service in the grade rendered after appointment thereto on a regular basis in level-12 (Rs.788000-209200/-) or above in the pay matrix or equivalent in the parent cadre or department.

3. Interested officers may please visit ADA website: www.ada.gov.in for eligibility, conditions, format of application & enclosures and other details of the notification. Applications in prescribed format completed in all respects with necessary enclosures may be forwarded through proper channel to Director (Admin & HR), Aeronautical Development Agency, Vibhuthipura, Marathahalli Post, Bangalore - 560 037 by Regd./ Speed post so as to reach ADA by **18th April 2025**.

Director (Admin & HR), ADA

Aeronautical Development Agency
(Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India)
PB No. 1718, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore-560017

Advt Reference No. : ADA:ADV-130:2025 **12-03-2025**

RECRUITMENT OF PROJECT SCIENTISTS ON PROGRAMME BASED LIMITED TENURE CONTRACT APPOINTMENT

ADA is a Society and an Autonomous Organization under the Department of Defence Research & Development (R&D), Ministry of Defence (MOD), Government of India, entrusted with the design & development of both the Air Force and Naval versions of Light Combat Aircraft (Tejas), LCA Mark-II. ADA is also entrusted with the design and development of Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) and other advanced technology developmental projects of Government of India.

2. ADA is in need of 'Project Scientists' on Project/Programme based limited tenure contract appointment in the level of **Project Scientist 'B' / Project Scientist 'C'**. The details on vacancy, age, remuneration etc. is mentioned below:

Post	Reservation/ Total Vacancy	Age Limit	Minimum Experience	Gross Salary per month	
	Category	Vacancy			
Project Scientist 'B'	SC	12	35	Experience upto 3 years in relevant field is desirable	₹90,789/-
	ST	05			
	OBC	25			
	EWS	09			
	UR	55			
	Total	105			

Post	Total Vacancy	Age Limit	Minimum Experience	Gross Salary per month
Project Scientist 'C'	32	40	A minimum of 3 years experience in relevant field is essential	₹1,08,073/-

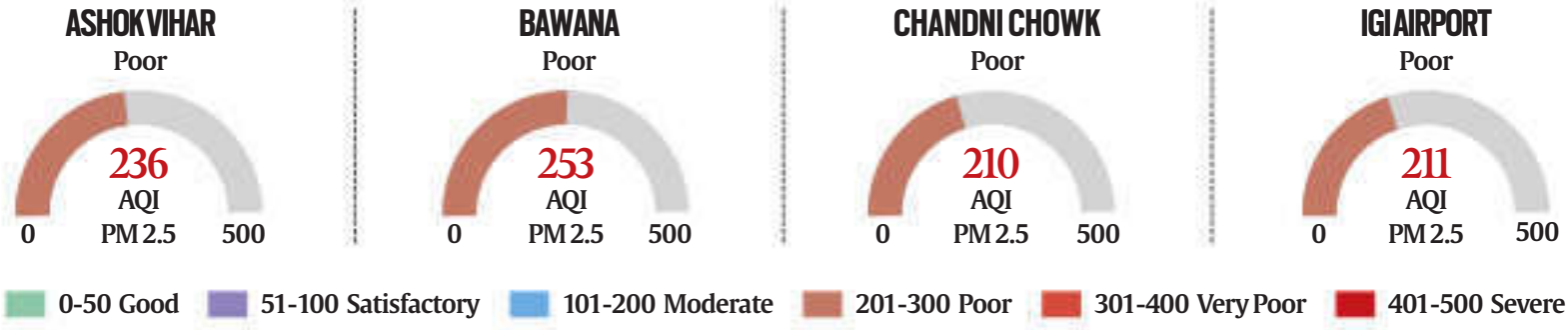
Note: Reservation for candidates of Divyang category will be as per GoI rules. Maximum age including all age relaxations shall not exceed 56 years as on the closing date of the advertisement.

3. **Essential Qualification (for both the posts):** At least a First Class Bachelor's Degree in Engineering / Technology or equivalent in any of the Engineering disciplines viz. Aeronautics / Computer Science / Electronics & Communication / Electrical & Instrumentation / Metallurgy / Mechanical Engineering from a recognized University.

4. For complete details of the advertisement and registration / submission of applications online, interested candidates may visit ADA website: <https://www.ada.gov.in> Registration & submission of applications on ADA website will be accepted from **17th March 2025 onwards till 4.00 PM on 21st April 2025**.

5. Genuine queries (if any) regarding the advertisement should be sent by e-mail (only) to admin-hr.ada@gov.in

Director (Admin & HR), ADA



S K Y W A T C H

FORECAST: March 13
Partly cloudy sky. Possibility of drizzle towards night.

MAX: 33-35
6.1°C above normal

MIN: 17-19
3.9°C above normal

COMPLAINTS FROM PARENTS

EOW books FIIT JEE in cheating case



Preet Vihar centre was shut down in mid-January. File

ALOK SINGH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

THE DELHI Police Economic Offences Wing (EOW) on Wednesday registered a cheating case against FIITJEE, a coaching institute chain that prepares students for competitive exams, after receiving 190 complaints from parents of students who studied at its Preet Vihar centre in East Delhi, which was shut down in mid-January, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

A source in the police said a case has been lodged under sections 406 (punishment for criminal breach of trust), 420 (cheating) and 120B (punishment for criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) at EOW police station. The FIR has been registered under the IPC, as the complaints had started coming in since 2022. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the new criminal code of India, had came into effect on July 1, 2024, replacing the IPC.

The EOW had started a probe after it received around 35 complaints in February, which has now gone up to 190, said police. "These complaints were initially filed with the local police in East Delhi and later forwarded to the EOW, as the amount was suspected to be big and needed a thorough investigation," an officer said.

A team led by a DCP-level officer had lodged the FIR, which

also names the institute's director, another officer said, adding that the police may soon summon those named to join the probe. "We are trying to ascertain the actual reason behind the centre shutting down."

When contacted, Special Commissioner of Police (EOW) Sharad Agarwal confirmed the development.

In January, it had come to light that FIITJEE had shut down several centres across Delhi-NCR, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, leaving students and parents in limbo. The institute, which has 73 study centres across the country, has been facing a financial crisis, with staff at many branches resigning en masse.

At present, the police in Ghaziabad, Noida, and Bhopal have lodged FIRs against FIITJEE. In February, the Greater Noida Police had seized over Rs 11.1 crore from 12 bank accounts linked to FIITJEE's founder Dinesh Goyal as part of its probe in a similar cheating case, said officers.

FIITJEE, meanwhile, has alleged a conspiracy. "This entire story is part of a criminal conspiracy, which has been hatched by people with vested interests and very soon through a detailed investigation, the truth will emerge. Truth cannot be concealed forever," it had said in a statement on January 26. It had also clarified that it has "not closed any centre as part of its own decision".

Woman, two daughters found dead at rented home, suicide suspected

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

A 42-YEAR-OLD woman, along with her two daughters aged 18 and 9, was found dead in a rented flat in South Delhi's Badarpur, said police. All three are suspected to have died by suicide due to financial distress.

According to the police, a PCR call was made by one the neighbours that a foul smell was coming from the house. Upon reaching the spot, police recovered the three bodies.

"All three were found dead with foam coming out of their

mouth. The bodies are in a decomposed condition," DCP (South East) Ravi Kumar said.

Prima facie, the police said, it appeared that the three had been dead for the past four to five days and consumed something poisonous. "The probable cause for taking this extreme step appears to be financial distress as they had not paid rent for the past two months," DCP Kumar said.

"The elder daughter told neighbours that her father is no more. All the claims are, however, being verified at the moment," a police officer involved in the investigation said.

Gang that stole over 100 cars in 10 months busted, used walkie-talkie, took 5-7 mins per vehicle: Police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

FROM AVOIDING the use of cell-phones to evade surveillance and relying on walkie-talkies instead, using advanced tools to make copies of car keys, preferring morning hours and specific car models while committing thefts, to ensuring that the vehicles are stolen within five to seven minutes — the Delhi Police on Tuesday busted a gang with an elaborate modus operandi that allegedly stole around 100 cars in the last 10 months, said officers.

Police have arrested three men who have been identified as Ravi, 42, Monu, 45, and Vishal, 40. Ravi, who had been allegedly stealing cars since 2002 and had worked as a car mechanic like Vishal, has 48 cases filed against him. The gang sold the vehicles

stolen from Delhi primarily in Punjab and Haryana, said police, adding that other members are being traced.

The gang members usually went 'car-hunting' in the morning hours, said officials. CCTV clips accessed to trace them showed them using sophisticated tools.

"They were targeting predominantly three types of vehicles — Hyundai Creta, Fortuner, and Maruti Brezza, which were parked near parks or gyms. It was also observed that the accused hardly took a few seconds to break into the locked car and stole it within five to seven minutes," DCP (Dwarka) Ankit Singh said.

On March 6, an informer told the police that Ravi was going to come in the Kakrola area of Suraj Vihar of South West Delhi. A trap was laid, and the car he was driving, with a fake number

IIT-Delhi, JNU in top 50 list of subject-wise QS rankings

SOPHIYA MATHEW
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

THE INDIAN Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-Delhi) emerged as the best performing institute in India with a global rank of 26 in the Engineering and Technology category, according to the 15th edition of the World University Rankings by Subject, announced by London-based Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) on Wednesday.

Nine Indian institutes secured the top 50 positions in QS subject rankings, including IIT-Delhi and Jawaharlal Nehru Institute (JNU) in the Capital. In India, IIT-Delhi emerged as the top performer in Engineering and Technology, achieving a rank of 26, higher than 45 last year.

The JNU (Development Studies), meanwhile, continued to be among world's top 50 but its rank dropped — from 20th last year to 29th this time.

While the universities in the Capital, including JNU and Delhi University (DU), showed an upward trend in broad subject cat-

egories, crucial declines could be seen in specific subjects.

For instance, while JNU's rank dipped in Sociology (101-150 in 2025) from 91 in 2024, its rank improved in the overall Arts and Humanities domain (from 244 in 2024 to 177 in 2025), implying that there was a shift in performance in regard to specific subjects in the category.

The QS analysed 21,000 academic programmes offered by more than 1,700 universities in 100 countries and territories on the basis of five indicators — academic reputation, employer reputation, citations per paper, international research network, and H-Index, a measure of productivity.

The rankings span 55 subjects and five major faculty areas — Arts and Humanities, Engineering and Technology, Life Sciences and Medicine, Natural Sciences and Social Sciences, and Management.

While JNU and DU have shown consistent improvement in Arts and Humanities category since 2023, both had earlier faced a decline in their ranks —

HOW THE RANKINGS HAVE CHANGED

Social Sciences and Management

	IIT-D	JNU	DU
2022	211	350	195
2023	167	336	188
2024	108	NA	303
2025	75	258	137

Life Sciences and Medicine

	AIIMS	DU
2022	204	330
2023	229	383
2024	249	379
2025	226	362

Arts and Humanities

	JNU	DU
2022	188	227
2023	256	271
2024	244	210
2025	177	160

Source: Quacquarelli Symonds rankings



Engineering and Technology

	IIT-Delhi
2022	72
2023	48
2024	45
2025	26

Natural Sciences

	IIT-D	JNU	DU
2022	217	NA	307
2023	218	NA	318
2024	183	NA	345
2025	146	501-550	275

FIRST BIG OCCASION AFTER FEBRUARY 15 STAMPEDE

Special holding area, RPF personnel at entry: How New Delhi station is tackling Holi rush



Passengers stand in queue on Wednesday before entering the New Delhi Railway Station. Tashi Tobgyal

DEVANSH MITTAL
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

AT THE New Delhi Railway Station on Tuesday, Anil Solanki waits with a group of 18 people inside a special holding area on the Ajmeri Gate side. "All the arrangements are good here... there is a toilet also beside the tent," he says.

Solanki, his wife, and other couples are coming from Shamli in Uttar Pradesh and heading to their homes in Ratlam in Madhya Pradesh. "We are waiting for our boss (seth) to buy the tickets," a woman, who refused to be named, from the group of labourers, says.

This tent is part of the measures enforced by railway authorities to prevent crowding in the days approaching Holi, when they expect huge numbers of people to travel back home to other states. Holi is the first big occasion after the February 15 stampede at the station, which killed 18 and left several injured.

Many eyewitnesses had al-

leged the stampede took place because of "lack of crowd management" at a time when a large number of people were trying to board the Prayagraj-bound trains to attend the Maha Kumbh.

The holding area, complete with 19 ticket counters and 11 Automatic Ticket vending machines, as well as an enquiry and announcement booth, has been set up so passengers who have arrived early as well as unreserved passengers, like Solanki's group, don't crowd the platforms.

Situated at the end of Platform 16, it controls entry to the platform from where special trains have been scheduled to depart. As of March 9, five special trains are being run from the New Delhi station, according to a Railway spokesperson. There are assistants at every ticket vending machine to help facilitate the booking of tickets, and there is a food stall with water bottles and snacks, too.

At all entry points, there are multiple Railway Protection Force (RPF) officials checking tickets and not allowing ticketless passengers

to enter the station. On the foot overbridge, the RPF and the Bharat Scouts and Guides stand at every staircase entrance, not allowing passengers to stop and ensuring there is a continuous flow.

Pradeep Kumar Kushwaha, 40, is waiting for Ranchi Garib Rath with nine of his friends at Platform 14. The platform has been completely cordoned off by officials to prevent the crowd from gathering near the train.

"Arrangements are fine here... there is not too much crowd on this platform because they have controlled the crowd, or else there would've been too much chaos," Kushwaha says.

The group of 10 lives together in Delhi's Sarita Vihar and does odd jobs like cleaning and driving. "Jo bhi kaam mil jaata hai, vo kar lete hai (We take up whatever work we get)."

They are eagerly waiting for their train, which was supposed to depart at 4.10 pm but has been delayed by over two hours. "Bas train aaye bhaiya aur hum ghar jaaye (We just want the train to

come so that we can go home)," Kushwaha says.

There is an RPF official stationed at every coach for trains at Platforms 14 and 15 to manage crowds. According to the Railway spokesperson, 72 additional officers and staff, including three Assistant Security Commissioners (ASC) and nine Inspectors, have been deployed at the station.

"Authorities have strengthened surveillance measures with 24x7 monitoring of live feeds from CCTV cameras placed at platforms, foot overbridges, and other high-traffic areas. Additional cameras have been installed to cover previously unmonitored spots. To further enhance safety, officials are using ropes, human chains, and loudspeaker announcements to manage the movement of trains and boarding processes. In case of overcrowding, contingency plans have been put in place, including closing entry points and rerouting passengers to execute evacuation strategies effectively," the spokesperson said.

Three arrested for phishing scam

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

ON FEBRUARY 11, Harikesh Kumar Yadav, a resident of Ekta Apartment at Siraspur in Delhi, filled an online form to get a new credit card. He, however, ended up losing Rs 21,400 almost instantly.

On Wednesday, with the arrest of three persons, the Delhi Police claimed to have busted a phishing scam, as part of which Yadav had been duped by people posing as bank officials.

The police identified the accused as Jaideep Kumar (31), Ajay (27), and Rakesh Rajaram Jaishwal (33), who were arrested on Tuesday. The alleged brain behind the operation, however, is still at large, they added.

The matter came to light on February 11, when Yadav filed a complaint on the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) portal. "The complainant received a call offering him an

ICICI Bank credit card and a subsequent phishing link, which led to unauthorised transactions on his Axis Bank credit card," DCP (Outer North) Nidhin Valsal said.

A police team tracked the money and the phone numbers, leading to raids being conducted at Rama Vihar, Shiv Vihar and Samshan Ghat from where the three accused were arrested, the police said. "The three men were the three pillars of an elaborate scam, with each running a mini department of sorts. Investigation also revealed that Harikesh was just one among their 500 victims," an officer said.

According to the police, Jaideep, "the most trained of the lot", was proficient in a multitude of machine languages — from Java to Python — after taking courses on GitHub. He was also allegedly training to a certified ethical hacker. "He was previously involved in a similar kind of scam and was arrested by the Special Cell/IFSO (Intelligence Fusion &

Strategic Operations)," said Valsal.

A graduate, Jaideep would also ensure "legitimate-looking websites" were set up to inspire confidence among the victims, police said. Valsal added, "Jaideep used Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) to access remote systems (to hide the IP of his personal computer) and later purchased hosting platforms to set up fraudulent websites. He acquired a sub-domain (free and no registration required) from DuckDNS and developed a PHP-based panel website for fraudulent activities."

Ajay, a Class 9 dropout, used to arrange SIM cards, each for Rs 500, to call customers. "He possesses extensive knowledge of digital fraud, particularly credit card fraud and other financial scams," Valsal said. Rakesh, a Class 12 dropout, was the salesman of the group, pitching the credit cards to the victims, said police. He was directed by the key conspirator to direct and manage phone calls, they added.

in 2025.

Further, IIT-Delhi was listed in the top 100 institutes for 12 specific subjects — Computer Science & Information Systems (64), Data Science and AI (51-100), Chemical (93), Civil Engineering (51-100), Electrical Engineering (47), Mechanical (61), Mineral & Mining Engineering (51-100), Environmental Sciences (94), Materials Science (98), Mathematics (95), Business & Management Studies (92), and Statistics & Operational research (51-100), a statement by the institute said.

Prof Vivek Buwa, head of the Ranking Cell and Dean of Planning, attributed the performance to the "international collaborative research projects" taken up by the institute over the last seven years.

"For the last several years, IIT-Delhi has been working on strengthening its international collaborations. The last seven years (2018-2024) also corresponds to the period when IIT-Delhi was selected as the Institute of Eminence," he added.

2014 SUICIDE CASE

‘Dereliction of duty’: HC refuses to set aside order against police

SOHINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

NOTING THAT there was a dereliction of duty in a 2014 suicide case probe, the Delhi High Court on Monday refused to set aside a special CBI court's order that directed disciplinary action against senior police officers.

The Delhi Police had challenged the trial court's order dated February 10, 2016, on the ground that there was no clear reason for the trial court to make remarks and give directions against senior police officers.

The case pertained to the suspected suicide of a man identified as Vichal Jain in February 2014. His mother, Trishla Jain, filed a complaint with the police and highlighted the mysterious circumstances around his son's death, but no FIR was lodged.

Following police inaction, she then filed a criminal complaint before a magistrate court against the accused. While the magistrate court refused to direct the police to lodge an FIR, a special CBI court subsequently set aside the magistrate court's order and directed for the registration of an FIR.

The special CBI court in February 2016 had observed dereliction of duty on the police officials' part and had issued directions for initiating disciplinary action against the police officials, and had directed the Ministry of Home Affairs to take appropriate disciplinary action against them.

An action taken report was also sought from the Secretary (Ministry of Home Affairs) in six weeks from the date of the order. An FIR was subsequently lodged following the court's directions two years after the alleged suicide.

Refusing to expunge the remarks by the CBI court, Justice Neena Bansal Krishna, in the March 10 order, recorded, "There is no explanation forthcoming from the police officials for not registering the FIR... It is also pertinent to observe that the investigations in right earnestness were still not commenced for two years on the FIR (registered at Sarai Rohilla police station only in 2016 after the CBI court's order)... The learned ASJ in the circumstances was not unjustified in observing that there was dereliction on the part of senior police officials and SHO/DCP of police station Sarai Rohilla."

"There are no disparaging remarks that have been made, but it is a clear observation of dereliction of duty by the police officials, which in the circumstances was fully justified. It is not as if any strictures or adverse remarks have been made, but it is an observation made in the background of the facts as already narrated. It cannot be, therefore, said that the learned ASJ failed to exercise any restraint, or his conduct was not in consonance with the High Court Rules, which discourage making of any strictures and observations against the police officials."

World KIDNEY DAY



Screen Them Young to Prevent Burden of Kidney Diseases



Padma Shri Awardee, Dr. (Prof.) D.S. Rana, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Sir Gangaram Hospital, Delhi, is among the pioneers in Nephrology, who has been in the forefront of refining the specialty in India. An achiever and philanthropist at heart, his passionate appeal on World Kidney Day calls for focus on screening, detection and treatment of children for prevention of kidney disease, the burden of which is taking a toll on lives and resources.

Congratulations, on the new comprehensive cancer set-up that has come-up, and how do you see that transform the specialty of oncology at SGRH?
We are elated with this new centre dedicated for oncology, which will help us in offering better cancer care, all under one roof, to our patients. The three branches in oncology are Medicine, Surgery and Radiotherapy, of which the first two already existed with us, but now we are the first to acquire the world's best cutting-edge radiology machine, which is the first in the country. The new full-fledged oncology wing is scheduled for inauguration in a month's time that would add to our strength in working more concerted for offering targeted therapy in cancer care with excellent outcomes.

What are the strengths of SGRH's Nephrology Department?
Our department of nephrology and kidney transplantation is among the leading departments in the country and the first to be established in the non-government sector way back in 1981, when I joined this hospital. Until four years ago, I was heading the department, but now we have a very able person in Dr A.K. Bhalla to head the department as chairman following more responsibilities coming my way as chairman of the board of trustees, SGRH. We have 8 brilliant nephrologist and excellent transplant surgeons, who are dedicatedly taking forward the specialty. Together, we will continue to render the best of services that is the hall mark of our department and the hospital.
Excellence is the benchmark in whatever we do. Keeping in line with that thought, we also enrol 5 students every year for the DNB course in nephrology and train them thoroughly in the specialty. We are proud of the fact that we are the best sought out DNB centre by the students in the country.

What has led to the unprecedented rise in kidney disease in recent years?
Diabetes was existing earlier also and I remember in the 60's and 70's when I was doing my graduation and post-graduation courses, glomerulonephritis and infections of the kidney were very common in the community. But today, kidney infections have come down significantly as compared to earlier decades. But auto immune diseases continue to exist and we are trying to explore better treatment modalities to treat such cases and have achieved some success in that direction. Infact 2/3rd of kidney failures are due to two diseases - diabetes mellitus and hypertension, the incidence of which in coming years is going to rise sharply in the country that has the ignominy of being the diabetic capital of the world. It is estimated that almost 40 percent of type two diabetes mellitus will convert

into kidney disease, adding to the burden which is a growing concern for the medical fraternity and the government. It is, therefore, all the more imperative that the public comes to know of the grim facts and the looming threat through awareness initiatives.

How can the incidence of diabetes be prevented right from childhood?
Reduction in the incidence of diabetes can be achieved only when we educate the families. The importance of kidney care has to be inculcated right from the childhood especially in families with history of diabetes. Today, diabetes has become multifarious and is equally common in rural population and the poor.
There should be education in the schools because diabetes is largely a lifestyle disease. Eating fast food, lack of exercise, obesity, and increase in purchasing power has opened ways and means to poor lifestyle that lead to kidney diseases. Children should be encouraged to come out and play or do yoga instead of indulging in sedentary lifestyle spending too much screen time and eat healthy. In the formative years if these things are not taken care of the children will grow up to be hypertensive and diabetic because the seeds of the disease is laid in childhood itself though it will surface later when they are in their 30's and 40's.
A healthy diet with minimal salt of not more than 4-5 gms per day will prevent hypertension. Similarly, sweets also must be avoided to prevent sugar. Today's children are victims of stress right from school, which takes them towards addiction like smoking and substance abuse. Screening or an ultra sound will not only reduce the burden on the nation but also that of the family who otherwise undergo tremendous financial stress, especially where a family member has a kidney failure because there is no cure except delay progression, dialysis or transplant. Renal failure is the end stage and it is unavoidable.
Pregnant and young mothers have to be educated on how to bring up and feed their offspring right from infancy. Such mothers have to get nourishing food because underweight children have a tendency to develop kidney disease later on in life. On its part, the government has launched Poshan Abhiyan for pregnant, lactating and young mothers and children from the economically weaker sections of the society.

What active role can the medical fraternity play in spreading awareness?
It is the bounded duty of nephrologists, general physicians or family physicians to educate the patients about the dangers of diabetes, because both diabetes and hypertension are silent killers. Every nephrologist should spend atleast 15 minutes in a day to sensitise their patients, families and friends about kidney disease, which will be a step towards prevention to reduce burden. And if the kidney disease has set in nephrologists can prolong the advancement of the disease. Patients can get a good life if they take precautions and longevity can be increased. Until regenerative medicines are discovered, we can only work towards delaying dialysis and prolonging the last stage of renal failure. Prevention centres can be established involving charitable and non-charitable institutions. Private hospitals, clinics, nursing homes have a duty to give attention to prevention.

How can the government make dialysis affordable?
To make dialysis accessible and affordable, which is otherwise very expensive, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a commendable initiative to start dialysis centre in every district of the country under the Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Program (PMNDP). This underscores the government's intention to reduce non-communicable disease, but the efforts are yet to match the need or demand. Screening, detection and free essential medicines or at nominal cost can play a defining role in controlling diabetes and other common disease.

What is the scenario of cadaver donation in India?
Cadaver transplant is almost non-existent in our country despite laws existing for over 31 years. The mental block will have to be unblocked with repeated bargaining of information highlighting the gravity of the situation. A collective movement of community, stakeholders, medical fraternity and the government for live or cadaver donors through every available media and social platforms is necessary. Infact this requires a national programme, which can only be mobilised by the government, implemented and monitored for its efficacy. As the country progresses so shall the healthcare and the think tanks in the medical world can contribute with their in-puts. Funds continue to be the biggest limiting factor.

On the World Kidney Day, what is your message to the readers of Indian Express?
Each one must do their role as a responsible member of the society for spreading awareness for kidney health. Emphasis must be on prevention by the medical fraternity, social influencers in a concerted and sustained manner for the message to sink in the memory of the common man, so that they take care of their kidney health and prevent future complications. The adage, "An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure," cannot be truer in kidney care. Awareness must be a continuous process even after World Kidney Day.



Awareness, Prevention and Early Detection of Kidney Diseases are Life Savers



Sir Ganga Ram Hospital (SGRH), is India's premier tertiary care hospitals in the private healthcare sector, which has left an imprint of exemplary excellence and ethics on the profession of medical care. On the occasion of World Kidney Day observed on 13th March, 2025, the renowned Padma Shri and B.C. Roy National Awardee, Dr. (Prof.) A.K. Bhalla, Hony. Secretary, Board of Management & Chairman and HOD, Department Nephrology, SGRH, lays emphasis on awareness of kidney disease and the way forward. Excerpts of his conversation with the Indian Express.

added peritoneal dialysis also. This is a very major step in the right direction. If every district hospital has a dedicated nephrology set-up under the Union Health Ministry, we can envisage to have a nephrologist and technician also in each dialysis centre.

How is Sir Ganga Ram Hospital collaborating with the government to help minimise the spread of kidney disease?
The Union Health Ministry has collaborated with Sir Ganga Ram Hospital to launch in the next month or two, a Screening for Early Evaluation and Early Detection of Kidney Disease (SEED) Project. This SEEK project, will be largest study to be conducted for identifying kidney disease in the general population and shall cover, both the rural and urban population. The purpose of SEED study is to raise awareness and the importance of early detection and intervention in kidney disease. My message, therefore, on the World Kidney Day is that when you act and start early, you can prevent many people from becoming CKD patients, who may need dialysis and kidney transplantation. You can save lives and huge financial burden to the country.

What is the simple test to check that your kidneys are functioning properly?
It is easy to diagnose kidney disease with screening based on three simple parameters- urine test for Protein Creatinine Ratio (PCR), test to check Creatinine in the blood and eGFR (GFR measures the level of kidney function) and measuring blood pressure of the patient and if needed an ultra sound of the kidneys can also be done. If the results shows contracted kidneys then it is confirmed that the person has CKD.
Remember, in a diabetic patient, once there is protein loss in urine there is no way you can reverse the progression of disease except to slow it down. However, in the last four years, many drugs are now available which can slow down progression of the disease. Various Artificial Intelligence (AI) based apps are also now being developed and once you feed-in the data it will give you the future probability of getting kidney disease. These apps are very useful and the patients will also be aware of their health parameters. AI is going to further help us in future.

What are the causes of kidney disease and the preventive measures that one should take?
Diabetes, hypertension and treatment of malignancies where medicines are nephrotoxic, they can all damage the kidneys. A recent development aggravating kidney problems is environmental pollution, which also impacts diabetics that eventually affects the kidneys. To prevent onset of kidney disease or its progression once it has set in, ensure lifestyle modifications, avoid smoking and alcohol, keep your body weight in check to prevent obesity where the BMI should not increase more than 25, avoid painkillers and alternative systems of medicines. Also, keep your blood pressure under 140/90, which is a very important cause of CKD. Obstructions like kidney stones can be removed, infections such as urine infections, especially in women, owing to lack of hygiene, can be detected, prevented and treated early if you get screened.

What is the difference between haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis?
Haemodialysis is a four hour long process which is done twice or thrice in a week and the patient has to go to a dialysis centre where assistance of hospital staff is required. Peritoneal dialysis, on the other hand, is a daily home-based dialysis. In peritoneal dialysis, 3-4 bags are changed in a day, which can be done by the patients themselves at home or with the assistance of family members. Material used for peritoneal dialysis are available in all countries and patient can travel also. It is a bloodless procedure. Both the dialysis are equally effective. Nevertheless, there are advantages and disadvantages in both the procedures. The best renal therapy is kidney transplantation. After kidney transplant one has to be very particular about maintaining hygiene to prevent any infection. Also, ensure to take medicines regularly as advised by the doctor, which is life-long because the body can reject the kidney anytime. Advanced research is going on in the US to develop a kidney prototype that can be implanted, which can function like an original kidney and that would be a real discovery in medical science. Xenotransplantation also is a possibility in future, already 2 pig kidney transplants has been done in USA.

What are the awareness initiatives taken by the Nephrology Department of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital?
For awareness, we do CKD and dialysis patient get-togethers on World Kidney Day every year by organising public lectures for them. They are educated on dietary habits, which plays a very important role in kidney health e.g., Consuming excess red meat and very high protein diet should be avoided, instead a vegetarian diet must be preferably taken if you are a CKD patient, besides life style management and control of BP, if diabetic then good sugar control. We also have a patient advocacy group where patients present their problems and through them the message is passed on by word of mouth from patient-to-patient and to their families. A very important factor is that family member of a kidney patient should be screened as they are likely to develop kidney disease later in life. We also ran a campaign 'catch them young', under which we carried out blood pressure check-up in the students of Delhi's schools. It was a shocking revelation when we found that 30 percent of the adolescent children had high blood pressure. Secondly, children from middle and higher income group were all obese due to poor food habits, mostly binging on junk food that escalates probability of diabetes, hypertension and obesity.

Could you share about SGRH's Nephrology department advantages and its support to the needy patients?
Sir Ganga Ram Hospital has one of the best nephrology department with complete state-of-the-art set-up for kidney treatment. The department has done the largest number of kidney transplants, different blood group transplants, and the largest number of CADD patients in India's private healthcare sector. We have a charitable OPD and general ward for patients who cannot afford treatment where free treatment is given to them. Irrespective of the patients financial background treatment is provided to them and they are not turned away without treatment which is in keeping with the philanthropic values of our founder Sir Ganga Ram ji. It is his legacy and vision which we want to carry forward at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi.

A healthy diet with minimal salt of not more than 4-5 gms per day will prevent hypertension. Similarly, sweets also must be avoided to prevent sugar.

6 IN PARLIAMENT BUDGET SESSION

QUESTIONS IN HOUSE

5,400 TEACHING POSTS VACANT IN VARSITIES; HALF RESERVED: GOVT

New Delhi: More than 5,400 teaching positions are vacant across central universities, with over half of them reserved for OBC, ST, and SC categories, the Rajya Sabha was informed Wednesday. Union MoS for Education Sukanta Majumdar said more than 7,825 teaching positions have been filled in these varisities through special drives. According to the information he shared, as on January 31, 2025, a total of 5,410 teaching positions were vacant across central universities, including 788 for SC, 472 for ST, and 1,521 for OBC. **PTI**

ANTICIPATED COST OF RAIL LINK TO KARGIL ₹1.31 LAKH CRORE: VAISHNAW

New Delhi: The anticipated cost of the new Bilaspur-Manali-Leh railway line that will provide connectivity to Kargil is Rs 1,31,000 crore, the government said on Wednesday. In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on whether the government has any plan to conduct a survey for connecting Ganderbal in Kashmir with Kargil, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said a Detailed Project Report of the new Bilaspur-Manali-Leh line has been prepared. **PTI**

DIGITAL ARRESTS, CYBER CRIMES TRIPLED DURING 2022-24: GOVT

New Delhi: The number of digital arrest scams and related cybercrimes almost tripled between 2022 and 2024, with defrauded amounts skyrocketing by 21 times during the period, Rajya Sabha was informed Wednesday. Data shared by MoS for Home Affairs showed 39,925 such incidents reported in 2022 with a total defrauded amount of Rs 91.14 crore. In 2024, the cases almost tripled to 1,23,672, with the defrauded amount increasing 21 times to Rs 19,35.51 crore. **PTI**

No objections received on Nicobar infra project, says Minister; sent in 2022: Tribal council chief

NIKHIL GHANEKAR
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

THE GOVERNMENT has not received any information about objections to the Great Nicobar Infrastructure project — either raised by the tribal council of Great Nicobar Islands or documented in a video report by anthropologist Vishvajit Pandya — Union Tribal Affairs minister Jual Oram said in Rajya Sabha Wednesday.

Speaking during Question Hour, Oram said the project — involving construction of a transshipment port, an airport, a gas power plant and tourism infrastructure — was in national interest and will not have any “environmental impact nor displace any tribals.” “When the tsunami happened (in 2004), because the area was low-lying, they (the tribal communities) had problems and moved out. That they have objections, we have not received such information,” Oram said in response to a question by TMC’s Saket Gokhale.

“Nobody will get displaced,



Union Minister Jual Oram speaks in Rajya Sabha. ANI

only 7,144 sq km of tribal reserve land... there are no objections, as he (Gokhale) is referring to, and the Gram Sabha has also agreed to it and passed it.”

On a video report about the Shompen and Nicobarese communities’ opposition, documented by Pandya who was part of the Andaman and Nicobar administration’s committee tasked with assessing the project, Oram said, “I do not have this video report of such opposition. If he can submit it, we will examine it.”

When contacted, Barnabas Manju, chairman, tribal council of Great Nicobar and Little Nicobar Island told *The Indian*

EXPLAINED The Great Nicobar project

THE PROJECT, which according to the Govt will cost ₹81,834 crore, includes a port, airport, power plant, trunk infrastructure for a township, besides estimated budgets for wildlife conservation plan, compensatory afforestation, tribal welfare plans, conservation steps and mitigation measures.

Express that a letter revoking the council’s NOC and to forest diversion for the project was sent to Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Union Environment Ministry and Ministry of Home Affairs on November 22, 2022.

“Denotification of the tribal reserve will pose problems for us. We had sent the revocation letter to several ministries and had also pointed it out to then

tribal affairs Arjun Munda during his visit to the island in May 2023,” he said.

In an April 12, 2024 letter to the Tribal Ministry and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), which was probing a complaint on violation of tribal rights due to the project, Pandya, a distinguished professor at the Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information and Communication Technology, Gandhinagar, had pointed out his video was not taken on record by the island administration.

The tribal council had revoked its NOC to the denotification of 84.1 sq km of tribal reserve and diversion of 130.75 sq km of forests, alleging that it was done without seeking consent of indigenous inhabitants of the island and by concealing important information. The letter, dated November 22, 2022, also stated that crucial information regarding occupation of the ancestral lands was not revealed.

Gokhale had sought to know what action the Ministry of Tribal Affairs had taken on a letter of the

tribal council, the impact of the project on the Shompen tribe and the Nicobarese Scheduled Tribe community, and their demand to return to their native lands where they forage and have plantations. He also sought to know whether Pandya’s video report was recorded by the committee.

Meanwhile, to Gokhale’s question on the action taken on the concerns raised by the National Green Tribunal and the NCST regarding the impact of the project on the local tribal communities, Oram said he cannot respond as the matter is sub-judice.

Taking objection to this, Congress MP Jairam Ramesh said that as per a 21 July, 2023 ruling of the Rajya Sabha Chairman, only matters related to the conduct of a Supreme Court and High Court judge cannot be discussed under Article 121.

“I request that an answer be given at a subsequent date, because the Great Nicobar project is a recipe for environmental and humanitarian disaster,” he said.



SCREEN TIME

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai, MoS SP Singh Baghel and Congress MP Kodikunnil Suresh at Parliament on Wednesday. ANI

CENTRE'S ₹7,888-CR SHARE UNDER RURAL HOUSING SCHEME

Decision on release of PMAY-G funds to Bengal pending with competent authority: Ministry

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

THE MINISTRY of Rural Development has told a Parliamentary panel that the decision to release Rs 7,888.67 crore to West Bengal under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) during the current financial year (2024-25) is pending with the “competent authority”.

The Ministry’s submission on the rural housing scheme was part of a report submitted in the Lok Sabha Wednesday by the Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, which highlighted that the suspension of funds to West Bengal had led to “severe consequences”, including a spike in “distress migration”.

The panel, headed by Congress member Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka, had, while examining the Demand of Grants (2025-26) of the Rural Development department, enquired about the “reasons for variation” in the allocation to various schemes, including PMAY-G.

According to its report, the department informed it that the

PMAY-G budgetary allocation for 2024-25 was ₹54,500.14 crore at the Budgetary Estimates stage, which was cut to ₹32,426.33 crore at Revised Estimates and further reduced to ₹17,731.96 at the Advance Estimates stage. Listing the “reasons for low expenditure” under PMAY-G, the department said the “decision on release of ₹7,888.67 crore to West Bengal in the current FY is pending with competent authority.”

It is learnt that the decision on Bengal’s dues is pending with the Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. The department, it is learnt, sent the concerned files to the Rural Development Minister about 4-5 months ago.

When contacted by *The Indian Express*, Chouhan’s office said he has written to West Bengal’s Rural Development Minister and a meeting will be held between March 18 and March 25. A decision on releasing funds to the state would be taken at that meeting, Chouhan’s office said.

The Ministry’s submission comes as the Centre has suspended funds to West Bengal under the PMAY-G as well as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural

Employment Guarantee Scheme. The Centre, invoking Section 27 of the MNREG Act, 2005, had stopped release of funds to Bengal with effect from March 9, 2022, “due to non-compliance of directives of Central Government.” Since then, no work under NREGS has taken place there.

Responding to a starred question by TMC member Jawhar Sircar, Chouhan’s predecessor Giriraj Singh had on December 06, 2023 informed Rajya Sabha that the Centre’s share of ₹13,965.91 crore to West Bengal for two schemes — MGNREGS and PMAY-G — was pending.

West Bengal government sources, however, pegged the dues at about ₹18,000 crore under three schemes — MGNREGS, PMAY-G and PMGSY.

The Standing Committee has “strongly” recommended that “West Bengal receive its rightful dues for all eligible years...” “The continued suspension of funds has resulted in severe consequences, including a sharp increase in distress migration and disruptions in rural development initiatives. This has had a significant adverse impact on the livelihoods of rural populations...” it said.

Opp, Govt spar over privatisation in Railways

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

THE OPPOSITION Wednesday hit out at the government over privatisation in Railways which, they said, has led to accidents and deaths, while the BJP-led NDA members countered that before 2014, the Railway Budget was an “instrument of political calculations” with lofty promises.

During a discussion in Rajya Sabha on the workings of the Railway Ministry, DMK member

NRElango claimed that 2 million jobs in the Railways have been cut through contractualisation and outsourcing of the workforce. He claimed the government is “giving line maintenance, infrastructure maintenance, everything to contractors”.

“In the past three or four years, we have lost valuable lives of 400 passengers due to train accidents, compared to zero deaths between 2018 and 2021. Why is this happening? This is happening because of privatisation of employees,” he said.

Citing various incidents, accidents, Congress MP from Telangana Anil Kumar Yadav said “today passengers are afraid to travel in trains...”

RJD’s Sanjay Yadav alleged the “kavach” system has not been implemented properly, “but the government is not affected by the deaths”.

BJP MP Samik Bhattacharya said, “With record allocation, the government has reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to transforming Indian Railways into a world class network,”

Bhattacharya said. “Before 2014, we saw how the Railway Budget was turned into an instrument of political calculations. Lofty promises were made but very little was implemented on ground,” he said.

YSRCP’s Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla said, “In last 10 years, the government tried to revisit the strategy of Railways... to keep in mind the future needs and demands, and also, the structuring of the Railways – the Railway Board up to the small stations. We are able to see results because of that,” he said.

ZERO HOUR IN LOK SABHA

Dubey: In 1973 delimitation, only Cong states got more seats

LIZ MATHEW

NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

ACCUSING THE Congress and the DMK of “indulging in doublespeak”, senior BJP MP Nishikant Dubey on Wednesday alleged that only Congress-ruled states saw an increase in seats during the last population-based delimitation in 1973 and there was no change for states like Tamil Nadu.

Dubey, Lok Sabha MP from Jharkhand’s Godda constituency, also pointed out that Jharkhand had been left out of the delimitation exercise in 2008, when the Congress-led UPA was in power at the Centre. Claiming that “Bangladeshi infiltrators” have changed the demography in the tribal-dominated state, he sought a fresh delimitation process in the state “excluding them”.

Speaking during Zero Hour, Dubey, flashing a copy of the Delimitation Act, 1973, said: “Congress had said the delimitation would take place on the basis of population. It is the same party which advocated for making population the benchmark for the delimitation drive. In the delimitation exercise that happened in 1973, there was no change in the number of seats in Uttar Pradesh. Don’t talk about the population here. Even Tamil Nadu did not have any increase. The increase happened only in Congress-ruled states — be it Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra or Rajasthan.”

While taking an exception to the Opposition’s “silence” on



BJP MP Nishikant Dubey in Lok Sabha, Wednesday. ANI

Jharkhand’s exclusion during the 2008 delimitation process, Dubey said that in the state, the population of adivasis (tribals) has fallen “from 45 % in 1951 to 28% in 2011” while the “Muslim population has gone up from 9% to 24%”.

He said the state would now lose at least three assembly seats and one Lok Sabha seat in the delimitation exercise “due to Bangladeshi infiltrators”. “The Bangladeshi infiltrators are forcibly marrying the Adivasi girls in Jharkhand and converting them. I urge the Government that when they conduct the delimitation exercise, they should exclude the Bangladeshi infiltrators,” Dubey said.

Meanwhile, DMK’s D M Kathir Anand kept the heat on Tamil Nadu’s concern over the impending delimitation exercise.

Tamil Nadu’s population has been significantly lower compared to North Indian states and insisting on population figures for delimitation is “total injustice” to the state, Anand said.

WAS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA IN DECEMBER

Lok Sabha clears Bill to amend law governing development of oilfields

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

THE LOK Sabha on Wednesday passed the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024, which delinks petroleum from mining operations, expands the definition of mineral oil to include shale oil, among others, and seeks to grant oil companies leases on “stable terms”.

Rajya Sabha had passed the Bill in December last year.

The Bill was introduced by Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri who said the original law was enacted in 1948 and covered mining, quarrying and petroleum leases. Then, a separate law was enacted in 1957 for mines and minerals, while the parent act was rechristened the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, but the terminologies remained the same.

“We are seeking to change that today. We are also introducing a single permit system for all types of mineral oil exploration... The oil Bill also aims to resolve one of the biggest grievances of global oil companies interested in investing in India by providing stability in operation, both in terms of tenure of the lease and condition,” he said.

Anticipating the issues that could come up during the discussion, he added that “the Bill does not alter the rights of states”, as states would continue to grant petroleum leases for on-line areas and receive royalties.

During the discussion, Congress MP Manish Tewari said the Bill had “minor” changes, but no plan for reducing energy imports.

TMC’s Pratima Mondal the Bill “opens the door for private companies to dominate oilfields, allowing big corporations to extract mineral oils with very little government control.”



Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh arrives to conduct proceedings in the House on Wednesday. PTI

In Karnataka district, a ‘rotti’ revival builds brand & business for women

SANATH K PRASAD
BENGALURU

IN THE backyard of her house in Kotnoor village of Kalaburagi taluk, Nirmala works on a machine in her small room that is speedily producing hundreds of rotis — or rotis.

35-year-old Nirmala has been in the rotli-making business for seven years, but there’s a change. Not her hands, she uses the machine, increasing her productivity. A hundred more women from the taluka have been part of the transition to a new business model with the Karnataka government’s initiative of branding the ‘Kalaburagi rotli’.

Kalaburagi district has 90% of rainfed area under cultivation with jowar and bajra being their staple food, but the popularity has plunged due to urbanisation and a shift mainly towards rice



and wheat. Deputy Commissioner Fouzia Taranum, who has won the Excellence in Governance Awards 2024, organised by *The Indian Express*, in the category of Jury Special Awards for comprehensive de-

velopment in the district, then decided to present Kalaburagi Rotli as a brand and reintroduce millet as a staple in the region.

Launched in March 2024, the Kalaburagi Rotli Sahakara Sanga (Kalaburagi Roti Cooperative Forum) has brought about a massive shift among the hundreds of women SHGs in the rotli-making business in Kalaburagi.

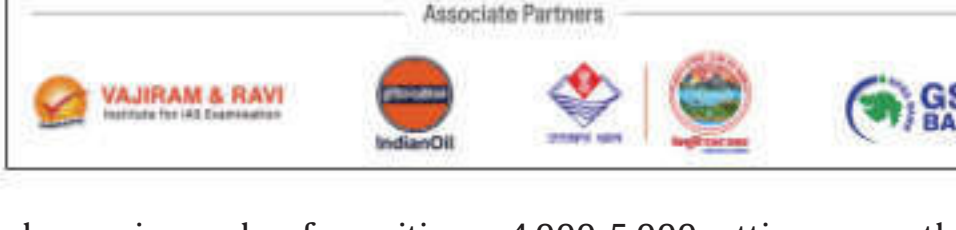
In Kalaburagi region, a total of 150 rotli-making machines have been distributed so far, and 25 women have opted for a subscription model of making a one-time payment of Rs 5,000 to the cooperative forum.

Usually, the machines cost around Rs 5-10 lakh, but women can buy it at a subsidised rate of Rs 2 lakh.

To promote the product, the Kalaburagi Rotli has been listed on food delivery platforms like Zomato and Swiggy. The website



Ayyamma Kumari prepares Kalaburagi rotis. Jithendra M; (right) Kalaburagi DC Fouzia Taranum. Praveen Khanna



also receives orders from cities like Bengaluru and Hyderabad.

To meet the demands, the government is targeting around

4,000-5,000 rotis per month, and help women earn an average of Rs 30,000 per month by procuring each roti at Rs 6.

The government primarily sells jowar, bajra and dapatti rotis under the Kalaburagi rotli brand. The renewed focus on

millet is also supported by schemes like PM Formalization of Micro Food Enterprises and PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojane (PMKSY 2.0).


Nirmala says the machines double the rotli numbers, save time in case of big orders, facilitating more income and access to markets outside Kalaburagi. “Most of my income goes towards loan repayment, EMI on the rotli making machine, and school fees of my children among other expenses. I have cleared Rs 50,000 in EMI for the machine so far,” said Nirmala.

Ayyamma Kumari, 40, earns ₹30,000 per month by supplying around 5,000 rotis. “Many had doubts about the quality of machine-made rotis. Usually, they were thin. But after the orders began coming in, we realised customers had accepted it.”

Samad Patel, Joint Director of Agriculture, Kalaburagi district,

told *The Indian Express*. “Our plan is to increase the Kalaburagi rotli exports to countries like US and UK and launch an exclusive quick commerce app to ensure Kalaburagi rotis reach your doorstep in 10 minutes. We want to bring in more self help groups, but we first need to sort out the resources at the backend, including supply chain and logistics.”

Taranum said: “I’m very happy and this award is very motivating for me and my team... We had a lot of farmer-friendly initiatives and ensured insurance payouts happened. We also thought we got women collectives together and registered them under cooperative society. We have set up franchises for their products and they have a constant stream of material, orders and money. I met a group recently who got 2,000 orders in a single day, they were so excited. All the profits go to the cooperatives and the farmers.”



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL

NOVEL OUTREACH

UNION MINISTER for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhopender Yadav, a first-time Lok Sabha MP from Rajasthan's Alwar, has devised a novel way to be in touch with the party workers in his constituency. Whenever Parliament is in session, he will invite five Mandal-level office-bearers to the Capital. They will be shown the new and Old Parliament buildings, their surroundings, Pradhanmantri Sanghralaya and other offices. They will have lunch with the minister during which they can raise the issues of the constituency and can give him feedback about different Central government programmes. There are 40 Mandals in Alwar. With Parliament having an average 400 days of sitting in five years, around 2,000 party workers are expected to get this opportunity.

MIC MANAGEMENT

WHEN IT was Congress MP S Jothimani's turn to speak on a Bill in Lok Sabha on Wednesday, she and other MPs could be heard asking for her microphone to be switched on. This led Speaker Om Birla to reiterate that he did not control the Members' microphones. He stressed his point with an anecdote about Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto who visited India in January. The Speaker said President Subianto may have heard somewhere that the Lok Sabha Speaker has the microphone control, so when he visited the House he checked for the mic control at the presiding officer's chair. Recounting with a laugh, Birla said he had to explain to the guest that it wasn't there.

TECH TALK

AHEAD OF the first edition of what it is calling the global media dialogue to be held in Mumbai this May, the government will reach out to the global community, inviting ambassadors and high commissioners from all 140 foreign missions in New Delhi on Thursday, and sharing with them concerns on issues pertaining to digital content, in the wake of a recent controversy on obscenity. Lined up for the meeting are Union ministers S Jaishankar and Ashwini Vaishnaw, along with host state Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, who will also talk about the rise of India's media and entertainment sector.

Union Carbide waste: Final disposal trial ends

NIKHIL GHANEKAR
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

THE THIRD and final incineration trial of hazardous waste from Union Carbide Bhopal factory ended Wednesday at ReSustainability's waste disposal facility at Pithampur, Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board said.

A total of 30 tonnes of the 337 metric tonnes of hazardous waste transported from the Union Carbide factory in Bhopal to Pithampur in early January was incinerated starting February 28. The emissions of pollutants and gases monitored for all trials were within prescribed limits as per MPPCB's continuous monitoring.

"The third trial began on March 10 at 7:41 am with a blank run of the incinerator and waste feeding began at 7:41 pm at a rate of 270 kg/hour. This continued till March 12, 8:43 am. Residual waste will be disposed of after the results of the trials, as per the order of the Honourable High Court," an MPPCB release said.

Uttarakhand HC stays felling of 3,000 trees in Shivalik Reserve

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN, MARCH 12

ASKING THE state to check if the project passes through elephant corridors, the Uttarakhand High Court Wednesday directed its counsel not to commence felling of 3,300 trees for a road widening project in Bhaniyawala-Rishikesh stretch passing through Shivalik Elephant Reserve.

Hearing a PIL by Reenu Paul and argued by advocate Abhijay Negi, the court asked the state and the petitioner to check the coordinates of the project.

"Look into the coordinates and if there is a road passing through the corridor, then, Mr counsel for the government, advise them to construct a flyover because it cannot be blocked," the bench of Chief Justice G Narendar and Justice Ashish Naithani observed.

Negi said there is a notified Shivalik Elephant Reserve, and within this is the Bhaniyawala-Rishikesh stretch, where the government has proposed cutting 3,300 trees. "Before this, the gov-

Mamata slams Suvendu for 'threatening' Muslim legislators: 'Don't play Hindu card'

ATRIMITRA
KOLKATA, MARCH 12



West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee during celebrations of Doljatra and Holi Milan Utsav in Kolkata on Wednesday. PTI

card in politics. Please do not exploit religion... Your imported Hindu dharma is not supported by the Vedas or by our seers. How can you deny the rights of Muslims as citizens? This is nothing but a fraud," Mamata said.

Stressing that her version of Hinduism was different, Mamata said: "I am a Hindu... I have the right to protect Hindu dharma, but not your version of it. Please don't play the Hindu card."

"Please do not insult Bengal. Please do not try to divide Bengal in the name of religion. Why don't you have Muslim candidates in elections? Almost 79 percent of my party's candidates in any election are Hindus. We also have an adequate number of women candidates..." she said.

'No new liquor vends allotted': Omar warns media against 'peddling lies'

NAVVEED IQBAL
SRINAGAR, MARCH 12

JAMMU AND Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday dismissed speculation regarding opening of new liquor stores in the UT.

Omar posted on X and said, "No new liquor vends are being advertised or allotted by my government." He also cautioned the media against "peddling this lie".

With the second session of the J&K Assembly ongoing, speculation was rife that the Omar government was set to open bids for new liquor vends in April.

Over the last few months, J&K has seen a growing clamour for banning alcohol sale and consumption. Private Member Bills in this regard are also set to be tabled in the current Assembly session, after discussions on the budget.

The government also said as per the J&K Excise Policy for the year 2025-26, notified on February 15 this year, 305 vends (wine shops) were put to e-auction and after the culmination of the bidding process; 271 vends were allotted through the e-auction process (conducted by J&K Bank) to the successful bidders.



MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI

(HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT)

Addl. Director Hospital Administration (Primary Health)
E-Block, 18th Floor, Dr SPM Civic Centre, JLN Marg, New Delhi-110002
No.1059/Addl.DHA/MCD/2025 Dated: 10.03.2025

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Municipal Corporation of Delhi invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from Jan Aushadhi Kendras willing to supply Jan Aushadhi medicines only to designated Pensioners' centers located all over Delhi on local purchase basis. The detailed EOI document is available on MCD website <https://mcdonline.nic.in>. Last date of submission of response to EOI through electronic or physical form is 25.03.2025. Sd/ Addl. Director Hospital Administration (Primary Health) MCD R.O. No.66/DPI/MCD/2024-25

IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI

(ORIGINAL COMPANY JURISDICTION)

IN
C.P NO. 298/2015

IN THE MATTER OF COMPANIES ACT, 1956
AND
IN THE MATTER OF URASTUN METAL INDUSTRIES PRIVATE LIMITED

ADVERTISEMENT OF NOTICE INVITING CLAIMS FROM SHAREHOLDERS AND CONTRIBUTORIES OF THE COMPANY (IN LIQUIDATION) TO PROVE THEIR CLAIMS

Notice is hereby given to all the Shareholders and Contributors of the above named company (in Liqn.) in terms of order of the Hon'ble Court passed on 01.02.2025 and they are required to submit with the Official Liquidator, attached to the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi to prove their respective investments/claims against the above said company (in Liqn.) by delivering the same at the office of Official Liquidator on or before 15.04.2025 or sending by post to the Official Liquidator so as to reach at the office of the Official Liquidator. Delhi not later than the aforesaid date along with an affidavit in support of their investments/claims on Rs. 10/- Non-Judicial Stamp Paper in form No. 66 of the Companies (Court) Rules, 1959, along with photocopy of original documents proving their investments/claims and any title to priority.

Any shareholders and contributors of the above said Company (In Liqn.) who fails to submit his/her affidavit or proof of his/her debt within the aforesaid time limit to the office of the official liquidator, Delhi will be excluded from the benefits of any entitlement before his/her investments/claims is proved or as the case may be from objection to such entitlement.

Any Shareholders and Contributors of the above said company (in liqn.) who has sent/his/her proof, if so, required by notice in writing from the Official Liquidator, Delhi shall either in person or by his/her advocate attend the investigation of such debt of claim at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice and shall produce such further evidence of his/her debt or claim as may be required.

Dated on the 11th of March, 2025.

Sd/-
(S.MEENAKSHI)
OFFICIAL LIQUIDATOR
ATTACHED TO THE HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF DELHI


LOK NAYAK BHAWAN, 8TH FLOOR, KHAN MARKET,
NEW DELHI-110003, PH: 011-24693393
Email id: ol.delhi@mca.gov.in

Visit website www.mca.gov.in, www.delhiol.gov.in and www.delhihighcourt.nic.in for downloading Form No. 66 of the Companies (Court) Rules 1959.

CBC 07104/11/0014/2425

Ban on Hurriyat outfits dims glimmer of hope about talks after Mirwaiz's Delhi visit

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, MARCH 12



Signboards were removed from the headquarters of the Awami Action Committee following the Centre's ban, in Srinagar on Wednesday. PTI

government (in J-K)... On principle, we have never been in favour of such decisions." Omar said. "Since Mirwaiz was released from house arrest, I have not seen any objectionable statement from him, but we do not have any information about the ban..."

The ban on the AAC, in particular, will curb any political engagements by Mirwaiz. The outfit was founded by his father, Mirwaiz Mohammad Farooq, in 1964, with the leadership passing on to him after the latter's death.

The government has indicated several times that it wants Mirwaiz to restrict himself to only religious issues as the Valley's chief cleric, and the ban may be another message reinforcing that.

Condemning the ban on the AAC, Mirwaiz said Tuesday it was "continuation of the policy of intimidation and disempowerment... being followed since



CELEBRATING THE FINEST IN INDIAN JOURNALISM AWARDS

Chief Guest
Smt. Droupadi Murmu
Hon'ble President of India

19/03 2025 | 5:00 PM
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August 2019".

The Ittihadul Muslimeen was founded two years before the AAC, by Shia cleric Maulana Abbas Ansari. He founded the outfit in 1962 after completing his studies in Lucknow followed by Najaf in Iraq, with the goal of uniting different sects of Muslims.

The Ittihadul Muslimeen remains one of the most influential Shia political and social organisations in the Valley, and has been headed by Ansari's son Masroor Abbas since his death in 2022.

Condemning the "unjustified and unfair" ban, Masroor Abbas said it will "neither make any difference nor solve the problems (of Kashmir)". "This organization has advocated for the aspirations & rights of the people of J&K through completely peaceful, non-violent & democratic means," Masroor said in a series of posts on X.

While senior PDP leader Waheed Para raised the issue in the Assembly Wednesday seeking a discussion, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti called the ban "another blow to Kashmir's social and political landscape".

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Those held with drugs in small quantity should be given bail: HC

MANRAJ GREWAL
SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 12

THE PUNJAB and Haryana HC has held that individuals caught with small quantities of drugs must be granted bail.

Justice Anoop Chitkara, while granting anticipatory bail to Kuldeep Singh alias Keepa, held that offences involving small quantities of drugs are bailable and do not fall under the stringent bail provisions of Section 37 of NDPS Act. The court ruled that keeping first-time offenders behind bars for small recoveries would defeat the purpose of judicial discretion in bail matters.

Kuldeep's counsel argued that the confession was made to a police officer and was inadmissible as evidence.

Justice Chitkara ruled that the law does not mandate treating all NDPS offences as non-bailable. "If an accused does not get anticipatory bail even in such a case, then the enactment of Section 482 BNSS, 2023 itself shall become redundant, which cannot be the legislative intention," he said.

The judge cited the SC's rulings in Tofan Singh vs State of Tamil Nadu and State of Haryana vs Samarth Kumar, which held that confessional statements made to police officers under the NDPS Act are inadmissible in trial. "The contraband was recovered not from the petitioner but from the primary accused, who, while in police custody, implicated the petitioner in a statement that would be legally inadmissible as evidence," the court said.

The ruling clarified that, as per the First Schedule of the BNSS, 2023, offences punishable with imprisonment of less than three years are classified as bailable. Since the punishment for possessing a small quantity of heroin under the NDPS Act is up to one year, the offence falls under the bailable category, Justice Chitkara said. "When an individual is caught with a small quantity of drugs, the law does not demand that he be treated the same as a drug trafficker. The principle of fairness must prevail."



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8 Govt & Politics

Karnataka CM assures Stalin of support against delimitation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, MARCH 12

KARNATAKA CM Siddaramaiah extended support to DMK-led opposition to the proposed delimitation and assured his Tamil Nadu counterpart of backing any movement against Centre’s policies which went against the interests of Karnataka, weakened democracy and contradicted Constitutional principles.

On Wednesday, Tamil Nadu Minister of Forests K Ponmudy and RS MP Mohammed Abdullah Ismail called on Siddaramaiah and sought a “formal consent to join the Joint Action Committee (JAC)” comprising TN, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka, West Bengal, Odisha and Punjab.

A letter from CM M K Stalin to Siddaramaiah said: “Post- 2026, the situation may become drastically skewed if the (delimitation) exercise is conducted as per next census population. Those states which controlled their population... will face an unjust punishment... reduced representation in the very forum where national policies are determined.”

Amid fund crunch, Pinarayi & FM break ice at breakfast meet

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

AT A time when the Opposition-ruled states are at loggerheads with the BJP-led central government over various issues, Kerala Chief Minister and CPI(M) veteran Pinarayi Vijayan hosted a breakfast for Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the national capital Wednesday. Vijayan’s breakfast bonhomie with Sitharaman signalled a thaw in the CPI(M)-led LDF government’s frosty relationship with the Centre a year ahead of the Kerala Assembly elections.

The breakfast meeting was also attended by Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, who Tuesday met MPs from the state in a first such interaction, during which Arlekar assured them that he will stand with the state government in raising its issues before the Centre. Arlekar’s predecessor Arif Mohammed Khan had an uneasy and at times stormy ties with the Vijayan government.

The relations between the LDF government and the Centre has been marked with disputes over various issues such as the financial assistance for rehabilitation of the Wayanad landslide victims, limits on the state’s borrowings, and the discontinuation of the GST compensation. The Left government has often accused the Centre of “discrimination” in allocation of funds to the state, which has been reeling under a financial crisis. Vijayan and his entire Cabinet had even staged a protest in Delhi over these issues around the same time last year.

Hoping to take a third straight shot at power, Vijayan now, in the last year of his sec-

Divided Congress learns no lessons in Haryana as BJP sweeps mayor polls

SUKHBIR SIWACH
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 12

Woes for Congress continue to pile up in Haryana, with the party failing to win a single mayoral election across the state, even as BJP picked up nine of 10 mayor posts, with one going to an Independent in the results declared Wednesday.

This wipeout for Congress follows its third consecutive Assembly election loss at the hands of BJP last year, in an election it was expected to win.

A lack of organisation and continued infighting are being seen as the key reasons for the Congress failure to make a mark again. Party leaders admitted frustration at the high command having taken no effective measures to set its house in order.

Reacting to the results, former six-time MLA and Congress leader Sampat Singh said the party was losing precious time. “A formidable party organisation should be formed as early as possible. It is time for united efforts



Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini after BJP’s victory in mayoral polls on Wednesday. *PTI*

to boost the confidence of party-men across the state.”

The results are particularly embarrassing for the Congress as it had put up candidates on its symbol, departing from its traditional stand of not doing so in municipal polls in the state. This was done in the hope that it would consolidate its supporters, who were disheartened after the Assembly polls. Many leaders were incidentally opposed

to this for precisely the reason that the March 2 municipal polls were happening too close on the heels of BJP’s sweep in Assembly polls. “Congress weaknesses at local level now stand exposed. Had the decision not been taken, we could have had at least a fig leaf,” a Congress leader said.

Senior Congress leader Ajay Singh Yadav claimed the results would have been different had they taken place three years after

the Assembly polls. “The ruling party gets an advantage if the civic polls are held immediately after Assembly elections. Further, the State Election Commission did not pay heed to our demand to hold civic polls with ballot papers instead of EVMs,” he said.

A section of state leadership claims that party affairs ran smoothly till 2014, when Phool Chand Mullana, seen as a loyalist of former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda, was the state chief. They say things started to spiral after Mullana was replaced with former LS MP Ashok Tanwar, with differences cropping up between the two camps.

Since then, internal rifts within Congress have not settled, even after the party replaced Tanwar with former Union minister Kumari Selja, who was seen to be in the anti-Hooda camp, or replaced her with Hooda loyalist Bhana.

After the win, CM Nayab Singh Saini said: “The triple-engine government has a bigger responsibility to undertake development works... Haryana and the country will develop under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi.”

Lone non-BJP winner: Who is Inderjeet Yadav

SUKHBIR SIWACH
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 12

WHILE BJP bagged nine of the 10 mayoral seats, it lost only in Manesar Municipal Corporation in Gurgaon district to Independent candidate Dr Inderjeet Yadav.

Inderjeet is said to be an aide of Union MoS Rao Inderjit Singh. In 2024 LS polls, she had campaigned for Rao Inderjit Singh in Gurgaon seat, from where he won for fourth time in a row.

BJP sources said Rao Inderjit Singh had recommended Inderjit’s candidature. A survey for BJP also reportedly pointed to her “bright prospects”. But BJP fielded Sunder Lal. Rao Inderjit Singh never campaigned for Lal.

On her future political plans, Inderjeet says she would take a call after consulting the people of her constituency.

‘Did women even wear clothes before 2005’: Rabri takes a swipe at Nitish

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, MARCH 12

BIHAR CM Nitish Kumar and RJD leader Rabri Devi continued to spar over the former’s “achievements” Wednesday, with the latter sarcastically wondering if women “even wore clothes before 2005”.

She was referring to the CM’s remarks earlier this month that women “didn’t wear fine clothes” and “hardly went to schools”, until 2005, when his government

was first voted to power.

Speaking before the legislative Council, Nitish repeated his claims that the state saw significant progress only after he took over as CM in 2005. “(Before that) people had to walk to the nearest towns from their villages. People also did not venture out after evenings,” he said.

At this, Rabri Devi, Leader of Opposition in the Council, said: “He (Nitish) is saying the same thing over and over again. Today, let me ask both Nitish Kumar and the central government if women

wore clothes before 2005 or not.” Nitish continued speaking through these interruptions, claiming that Rabri’s husband and RJD chief Lalu Prasad did little for the state. “What did Lalu Prasad do? He only made his wife CM when he had been going to jail,” he said.

Following this, Rabri Devi and other RJD MLCs walked out.

Later, Nitish told the Council that his government would “present our achievements post-2005 so that people know what we have done and draw comparisons with the previous regime”.

BJP puts Siddaramaiah in dock over guarantee scheme panel: Govt using public money to pay Cong workers

AKRAM M
BENGALURU, MARCH 12

THE logjam in the Karnataka Assembly over a contested scheme under which Congress leaders were appointed to oversee implementation of the government’s pre-poll “guarantees” ended Wednesday, after CM Siddaramaiah assured BJP and JD(S) that he would look into their demands at a meeting to be held after the Budget Session ending on March 21.

The quick assurance by the CM was one indication of the government’s uncertainty regarding the appointees, dubbed ‘Guarantee Scheme Implementation Authorities (GSIA)’ under a scheme launched more than a year ago. BJP and JD(S) argue that under GSIA, the Congress government is using taxpayer money to “remunerate own workers”.

BJP general secretary P Rajeev earlier moved the Karnataka HC against the appointments, and it



Karnataka BJP chief B Y Vijayendra and other leaders protest at Vidhan Soudha in Bengaluru. *PTI*

issued a notice to the government on February 27.

On Tuesday, a starred question by JD(S) MLA T Krishnappa came up during Question Hour in the Assembly. BJP and JD(S) took up the matter, seeking details of the GSIA in the Assembly.

On Wednesday, BJP submitted a memorandum to the Governor claiming that the total monthly remuneration of GSIA office-bearers would amount to ₹2.47 crore, “roughly translating

to an annual financial commitment nearing ₹30 crore”.

Meanwhile, in response to Krishnappa’s question, Siddaramaiah gave the GSIA allotment break-up in the Assembly: at the taluk level, ₹25,000 monthly for the president, plus ₹1,000 for the members per meeting; at district level, for two meetings a month, ₹40,000 for the president, ₹10,000 for the vice-president, and ₹1,100 for each member; and at state level, a chairperson enjoying the status and benefits of a Minister of State, five deputy chairmen with the same associated benefits, and 31 members representing each of the state’s districts. At taluk and district level, the committees have 15 members each.

In its memorandum to the Governor, BJP said a state-level GSIA violates constitutional norms by skirting the limit on Cabinet size. LoP R Ashoka said in the Assembly that taluk- and district-level GSIA’s also undermine the authority of MLAs in their constituencies.

India-Mauritius joint statement: Enhanced maritime cooperation, e-buses, police training

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

FROM INCREASED deployment of ships and aircraft for joint maritime surveillance to customised training for Mauritius police officers and timely delivery of 100 e-buses to supporting implementation of the e-judiciary system — India and Mauritius agreed on a raft of outcomes after PM Narendra Modi and Mauritius PM Navinchandra Ramgoolam met over the last couple of days in Port Louis.

The joint statement said the leaders had “comprehensive and productive discussions” on the entire gamut of bilateral relations.

Ramgoolam underscored India’s role as a time-tested and trusted partner of Mauritius in its socio-economic development since the time of its independence.

PM Modi noted that Mauritius stands at the junction of India’s Vision SAGAR, its Neighbourhood First approach and its commitment to the Global South, and underlined the important role played by Mauritius in advancing these policies for the common benefit of both countries.

This is significant in the context of China’s strategic footprint increasing in the region, which includes the island countries and developing countries.

Here are the key takeaways from the Joint Vision document for an Enhanced Strategic Partnership:

Defence & maritime security

■ Refit of Coast Guard Ships — Victory, Valiant and Barracuda, on grant basis.

■ Defence and maritime assets and equipment, as per needs and priorities of Mauritius.

■ Enhance maritime coopera-

tion through increased deployment of ships and aircraft for joint maritime surveillance and hydrography surveys.

New projects

■ Work towards timely delivery of 100 e-buses and the associated charging infrastructure.

■ Replacement of 100 km water pipeline in Mauritius.

■ New Parliament building on a site identified by the Mauritius government

■ Redevelopment of the Ganga Talao Spiritual Sanctuary

Political

■ Welcoming ongoing discussions between Parliaments of the two countries, including in the field of capacity building, both leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation on sharing best practices on parliamentary proceedings.

Training/Capacity building

■ Training programme for 500 civil servants of Mauritius through the National Centre for Good Governance in India over five years.

■ Training for Mauritian officials in civil, police, parliamentary, customs, legal, health.

Health sector

■ Jan Aushadhi Kendras by India abroad in Mauritius and agreed to expand the initiative to various parts of Mauritius.

■ Setting-up of an Ayush Centre of Excellence in Mauritius.

Digital

■ Support implementation of e-judiciary system

■ Strengthen cooperation in the field of ICT including cybersecurity, Digital Public Infrastructure

■ Explore implementation of successful digital tools developed by India, such as PM Gati Shakti digital platform.

sonal assistant from RSS ranks.

On BJP’s claims that the authority of legislators would be undermined, he said: “We will make sure the privileges of MLAs and MLCs are not affected.”

Ashoka called the formation of GSIA bodies a blot on the “honour” of legislators. “No CM in the past has taken such a decision,” he said.

BJP MLA Mahesh Tenginakai told *The Indian Express*: “Not only BJP and JD(S) legislators, even ruling Congress MLAs have expressed reservations about these bodies in private. They feel that their powers are being reduced.”

However, Congress MLA U B Banakar repeated the CM’s argument that the government also remunerates other appointees, such as members of Aradhana Committees who oversee management of state-run temples. “BJP cannot directly oppose Congress’s guarantees. Hence they are creating a ruckus over government’s attempts to ensure that guarantees reach everyone,” he said.

Does Cong have priorities in order? Party focuses on Mani Shankar instead of Rahul

Instead of going after Aiyar for his remarks on Rajiv, top Cong leaders should have paid more attention to Rahul saying in Gujarat that party’s revival is a ‘50-yr project’



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

MANI SHANKAR Aiyar would not be Mani Shankar Aiyar if he did not court controversies. There is little doubt that he would have gone higher up the political ladder had he been more circumspect.

It is not for nothing that two of his three-part memoirs have “maverick” in their titles. However, it is not his latest book but what Aiyar said in an interview to a podcaster that sparked a controversy recently. The veteran leader said that former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had flunked out of Trinity College in Cambridge and the Imperial College in London when “failing is very difficult (in Cambridge)”.

That Rajiv failed is not news to those who were around when he was the PM, for he had himself admitted it (in an interview to Dhiren Bhagat in 1985 and this finds a reference also in Nicholas Nugent’s book on Rajiv). But, it became ready masala for some BJP leaders who took out the spicy bits from the interview, with these clips going viral.

Soon, top Congress leaders went ballistic, using the choicest of adjectives to describe Aiyar: “sirfira (someone who has lost his mind)”, “frustrated”, and “irrelevant”. However, none of them weighed in on something of far greater importance: Rahul Gandhi’s comments about removing the suspected double-dealers in the party’s Gujarat unit and the work needed to rebuild the party over “the next few decades”, “not years”.

It was not as if Aiyar had raised the hackles of the Congress leadership for the first time. In 2014, he referred to Narendra Modi as “ch-



LoP in LS Rahul Gandhi in Ahmedabad. *Express File*

aiwallah”, with Modi seizing the opportunity and deriving huge political capital for himself and the BJP. Then came his reference to Modi as a “*neech kisam ka aadmi* (a low kind of person)” in 2017 at the time of Gujarat elections. The PM again turned this to his advantage, alleging the Congressman was denigrating the lower castes, just when India had an OBC PM like him at the helm. The Congress suspended Aiyar for some time to distance itself from him.

Aiyar had enjoyed a close relationship with Rajiv as his aide af-

ter he quit the IFS. When Rajiv was assassinated in 1991, I remember seeing Aiyar sitting all alone in a corner of Teen Murti Bhavan, grieving for his friend. With the rest of the Gandhis, however, Aiyar has had a troubled relationship. In his latest book, *A Maverick in Politics: 1991–2024*, he describes in detail the tongue-lashing Sonia Gandhi gave him an hour before he was sworn in as a Rajya Sabha MP because she thought he had criticised then Union Home Minister P Chidambaram, whereas he said the media had quoted him out of context.

Though he lost from Mayiladuthurai in Tamil Nadu in the 2009 elections, Sonia, in a surprise move, brought him into the Upper House in 2010 but as a nominated member. That marked the start of the Congressman’s decline. Sonia Gandhi, as he has revealed, did not meet him for 10 years, nor did he have any meaningful meetings with Rahul Gandhi.

Did Aiyar get carried away by the flow of his words as he often tends to do? People have noted that he did not bring up Rajiv’s academic failures in his books. He is an old hand and would know that the BJP could use his words to attack the Congress, which the ruling party promptly did.

In all likelihood, Aiyar’s indiscreet comments are unlikely to cause the kind of damage he did in 2014 or 2019. Rajiv is a distant memory for most Indians and there are no elections around the corner today, unlike the last two times.

Rahul’s plan

More to the point is what Rahul Gandhi had to say about the Gujarat Congress. The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha alleged that some Congress leaders were working for the BJP and called for the party to be cleansed, even if it meant getting rid of “20 to 30 people” disconnected from the ground.

Five days on, no arrest in killing of NTPC official in Jharkhand

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PATNA, MARCH 12

FIVE DAYS after the murder of Kumar Gaurav, the Deputy General Manager (DGM) of the Coal Dispatch Department at NTPC's Keredari project, police are yet to make any arrests in the case.

"We are currently investigating the case. No arrests have been made yet. We are trying to identify the suspects," Superintendent of Police Arvind Singh said Wednesday.

According to police, Gaurav was on his way to his office from his residence in Hazaribagh Saturday morning in a company vehicle, when two assailants on a motorcycle overtook his vehicle near Fatha Chowk in the Katkamdag police station area, and fired three shots. An acquaintance of Gaurav who requested anonymity said one of the three bullets had hit him. After the incident, the victim was rushed to Arogya Hospital, where he was pronounced dead upon arrival.

Kumar Gaurav, 42, a native of Bihar is survived by a wife and a 11-year-old daughter.

"He was very soft-spoken and kind person... He talked with everyone with respect... Even a day before the incident, we met, but he never mentioned anything about any threat call or any altercation with anyone... Even we can't understand why would anyone would kill such a humble person," said his colleague. A native of Nalanda in Bihar, the 42-year-old was a BSc engineering graduate from Vinoba Bhave University in Hazaribagh.

Hours after the shooting, Jharkhand's Leader of Opposition Babulal Marandi condemned the attack, calling, accusing the state's Hemant Soren government of "starting a bloody conflict in the coal business".

"After the Chief Minister made provocative statements and threatened to affect the coal business, the morale of the criminals has increased further. Even after a murderous attack on a coal trader in Ranchi yesterday, the police did not become alert. Ultimately, the criminals took the life of a young promising officer.... Who knows how many innocent people this government will kill in the black coal business," he wrote.

VICTIM BLACKMAILED, THREATENED

College student raped by 7 men over 18 mths in Gujarat, say police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, MARCH 12

A COLLEGE student was allegedly raped by seven men for one-and-a-half year in Banaskantha district, said police. The perpetrators, also college students, allegedly used a private video of the young woman to blackmail her.

The matter came to light on Tuesday and an FIR was subsequently lodged. Police said that one of the accused, who had befriended the woman over a social media platform months ago, had filmed her while she was changing clothes. The accused had threatened to make the video viral on the social media platforms, said the FIR.

Using the same clip, he forced the student to have physical relations with him and his friends at different places on different occasions between

Onion farmers back on Maharashtra streets over 20% export duty amid drop in prices

PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS
PUNE, MARCH 12

THE ONION problem has reared its head yet again in Maharashtra, with two MLAs of the ruling Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) questioning 20% export duty on the crop, in the Assembly on Monday.

Niphad MLA Dilip Bankar and Yeola legislator Chhagan Bhujbal – who hail from Nashik district, which encompasses the onion belt of the state and includes Asia's largest onion market at Lasalgaon – brought up the issue in the House after farmers briefly suspended trade at the Lasalgaon market in protest against the export duty.

Though state Minister Jaykumar Rawal assured the MLAs that the matter will be raised with the Centre and that the duty would be "rescinded at the earliest", the fresh impetus to the issue is not likely to go down well for the Mahayuti, which saw a reversal in its electoral fortunes in the onion belt during the Assembly polls on top of a drubbing in the region in last year's Lok Sabha elections.

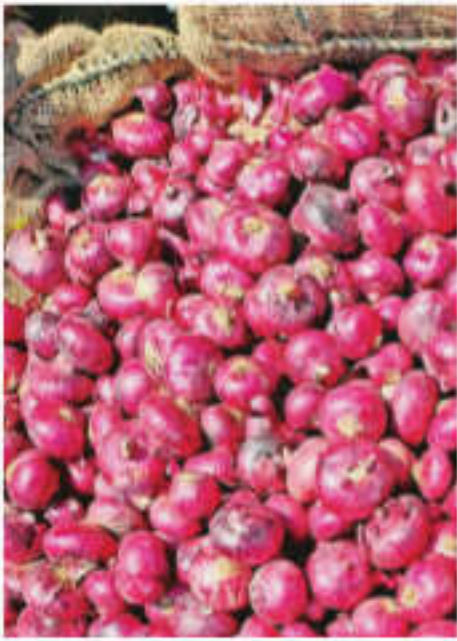
"Onion prices have been on a

slide since the start of the year. The wholesale price was around Rs 2,300-2,400 per quintal but has been dipping since the beginning of March. On Tuesday, the average price was Rs 1,700 per quintal and, with the summer crop being harvested, we expect the price to dip further," the president of the Maharashtra Onion Growers Association, Bharat Dighole, told *The Indian Express*. Dighole, like many other onion farmers, blames the 20% export duty for the falling prices.

India exports around 10-15% of the over 300 lakh tonnes of onion it grows. Though the exports are small, they are instrumental in keeping the domestic prices stable.

According to government figures, India exported 25.63 lakh tonnes of onions at Rs 4,649.98 crore in the 2022-2023 fiscal, which fell to 17.58 lakh tonnes at Rs 4,138.33 crore in the 2023-24 fiscal. Between April and November in the current financial year, the country exported 6.73 lakh tonnes of onions valued at Rs 2,754.85 crore.

Dighole as well as the Mahayuti – comprising the BJP, Shiv Sena led by Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Ajit



10-15% of the over 300 lakh tonnes of onion grown in the country is exported. File

Pawar's NCP – are no strangers to the onion issue. A day after the Lok Sabha results in June and ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's roadshow in Nashik, Dighole was reportedly asked to stay at home. The fear was that he may raise the issue of the losses faced by farmers due to the ban on onion exports imposed by the Centre in December 2023, citing a fall in domestic production.

However, in the onion belt, it was seen as a move prioritising



SPLASH OF JOY

Children play Holi at a school in Agripada on Wednesday. ANI

Cop held for raping pregnant woman in Jaipur

PARUL KULSHRESTHA
JAIPUR, MARCH 12

A CONSTABLE in the Jaipur Police was arrested for allegedly raping a pregnant woman earlier this week, police said Wednesday.

According to a complaint filed by the victim's husband in Sanganer, the woman's family had approached the police on March 7 following a dispute with their neighbours.

The next day, the suspect, who was investigating the case, took the woman and her toddler son to a hotel room and allegedly raped her, the complaint said, adding he also threatened to send his husband to jail if she protested.

Sanganer Assistant Commissioner of Police Vinod Kumar Sharma confirmed the arrest saying that the policeman had been sent to judicial custody. The woman is a daily wageer from Dausa. The suspect has been booked under various sections of the BNS, police said.

BEFORE THE II Addl. CIVIL JUDGE, BENGALURU RURAL, AT BENGALURU
O.S. NO.1025/2023
(SUMMON TO DEFENDANT THROUGH PAPER PUBLICATION)
BETWEEN :
SUPTISH KARMAKAR
S/O Late Shri Biswanath Karmakar
Aged about 36years
R/O Sy. No.37/4, Flat No.B-108, 1st Floor, Lumbini Apartments, Belathur - Sadugudi Post, Bengaluru - 560067
Mobile : 7738986622 ... PLAINTIFF
AND
1. LAXMIKANTA MALLICK
Aged Major,
R/O:- Pranbalabhupur Village, Chakdighi S.O., Bardhaman District, West Bengal – 713404
Mob.:7076208806 ... DEFENDANT NO.1
2. SUPRIYA KARMAKAR
Aged Major,
W/O Suptish Karmakar
D/O Lakshmi Kanta Mallik
R/O No. J-3/168, DDA Flats, Kalkaji, New Delhi – 110019
Mob.:7337767202 ... DEFENDANT NO.2
4. ARPITA KARMAKAR
Aged Major
W/O Sailendranatha Karmakar,
R/O Chandur village, Near Chandur Kalitala, Tarakeswar, Hoogly, West Bengal – 712410
Mobile : 9582242877
Also At:
Flat No. Daisy – 502, Paramount Flora Vile, Sector – 137, Noida -201305
Mob.:9582242877 ... DEFENDANT NO.4

SUMMON TO DEFENDANT
NO.1,2, AND 4 UNDER ORDER 5
RULE 20 (A OF CPC)

Whereas the Plaintiff i.e. Mr. Suptish Karmakar, has filed suit to pass a decree of permanent injunction in favour of the plaintiff and against the Defendant No.1 to 4 from making any unverified unsubstantiated, ex facie, defamatory statements concerning the plaintiff or his family members and order to the defendants to pay sum of Rs.4,50,000/- (Four Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only) along with other reliefs, pending before this Hon'ble court. Please take notice of the said matter and please appear either personally or through your counsel on 15/4/25. Take Notice of the same, failing to which the suit will be disposed of ex parte.
Given under my hand and seal of this Hon'ble Court on 11th day of March, 2025.

By The Order Of The Court
Prl Civil Judge, Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Rural.

Address for Service :
Anupam Agarwal (Advocate)
Ramnivas Surajmal
No.511st, "A" Wing,
Mittal Towers,
M.G. Road, B'lore - 560001

Sd/- SHERISTEDAR
Prl. Civil Judge's Court
Bangalore (R) Dist, Bangalore.

consumers -- by banning exports to ensure that the onion prices didn't rise domestically -- over producers, that is farmers.

Realising the anger in the region, the NDA government at the Centre rolled back the export ban in May last year amid the Lok Sabha polls. However, the alliance still suffered heavy losses in the onion belt of the state – which extends over Dindori, Nashik, Beed, Aurangabad, Ahmednagar and Dhule Lok Sabha seats. Party heavyweights like former Union Ministers Bharati Pawar and Subhash Bhambre, and Pankaja Munde and Sujay Vikhe-Patil bit the dust from Dinodri, Dhule, Beed and Ahmednagar respectively.

Traders too have slammed the 20% export duty as detrimental, especially with 10 lakh hectares of summer onion crop being harvested. "With Eid round the corner, there is an increased demand from the Middle East. This is the right time to lift the curbs to help farmers and boost exports," a trader from Kalwan taluka in Nashik said.

In neighbouring Baglan taluka, Dipak Pagar expressed concern as he oversaw the harvesting of onions on his 20-acre land. "The

rates of onions are low and will hit rock bottom by the time the Rabi onion is harvested," he said.

With no elections round the corner, Pagar, who is also the head of the Nashik unit of the Rayat Kranti Sena – a farmer outfit headed by BJP MLC and former minister Sadabhau Khot – is not very hopeful about the government rolling back the export duty. "I have personally fought for onion farmers over the years and change in governments seem to have no positive effect on us," he said.

The Opposition, battered in the Assembly elections, has smelled an opportunity to put the government on the backfoot. MLAs of the Maha Vikas Aghadi staged a protest outside the Assembly on Wednesday demanding a full loan waiver for farmers, a poll promise of the Mahayuti, claiming that the condition of farmers is bad due to the low realisation from crops like onion, soybean. On Tuesday, farmer leader and former Hatkanangle MP Raju Shetti tried to march to the Assembly with his supporters but was stopped mid-way by the police. Shetti lost last year's polls to the Shiv Sena's Dhairyashel Mane.

Exam malpractices: FIR in another district, USTM Chancellor arrested again

Guwahati: Almost three weeks after he was arrested by Assam Police in connection with alleged malpractices in Class XII CBSE exams, University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM) Chancellor Mahbubul Hoque was arrested again Wednesday in another case in another district.

The FIR in Sonitpur is the sixth such report against Hoque across five different districts of Assam. On Wednesday, he was transferred by Assam Police from Sribhum, where he has been in judicial custody, to Sonitpur, his lawyer Angsuman Bora said.

The Sribhum police had registered two cases against Hoque in connection with alleged malpractices during the Class XII physics examination. On March 3, the Gauhati HC granted him bail in one of the two cases but he continued to remain in judicial custody in the second case.

More FIRs were registered against him at Gossaigaon, Barpeta and Kokrajhar police stations. On Tuesday, the HC reserved its verdict on his bail plea in connection with the second Sribhum case and on Wednesday, he was arrested in the Sonitpur case. **ENS**

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
Green Campus, Ganderbal-191201 (J&K)

EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION: 05 of 2025
Online applications are invited in the prescribed format through Samarth e-governance (CU-Kashmir recruitment portal) link <https://cukashmirnt.samarth.edu.in/index.php/site/signup> from eligible candidates for appointment of Registrar on direct/deputation basis. The detailed notification regarding the eligibility and other terms and conditions are available on the University website www.cukashmir.ac.in. The online applications shall be available on CU-Kashmir recruitment portal w.e.f 12th March, 2025. The last date for submission of online application form/s is 15th April, 2025 and the submission of downloaded application form/s along with annexures is 25th April, 2025.
No. CU/Kmr/RCT/F.No.486/2025/2445 Sd/- Prof. M.Afzal Zargar
Dated: 11-03-2025

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Open tender through E-tendering are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ TRS, Electric Loco Shed, Khanalpura Yard, Northern Railway, Saharanpur (Ambala Division) for and on behalf of the President of India from the registered tenderer on web site www.ireps.gov.in for the following work upto 11:00 hrs on the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter:-

Open Tender No.	ELS-SRE-T-54
Name of work	Overhauling of Co-Co High Adhesion Bogies of WAG-9 Locomotives at ELS/SRE.
Date of Closing/ Opening	04.04.2025
Approx. Cost.	Rs. 15.51,180/-
Earnest Money	Rs. 31,000/-
Completion period	01 years
Validity period	60 days
Cost of tender form	Free of cost for downloading from IREPS & ₹ 3000/- for obtaining from Sr.DEEE/TRS/SRE office..

1. Tenderer(s) should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in E-tendering of Works Tenders. 2. Tenderer are required to upload self-attested scanned copies of all related eligibility documents as per conditions. 3. Taxes & Charges will be applicable as per extant rule. 4. For details, please log on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in No. ELS-SRE-T-54 Dt. 11.03.2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 783/25

DAKSHIN BIHAR GRAMIN BANK
Regional Office, Bhabhua (Bihar)

Rule 8 (1)
POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immoveable Property)

Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act, 2002 and in exercises of Powers conferred under Sec. 13(2) and 13(12) read with rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002. The Authorised Officer issued a Demand Notice on the dates noted against each Account as mentioned hereinafter, calling them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrowers and the public in general that the under signed has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sec. 13(4) of the said act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on the date mentioned against each Account. The borrowers in particular and the public on general is hereby cautioned not to deal with properties and any dealing with the properties will be subject to the charge of Dakshin Bihar Gramin Bank for the amounts and Interests thereon mentioned against each account here in below:

Branch: CHEHARIA

Name of the Borrower/Unit: Smt. Paudhani Devi W/o Sri Panna Lal Sah (borrower & Mortgagor), Shri Vishram Kumar Gupta S/o Sri Panna Lal Sah (Co-Borrower I), Shri Sukh Sagar Prasad S/o Sri Panna Lal Sah (Co-Borrower II), A/c No: 73407900000015, Date of Demand Notice (13-2) / Possession (13-4): 12-06-2024/ 11-03-2025, Name & Address of the Mortgagor & Guarantor: Smt. Paudhani Devi W/o Sri Panna Lal Sah (Borrower & Mortgagor), Shri Vishram Kumar Gupta S/o Sri Panna Lal Sah (Co-Borrower I), Shri Sukh Sagar Prasad S/o Sri Panna Lal Sah (Co-Borrower II), Address: Vill & Po- Kalyanpur, Ps:- Durgawati, Distt.- Kaimur (Bhabhua), Details of Property: All That Part and Parcel of the Property in the Name of Smt. Paudhani Devi W/o Sri Panna Lal Sah Consisting of Title Deed No-1790 Dt-30.03.2013, Mauza-cheharia, Thana: Durgawati, Thana No: 56, Khata No:287/289, (i) Plot No:1408 Area:02 Dec. (ii) Plot No:1409 Area:03 Dec., Total Area: 05 Dec. Within The Registration District Kaimur , Bounded By: North- Chhawar, South- Narayan Pasi, East- Ajay Kumar & Anil Kumar, West- Ramsewak Mishra & Ramnarayan Mishra, Demand Amount on the Date of Notice: Rs. 13,50,227/- + Interest & Charges (Rs. Thirteen Lakh Fifty Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Seven only)+ Interest & incidental expenses etc..

Authorised Officer
Dakshin Bihar Gramin Bank
Regional Office, Bhabhua

Place: Bhabhua (Kaimur)
Date : 11.03.2025

IMPASSE OVER FREE MOVEMENT CONTINUES

MHA team meets Meitei and Kuki groups in Manipur

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, MARCH 12

A TEAM from the Ministry of Home Affairs led by its North East Advisor AK Mishra met with both Kuki-Zo and Meitei groups in Manipur over the course of the last two days amid tensions over free movement of vehicles on the state's highways.

There has been an "indefinite shutdown" in Kuki-Zo areas in Manipur since Saturday after one youth died and many were injured after protestors clashed with security forces in Kangpokpi while trying to prevent the movement of a bus from the Meitei majority valley through the Kuki-Zo majority district, on the first day the government attempted to implement "free movement" through the highways. The groups have opposed the move until their political demand for separate administration is addressed.

The MHA team met Kuki-Zo

groups including Committee on Tribal Unity and Kuki Zo Council in Churachandpur Tuesday but the impasse over free movement and blockade of highways in Kuki-Zo areas continued even after it. "The topics were mainly on the Kangpokpi issue, Free Movement Separate Administration UT, cessation of hostilities and various district specific issues... no concrete decisions could be taken," a Kuki-Zo leader said.

On Wednesday morning, the MHA representatives also met members of Meitei groups such as Federation of Civil Societies, All Manipur United Clubs' Organisation, Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) in Imphal. "... we submitted a memorandum with five demands. For free movement along all highways, the rehabilitation of internally displaced people, stopping violence on civilians and to ascertain the true demographic of Manipur," said FOCS leader B.M. Yaima Shah.

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE
13 March 1975

	Veer Balidani L/Nk Bachi Singh 11 Bn. 21-11-1944 To 13-3-1975	L/Nk Bachi Singh, posted with 11 Battalion of CRPF in Bihar to counter the dacoit menace, engaged in an encounter with dacoits on 13 March 1975. With unmatched bravery, he made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.
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13 March 1999

	Veer Balidani L/Nk Yashwant Singh 60 Bn. 8-4-1962 To 13-3-1999		Veer Balidani L/Nk Harendra Choudhary 60 Bn. 5-1-1966 To 13-3-1999
	Veer Balidani Constable P. S. Madavi 60 Bn. 16-9-1970 To 13-3-1999		Veer Balidani Constable Uttam Kumar Singh Gurang 60 Bn. 2-12-1963 To 13-3-1999
	Veer Balidani CT/DVR Jawahar Lal 60 Bn. 20-4-1973 To 13-3-1999	60 Battalion of CRPF was deployed in Assam amid intense insurgency. On 13 March 1999, a patrol was ambushed in a dense jungle when insurgents opened heavy fire. The troops immediately returned fire, forcing the attackers to retreat.	

During the fierce encounter, front-line bravehearts L/Nk Yashwant Singh, L/Nk Harendra Choudhary, Constable Uttam Kumar Singh Gurang, Constable P.S. Madavi, and Ct. Dvr Jawahar Lal sustained severe injuries. Despite their wounds, they fought valiantly until they succumbed, attaining martyrdom.

13 March 2013

	Veer Balidani ASI/GD A.B. Singh 73 Bn. 10-9-1966 To 13-3-2013		Veer Balidani Constable Om Prakash 73 Bn. 6-5-1984 To 13-3-2013
	Veer Balidani Constable Subhash Suran Barla 73 Bn. 13-9-1991 To 13-3-2013		Veer Balidani Constable L. Perumal 73 Bn. 4-5-1983 To 13-3-2013
	Veer Balidani Constable Sateesha 73 Bn. 5-8-1987 To 13-3-2013	On 13 March 2013, troops of 73 Battalion of CRPF were assigned as reserve for Law and Order duties under PS-Bemina in Srinagar district. While waiting at the Police Public School playground in Bemina, militants disguised as cricket players launched indiscriminate fire, severely injuring the unarmed Law and Order contingent. In a heroic act, ASI A B Singh charged forward, placing himself between the militants and his comrades, preventing further harm. Reinforcements from an adjoining check-post and Battalion HQ later neutralized the threat. ASI A B Singh was posthumously awarded the President's Police Medal for Gallantry. In this tragic incident, five brave troopers ASI A.B. Singh, Constable Om Prakash, Constable L. Perumal, Constable Subhash Sourav, and Constable Sateesha attained martyrdom.	

13 March 2018

	Veer Balidani ASI/GD Ramkishan Singh Tomar 212 Bn. 5-9-1966 To 13-3-2018		Veer Balidani Constable Laxman 212 Bn. 27-2-1981 To 13-3-2018
	Veer Balidani Constable Ajay Kumar Yadav 212 Bn. 15-1-1979 To 13-3-2018		Veer Balidani Constable Manoj Kumar Singh 212 Bn. 20-7-1983 To 13-3-2018
	Veer Balidani Constable Dhamendra Yadav 212 Bn. 3-8-1981 To 13-3-2018		Veer Balidani Constable Jitendra Kumar Kushwah 212 Bn. 21-8-1983 To 13-3-2018
	Veer Balidani Constable Manoranjan Lenka 212 Bn. 13-3-1993 To 13-3-2018		Veer Balidani Constable Shobhit Kumar Sharma 212 Bn. 1-7-1981 To 13-3-2018

212 Battalion's successful deployment in the fortified Maoist bastion of Sukma deep in its jungles struck a fatal blow to Maoist ambitions. Despite their best efforts, Maoists were thwarted by the operational efficiency of CRPF personnel. On 13 March, 2018, the Maoists targeted an MPV of 212 Battalion moving between Kistaram and Palodi with 11 brave soldiers on board. A massive IED explosion inflicted heavy damage and grievous injuries, claiming the lives of 9 bravehearts. The nation remains forever indebted to their valor and sacrifice.

13 March 1990

	Veer Balidani SI/GD Gurcharan Singh. 86 Bn. 3-1-1943 To 13-3-1990	On 13 March 1990, 86 Battalion of CRPF was deployed in Punjab to support state police anti-terrorist operations. A patrol led by Sub Inspector Gurcharan Singh was tasked with area domination and patrolling. While on duty, militants fired from a moving vehicle, and Sub Inspector Gurcharan Singh sustained fatal bullet injuries, making the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.
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Our Trump 2.0 opportunity

India needs to cut tariffs, encourage FDI in mid-tech sectors



PRANJUL BHANDARI

THE SOFTENING

Inflation falls below RBI's target, opens up space for more rate cuts

DATA RELEASED by the National Statistics Office on Wednesday showed that retail inflation has continued to moderate, now falling below the RBI's target of 4 per cent. Inflation, as measured by the consumer price index, declined to a seven-month low of 3.61 per cent in February. Retail inflation has now averaged 3.9 per cent in the quarter so far (January-February). Analysts expect inflation for the entire quarter (January-March) to remain well below the RBI's most recent forecast of 4.4 per cent. This data is the last print available to the RBI's monetary policy committee before its next meeting scheduled in April.

Much of the decline in headline inflation has been driven by softening food prices. The consumer food price index has fallen to 3.75 per cent in February, from 5.97 per cent in January. Food inflation stood at 10.87 per cent in October last year. Vegetables, which have been a key driver of food inflation in the past, have witnessed a steep correction in recent months. In fact, vegetables slipped into deflation at -1.07 per cent in February. Price pressures, however, remained elevated in categories such as oils and fats, fruit and cereals. But with March this year not witnessing a heatwave so far, it suggests that a repeat of the adverse conditions last year is unlikely. This bodes well for food production. Alongside, core inflation also remains subdued. Price pressures were muted across most segments such as education and health, transport and communication, recreation and amusement — the only exception was the personal care segment. Higher inflation in this segment has been attributed to higher raw material prices by some analysts.

In its last meeting in February, the MPC had voted unanimously to lower the policy repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.25 per cent. The latest inflation data will only increase the odds of the MPC cutting rates when it meets next. Alongside, further easing of liquidity conditions will aid in the transmission of the rate cuts. The question, now, is: To what extent can the MPC cut rates further to support economic activity? As per the RBI's most recent forecast, inflation has been pegged at 4.2 per cent in 2025-26, with the first half at 4.25 per cent and the second half at 4 per cent. At current levels, this translates to a real interest rate of around 2 per cent. Former members of the MPC have in the past argued that a real interest rate of 1-1.5 per cent is enough to achieve the central bank's inflation target. This implies that there is space for deeper cuts. While global factors may also play a role, to what extent policy is eased further will depend on how the inflation-growth dynamic evolves.

TOWARDS A RESET

While knotty issues won't be resolved overnight, Canada's new PM can rebuild fences with Delhi

WITH JUSTIN TRUDEAU stepping down as prime minister and Mark Carney taking his place, India and Canada have an opportunity to reset their relationship after recent turbulence. Despite last year's diplomatic fallout triggered by Trudeau's accusations that India had violated Canada's sovereignty in the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, bilateral trade has continued to grow, as has migration from India to Canada. A primary obstacle to stronger ties was Trudeau's foreign policy towards India, heavily influenced by domestic political considerations as he played to the extremist fringe of the Sikh diaspora and relied on the support of Jagmeet Singh's National Democratic Party. Carney's leadership offers both nations a crucial chance to mend fences.

Canada has become an outlier among India's steadily strengthening partnerships with other Anglosphere nations, such as Australia, New Zealand, the UK and the US. However, Canadian leaders across the political spectrum recognise the strategic and economic importance of fostering closer ties with India. Carney, an economist and former central bank governor, has already signalled his intention to "rebuild" relations. India, meanwhile, is also signalling its willingness to engage with Carney's administration — it is considering restoring its high commissioner to Canada. In a further sign of diplomatic movement, Canada's spy chief, Daniel Rogers, is scheduled to visit India next week for a global intelligence conference. Both these developments bode well for a long overdue détente. While the Khalistan issue will not be resolved overnight, Canada's new government should ensure improved communication and cooperation, while respecting India's security concerns.

India and Canada have a lot to benefit from an enduring bilateral partnership, not least in key sectors such as pharmaceuticals, agri-tech, energy, and climate change mitigation. A renewed diplomatic push could also revive negotiations for the stalled Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. In 2022, Canada recognised India as a critical regional partner in its Indo-Pacific Policy document, emphasising their shared goal of countering China's growing influence. Given the economic, strategic, and diasporic ties between India and Canada, the deteriorating relationship in the last one-and-a-half years was indeed a cause for great concern. A reset in ties with India may even help Carney to navigate his greatest challenge before the election later this year: US President Donald Trump has openly expressed expansionist ambitions and imposed a series of tariffs, and in response, Canada is set to impose counter-tariffs, setting the stage for intensifying tensions with its southern neighbour and traditional ally.

THREE LITTLE PIGS

They were starved for an art installation, rescued in time. Controversy brings up difficult questions for the art world

THE PIGS HAD no wings, but fly they did — with a little help. Artist Marco Evaristti's plan to starve three piglets as part of an art installation in Copenhagen came to naught after the animals, named Lucia, Simon and Benjamin, were stolen last week by animal rights activists, with assistance from the artist's friend. Evaristti had intended for his installation, titled 'Now You Care', to draw attention to the suffering of animals in Denmark's meat production industry. Instead, he drew condemnation for inflicting on the pigs precisely the kind of cruelty he was highlighting. Following the theft of the pigs, Evaristti closed the exhibition, reportedly accepting the loss after a few hours because "at least this way the piglets would have a happy life".

This episode ended well for the pigs, but it has once again trained the spotlight on the ethical quandaries that arise from the use of animals in art. In 2017, for example, New York's Guggenheim Museum was forced to pull from view three artworks featuring animals: Angry accusations of animal cruelty had forced its hand, said the museum, which feared violence against visitors, should the exhibition continue as intended, even as several critics bemoaned the move as an attack on free expression. That controversy, like the present one, forced the art world to confront tough questions about aesthetic versus moral values, consent and sentience — how do different creatures process what is happening to them? — and whether freedom of expression ends at the hard line where cruelty to non-humans begins.

Before Evaristti, other artists have drawn attention to animal abuse. Banksy's 'Sirens of the Lambs' featured a slaughterhouse truck driving around New York City, filled with stuffed animal toys periodically emitting shrieks. Performance artist Jacqueline Traide put herself through the force-feeding, hair shaving and injections that animal testing by cosmetics companies involves. No animals were harmed in the making of these artworks. But the message was received.

TARIFFS AND A potential global slowdown are likely to hurt India's economy in the short term. Our back-of-the-envelope calculations show that possible reciprocal import tariffs levied by the US could cut GDP growth by about 0.3 percentage points. The sectors where India has the highest tariff differential with the US are agriculture, autos, and pharmaceuticals. There could be an indirect impact too. Global uncertainties could weigh on foreign direct investments (FDI), including those heading to India.

But can this challenging backdrop be turned into an opportunity in the medium term? After all, in the past, India has reformed best during periods of crisis. We go back in history to see what has worked in the past, and what has not. While at it, we do a reality check by asking whether rising protectionism around the world, intense competition for FDI flows and China's excess capacity will limit opportunities.

We analyse India's economy over two periods — the "high growth" decade of 2000-01 to 2009-10, when India's growth soared, alongside its rising share of global exports and investments; and the "lower growth" decade of 2010-11 to 2019-20, when all three metrics softened. How can India escape "lower growth" and ascend to "high growth"?

One of the key differentiating factors between the two periods was import tariffs, which fell in the former but rose in the latter. In fact, India's tariff rates are amongst the highest globally, and have been hurting exports even before the Trump administration put them centre stage. Non-tariff barriers are also rife. Quality Control Orders (QCOs), which are meant to ensure quality and safety of imports, but double up as non-tariff barriers, have been on the rise in recent years.

How have high tariffs hurt India? The economy has not fully plugged into global supply chains. One reason China became stronger in exports was because it was open to imports before it became self-sufficient. Meanwhile, protectionist tendencies in India

India does not have to look too far for models to emulate. Its success in services exports demonstrates the power of moving up the value chain, from basic (for example call centre services) to high-tech (complex professional services). Perhaps a similar learning-by-doing process while moving up the value chain will help manufacturing too.



AAKASH JOSHI

IT MIGHT BE easy to believe, looking at the advertisements on television, social media and various shopping apps, that the true purpose of festivals is shopping. This is, in fact, not too far from the truth. Conspicuous consumption has been part and parcel of sacred calendars, as have lean periods in that same regard: Christmas followed by Lent, Ramzan by Eid and the various harvest festivals across the Subcontinent that are a way to celebrate, connect and yes, eat and procure, after a season of hard labour.

But there's more to celebrations than just their economy. Festive revelry is both religious and social, immanent and transcendent. And the connection between these opposites — the destruction and renewal of society, in essence — is most visible in Holi.

For Emile Durkheim, "the father of sociology", communal celebrations served two interdependent purposes.

First, they were a form of "collective effervescence" — an almost spontaneous, emotional and spiritual occurrence when the group participates in the same sets of experiences and in doing so, comes as close to becoming a single entity as possible. Anyone who has been taken in by a live concert, or even cried and laughed during a play or movie with the audience, has tasted this feeling. The hall or venue, even the music itself, is not the cause of the experience, it merely facilitates it. A bad concert or terrible stand-up comedy set has the opposite effect: It does not take you out of yourself but rather, causes boredom.

The second function of the festival is to reinforce society, as a whole. Ironically, it does

AN ENCOMPASSING COLOUR

Holi invites us to move beyond hierarchies, touch transcendence

IN GOOD FAITH

Holi, unlike Diwali, fulfils these needs for transcendence in society. In the festival of water and colour, boundaries are not set between patron and client, elder and younger, master and servant. Rather, sometimes aided by psychoactive substances (bhaang is all but legal, even encouraged), Holi breaks down boundaries and in doing so, takes us to the edge of a truth that we avoid in our daily lives, so that we may be able to live with ourselves.

so by breaking certain conventions. Sharing — meals (particularly in a caste-based society), rituals, emotion and play — can help strengthen bonds among parts of the social structure that often interact only through rigid hierarchies.

Holi, unlike Diwali, fulfils these needs for transcendence in society. The latter is based heavily on receiving and giving gifts, which Marcel Mauss, Durkheim's nephew and an equally seminal thinker, has shown to be the basis for setting up hierarchies. In the festival of water and colour, boundaries are not set between patron and client, elder and younger, master and servant. Rather, sometimes aided by psychoactive substances (bhaang is all but legal, even encouraged), Holi breaks down boundaries and in doing so, takes us to the edge of a truth that we avoid in our daily lives, so that we may be able to live with ourselves.

A fascinating account of Holi in North India comes from anthropologist McKim Marriott, who wrote of his experiences in the village of Kishan Garhi in the 1950s. Like many festivals, it began with rituals (the burning of Holika) presided over by priests and elders, following the caste conventions of the region. Things changed, however, over the next night and day. Young boys and men, then and as now, were loud and aggressive in their celebrations. The social hierarchies were diminished, even reversed. Women from what are now considered OBC communities chased the landlord's family. Marriott, an "outsider" experiencing all this for the first time, seemed taken aback by what he witnessed: "I was not sure just what I could find in anthropological theory to assist

my understanding of these events. I felt at least that I was sharing Durkheim's sense (when he studied Australian tribal rites) of confronting some of the more elementary forms of the religious life," he wrote.

By the afternoon, though, those who had seemed aggressors were bathed and dressed in new clothes, the social mores back in place and the young anthropologist was somewhat perplexed at being told that what he had witnessed was a "festival of love".

Marriot's seeming bewilderment, like so many others (a recent episode of the hit show *The White Lotus* showed wealthy American women shocked by Songkran, the Thai festival similar to Holi), at the spring festival, comes from an attachment to order and structure. No society can survive without boundaries, dos and don'ts — in essence, order. Perhaps that's why, in cities (which are arguably the pinnacle of ordered societies), Holi is now celebrated in enclaves, with gates shut. Or at parties in hired farmhouses and offices (in the latter, HR will give you an "ethnic" dress code to eat some snacks and gingerly sprinkle colour on a colleague). Yet, order is by definition at least somewhat oppressive.

Enlightenment and salvation, in the subcontinental traditions — Sufi, Vedantic, Buddhist, Jain — involve moving beyond the "order" of society, beyond segregation to a larger oneness. Standing on the precipice of that singularity is both challenging and rewarding. Holi, in its purest form, invites one and all to forget oneself and one's status and celebrate together, as one.

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MARCH 13, 1985, FORTY YEARS AGO

NEW GOVERNOR

IN ANOTHER MAJOR initiative on Punjab, Governor KT Satarawala has been replaced by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Arjun Singh. The cabinet committee will visit Punjab and tour selected areas to meet the people, including Akali leaders. The government has also started reviewing the cases of arrested Akalis, another step to meet the demand for the release of all Akali workers.

BIHAR CM SWORN IN

BINDESHWARI DUBE, 61-YEAR-OLD PCC-I president and chief of the Indian National

Trade Union Congress, was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Bihar within hours of his unanimous election as leader of the new legislative wing of the Congress (I). Surprisingly, after demitting the chief ministership, Chandrasekhar Singh flew to Delhi for consultations with the high command.

INDO-PAK MEETING

THERE IS A distinct possibility of a meeting between Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Pakistan President General Zia-ul-Haq in Moscow, where both of them have gone to attend Konstantin Chernenko's funeral. The meeting can turn out to be important con-

sidering that India and Pakistan have begun exploring ways to resume their stalled dialogue on improving their relations.

LIQUOR POISONING

A KILLER DRINK tragedy claimed at least 14 lives in Ahmedabad while 30 others were fighting for their lives in the civil hospital. The victims, who belonged to the labour area of Rajpura-Gomtipur, are believed to have consumed a brew called "cologne" in an illicit joint at Rajapura. Most victims were blind and unconscious when they were rushed to the hospitals. 10 persons in critical condition were brought to the civil hospital.

THE IDEAS PAGE

Vishwaguru India: A to-do list

Imagine 5,000 Indian peacekeepers stabilising Europe’s bloodiest conflict since World War II. India can rewrite the script on what a rising power can do in a polarised world



NIRUPAMA RAO

GLOBAL POLITICS IS at the crossroads today. The war in Ukraine grinds on, Russia has dug into Donetsk, and a defiant Ukraine is desperate to gain ground, using Western drones, although a ceasefire glimmers on the horizon.

Yet, it is a catapult moment for countries like India that occupy what I call the zone of liminality. They are strategically autonomous, communicate with both sides and align with the global good. Prime Minister Narendra Modi could seize this moment to catapult India from a regional player to a leading power and global guru, outshining Jawaharlal Nehru’s legacy with a peace-keeping pledge that is bold and deft. Korea in 1953 was a gesture, Ukraine in 2025 could be a statement.

I refer to this as Gaga diplomacy: In the style of Lady Gaga, self-assured, unapologetic, and poised to rewrite history. Who knows? By 2026, India could take a bow as the better angel and a *vishwaguru* for all seasons — if we play it right.

Jawaharlal Nehru sent 1,000 troops to Korea in 1953. This was a young, newly independent India playing the role of peace-whisperer under the UN flag. This is the hour for India to turn that whisper into a roar. Imagine 5,000 Indian peacekeepers stabilising Europe’s bloodiest conflict since World War II.

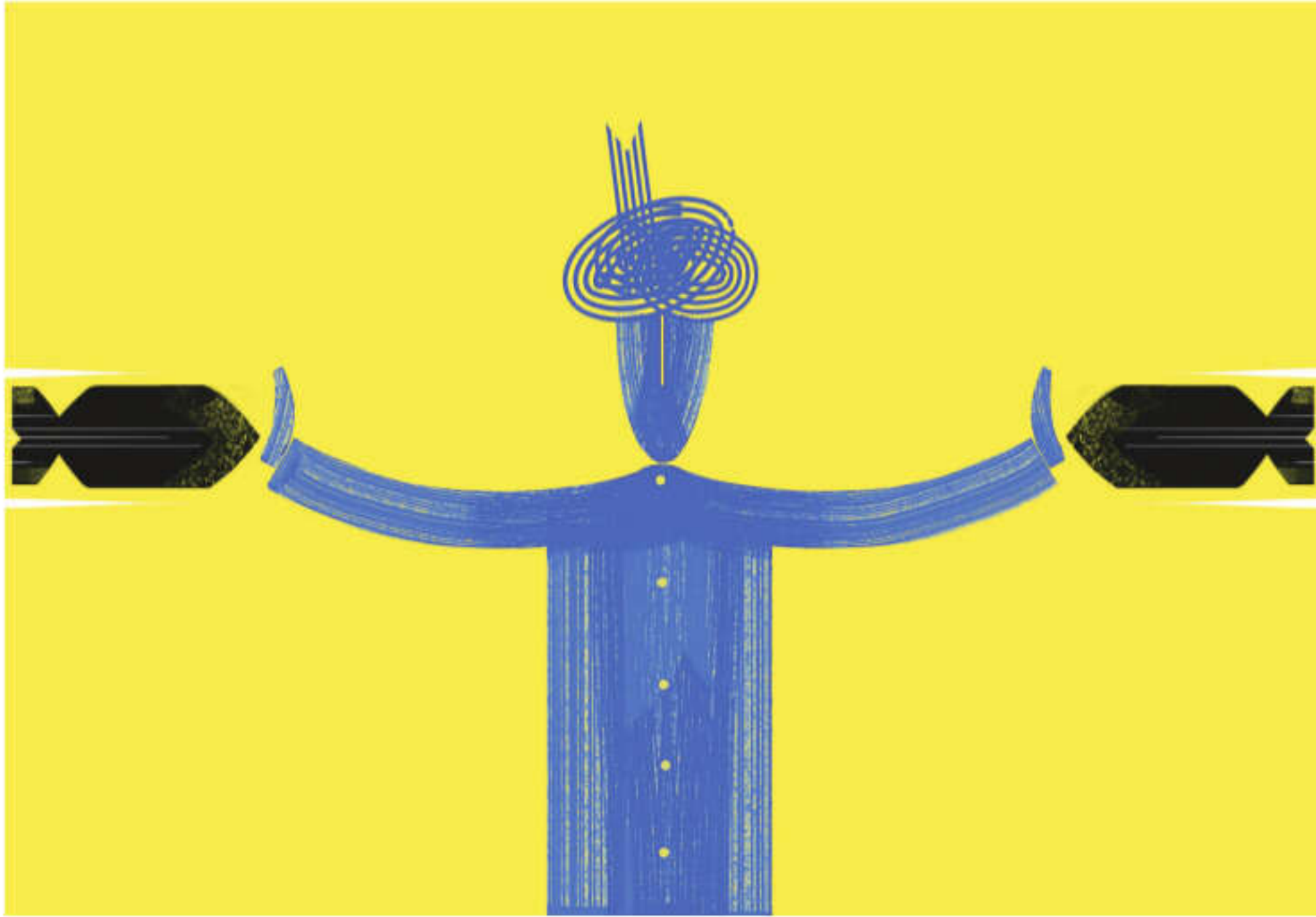
How does it unfold? Remember Vijayalakshmi Pandit’s advice to the UN General Assembly: “The more we sweat in peace, the less we bleed in war.” Today, it is time to turn that slogan into a reality where India’s peacekeepers stand tall — bigger than ever before. We do not dream small any longer, India delivers big. It is time to out-Nehru Nehru, and PM Modi can do so. As the peace talks in Riyadh go on, 5,000 Indian troops, Gorkhas, Rajput Regiment — all UN-hardened — can be ready for a peace-keeping role.

Of course, US President Donald Trump is the wild card. He has cut Ukraine aid and is pushing President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to talk. PM Modi’s line to him should be: “Donald, you’re the deal king, let me help make it happen with India’s contribution.” To that I can imagine Trump, mid-golf swing, as he posts on Truth Social: “Narendra’s my guy, peace coming.” Spoiler alert: This is no joke.

India knows its way into the Trump heartland. \$10 billion in US LNG imports for Trump’s peace nudge.

That is how the sweat would start. As Russia’s spring offensive stalls — mud, drones, fatigue — Trump could twist arms and the peace talks may bloom. A ceasefire could be sketched out by July-end — it could perhaps be a 50-mile buffer. Then, in August, some 3,000 Indian peacekeepers land — blue helmets and tricolour patches. The contingent could be scaled to 5,000 by fall. A triumphant Trump would boom: “I made this”. Europe funds it — \$1 billion from Macron and Starmer, desperados for stability. X crowns the deal, the Trump-Gaga-Modi trio as the stars of 2025.

By November, Ukraine’s shaky peace holds. Indian medics and schools dot the



C R Sasikumar

buffer. “India’s the glue”, social media hums. Modi’s star rises as Nehru’s ghost fades, his star is bolder, bigger, better. And he plays Trump right. Trump leads the peace, India delivers it. It is peacemaking swagger that can hook the world. By November, India becomes the act to watch. It is no longer risk averse. It can crash the party and own it.

Gaga diplomacy like Lady Gaga is all about shock and substance. Tell it on the mountain, India. Let these peacekeeping moves be tied to India’s ethos — *ahimsa* and unity in diversity. This is, after all, diplomacy with swag. “Look Ma, no hands” — that slogan captures it perfectly. It would mean India shedding its cautious shell and taking a calculated leap to prove it’s a global player, not a bystander. A true *vishwaguru* vibe. The no-hands vibe comes from confidence — it would mean India’s not scrambling, it’s poised.

The move should be framed as a commitment to lasting peace in Europe. It would be lofty, universal and hard to argue against. It would mean India positioning itself as the grown-up in the room, ready to clean up the mess. India would stake a claim as peace guarantor before the dust settles. It would have told Europe, “We’ve got your back,” to Russia it would say, “We’re still neutral,” and to the Global South, “We’re stepping up for stability.” It can prove its ability to stare down great-power tensions without blinking and that it has the chops to shape outcomes.

Go public with a statement: “India stands ready to deploy peacekeepers to Ukraine for humanitarian purposes and as border monitors, post-ceasefire once the guns go quiet, under a UN mandate or coalition framework, to ensure that peace endures”. It will need to be firm on intent even if keeps the details vague. Pair the move with a nod to India’s peacekeeping credentials over the years (Congo, Sudan) to remind everyone that New Delhi is serious. It will need to reassure Russia that it’s not a NATO ploy and pitch Europe on co-funding: “You want security guarantees? We’re your boots.” Ukraine will gets a heads-



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up too: India has enough goodwill there to build on. It could start small, a few battalions for civilian protection or ceasefire monitoring, pairing it with tech (drones, surveillance) showing that our troops are no cannon fodder but a modern force. Our military can adapt and deliver far from home.

By 2026, India’s not just the player — it’s the better angel and guru for all seasons. Ukraine’s peace showcases India’s moral heft — no guns that maim and kill, but more roses. Europe is grateful (funds flow), Russia’s quiet (the oil keeps coming) and Trump has all bragging rights. “Peace is our *dharma*,” preaches India with a true cause. Narendra Modi’s India is “vishwaguru 2.0”, tougher and more tangible than Nehruvian India ever was. Talks on permanent membership of the Security Council heat up.

This is not strategic overreach. Five thousand troops are big, but doable — India has sent contingents of 2,00,000 to UN missions since the 1950s. Europe pays, borders hold (China can only watch, not poke). PM Modi’s Gaga flair softens to guru calm — sequins to robes. He is not playing boss, just guiding. The Global South is won over completely, India is their voice, the bridge to the West. No imperial dreams, just ready to sweat it out, smart in the true definition of the word.

So, India, play Gaga diplomacy, and take a bow. India’s quiet triumph resounds. It is no longer the little engine that could. That engine has topped the hill and history will clap. India can be the global maestro, bold, loud, unmissable, the nation with a steady hand, ready to put boots on the ground.

Play a zinger, India. Sweat in peace, do not hide your light, be the better angel and the guru for all seasons, the world will take notes. Rewrite the script on what a rising power can do in a polarised world. Gaga diplomacy (stand aside, Lady Gaga) delivers. Take a bow.

The writer is a former Foreign Secretary

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“Duterte’s arrest on Philippine soil sends a salutary warning to would-be strongmen around the world: Investigations launched in The Hague carry a greater threat than mere reputational damage to rogue leaders.” — THE GUARDIAN

EC must take on the questions

Because that’s how institutions achieve excellence and keep themselves ahead of the curve



ASHOK LAVASA

THE ELECTION COMMISSION of India (EC) last week announced that it would take action to correct the disconcerting situation created by more than one voter carrying the same EPIC number. The EC’s press release last week says that it “has now decided to resolve this long pending issue after detailed discussions within the technical teams and concerned CEOs in the next three months”. The EC has acknowledged that duplicate entries in the roll, in one form or the other, is a “long pending issue” and could be addressed by the application of robust technology. The Commission has grappled with this intricate challenge for long and admitting this is the first necessary step to finding solutions even if its response was forced by vehement protests by the TMC.

Other than the criticism the EC faces for its “selective tolerance” of Model Code of Conduct violations, there are three things that have repeatedly drawn the EC into controversy in recent times and are seen to trouble the electoral process: EVM, electoral roll, and Form 17. Call it the infernal trinity, in a loose sense, just as the election commissioners could be referred to as the holy trinity responsible for managing them.

Both the trinities dominate the democratic discourse in India even as our democracy, like many others, is plagued by ills like the increasing grip of money power, declining probity in public life, and deteriorating trust in constitutional bodies. But let us focus on the infernal trinity in this article.

The preparation of electoral rolls has also been questioned for unusual deletions and additions of electors. Before the TMC chief raised the issue of duplicate Electors Photo Identification Card (EPIC) numbers, other political parties expressed their misgivings regarding the allegedly extraordinary number of voters added in Maharashtra within a few months between the general election in May and the Assembly election in November 2024, and the deletions/additions to the Delhi electoral roll. A satisfactory explanation from the EC is awaited.

The electoral roll is the heart of the electoral process, as without a voter’s name figuring in the roll, the right to vote cannot be exercised even if one has an EPIC. Sukumar Sen, the first CEC, didn’t hold the first Parliament election till he was satisfied with the integrity and veracity of the electoral rolls even though Nehru twice announced on the floor of the House that elections would be held soon. Sen, as a one-man commission, went around the country to counter-check the rolls. Now we have three and it should be their bounden duty to ensure that the rolls have minimum aberrations. The EC has laid out extremely elaborate instructions for booth-level officers, electoral registration officers (ERO) and electoral roll observers for preparing and checking the electoral rolls, including the verification of the strength of electors with reference to the ratio with the total population. Specially checking the rolls of 20 polling stations with maximum and minimum deletions/additions in a constituency is stipulated. Despite this, there are disturbing aberrations.

I think the EC should make it mandatory

for the EROs to publish a list of the polling stations where the number of additions or deletions is more than 2 or 3 per cent of the previous electors’ list in addition to the existing mandatory disclosure of individual additions/objections/deletions for which separate forms are prescribed. The list identifying such polling stations should be placed on the respective CEO/EC website so that everyone can know the polling stations where there is an abnormal change in the list. This would alert the EC to such abnormalities, give the political parties and the people an opportunity to scrutinise the list thoroughly and evolve a more satisfactory process.

Earlier, the EC has faced allegations of not disclosing the details of the voter turnout data, especially when it matters most, immediately after the polling day. Form 17 became the talk of the town during the 2024 general elections and remains a “weapon of destruction” or “trust”, depending on the way it is handled. As per the current regulations, an attested copy of Form 17C is given to the polling agents of all the candidates. Form 17C is supposed to be the authentic account of votes polled in a booth unless the presiding officer makes a mistake in filling the details. In any case, its veracity is checked the following day during scrutiny by the returning officer and election observer. Once the EC has decided not to conduct any repoll based on the scrutiny, the details of votes polled as per the data available in Form 17C should be uploaded polling station wise for every assembly segment on the CEO/EC website. The controversy over these numbers is needless and can be easily quelled by this transparent process. Can you imagine a cricket match where the organisers do not display the score in full public view and ask the people to wait for it to announce the details at the end of the match?

That brings me to the much-maligned EVM, about which much has been said and written, including major pronouncements by the highest court of the land, which have more or less given it a clean chit. The courts have sometimes even questioned the motive of the petitioners. To my mind, the reliability of the EVM needs to be understood in terms of the technology used and the administrative procedure employed in the manufacture, management, mobility and use of these machines. Whether the EVM has been manipulated and whether it can be manipulated are two different questions and the EC needs to continuously engage with those raising these questions in order to keep finding convincing solutions.

Dismissing the questions as frivolous, irksome or mischievous would only strengthen those in doubt. I would go to the extent of saying that the EC should take the bold step of getting 100 per cent slips counted in a few random assembly constituencies so that the accusation of a fault or the charge of manipulation could be set at rest. Similarly, it must seriously consider divulging the source code of the EVM (something contemplated for long) and take effective countermeasures against possible mischief.

The EC should be seen as questioning its own systems and procedures and challenging them itself rather than merely responding to questions. That’s how organisations achieve excellence and keep themselves ahead of the curve.

It is time that the EC, which is so critical to a healthy democracy, drags itself out of the mire it finds itself in. How it landed there is another matter.

The writer is a former election commissioner



GUFRAN BEIG

United by smog

Reducing Delhi’s pollution load requires interventions in its neighbourhood too

DELHI HAS BEEN ranked the world’s most polluted capital for the sixth year in IQAir’s 2024 World Air Quality Report. While short-term measures like GRAP cause temporary improvement, they are not permanent fixes for the capital’s problems. The newly installed Delhi government’s announcement banning the refuelling of vehicles older than 15 years from March 31 offers a glimmer of hope for lasting air quality improvement if implemented diligently. Over the last few years, we have often been inundated with fanciful ideas from the realm of geoengineering. These ideas were neither rooted in sound science nor designed as a long-term solution.

In recent years, other high-stakes ideas have also been mooted. One such quick fix was installing “smog towers” to clean air. This is like fixing an air conditioner in an infinite open space and expecting pleasant cooling in the scorching heat. Latest research by scientists at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), using complex numerical models, reveals that air pollution plateaus and levels off just 150–200 meters from a smog tower. The tower can purify only 0.00007 per cent of the air every hour. Given these figures, Delhi would require 48,000 such towers to make an impact — an impractical proposition. Cloud seeding is another questionable solution. As its name suggests, the technique is about seeding specific types

of clouds — especially cumulus or stratus — which contain enough moisture to produce rain. Winters are often marked by the absence of these clouds. So what will we be seeding during this season?

If we truly want to address the underlying structural issues of air quality, we need to rip off band-aids and confront the root causes head-on, namely, “targeting emissions at source”. In this context, a scientific analysis of the efficacy and benefit of the new intervention — the 15-year-old vehicle ban — implemented to the T, would be worth discussing. According to a recent research and policy brief by NIAS, a complete phase-out of 15-year-old vehicles in Delhi would result in the decommissioning of over 5.7 million vehicles, which account for 46 per cent of the city’s transport fleet. Removing these vehicles from the roads could lead to an estimated ~28 per cent reduction in toxic PM 2.5 pollution, along with substantial health and economic benefits. This includes an annual saving of Rs 1,740 crore from reduced mortality and morbidity, as well as per capita healthcare savings of Rs 1,202. However, the implementation of this policy requires meticulous planning and diligence.

A key challenge is meeting the transport demand which was previously catered to by the phased-out vehicles. To maintain air quality benefits, the replacement vehicles

should ideally be electric (EVs). This transition comes with its own set of challenges, including the need for adequate charging infrastructure, battery advancements, tire technology improvements, increased power supply, and access to raw materials. Alternatively, if the phased-out vehicles are replaced with newer BS-VI-compliant vehicles instead of EVs, PM 2.5 levels would still see a significant reduction of 19 per cent with significant healthcare cost savings. However, this would not be a permanent solution. While every innovative policy comes with challenges, addressing them with rigour is essential for successful implementation and long-term sustainability.

It is essential to communicate with the owners of the vehicles which the government proposes to scrap to help them understand the policy’s long-term benefits. While emissions from a vehicle depend on how well it has been maintained, they are significantly influenced by age. Older engines deteriorate over time causing an increase in emissions. Emissions also vary based on the vehicle’s make, model, fitness, and kilometres travelled (VKT). A few years ago, a comprehensive survey by SAFAR of the Ministry of Earth Sciences led to the development of a high-resolution (400m) gridded emission inventory for Delhi which revealed that ~30 per cent of vehicles oper-

ating in Delhi originate from other states. Therefore, the enforcement mechanism should incorporate detection technology to ensure that vehicles older than 15 years do not operate in the region.

The question, however, remains: What region should this policy apply to? Air pollution is agnostic to human-made political borders. Banning vehicles in Delhi alone will not prevent emissions from affecting its air quality if older vehicles continue to operate in nearby areas. NIAS has launched the National Air Quality Resource Framework of India (NARFI) under the aegis of the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India. This initiative mapped 16 airsheds across India, including the Delhi airshed, which spans parts of six surrounding states. To be effective, the 15-year vehicle ban policy must consider the entire Delhi airshed when designing interventions, rather than being limited to select administrative boundaries. Pollution follows airshed dynamics. The sooner we understand it, the closer we shall be to devising effective solutions. It is, therefore, imperative to transcend regional borders and work on a comprehensive strategy to address the entire Delhi airshed. Our breath may just depend on it.

The writer is chair professor NIAS Bengaluru and founder director, SAFAR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CASTE ATROCITY

THIS REFERS TO the report, ‘Bengal temple entry ban; Dalits to pray under police cover today’ (IE, March 12). This untouchability at Gidhagaram village of West Bengal, denying Dalits’ entry to Gidheshwar Shiv temple, is a blot on our constitutional democracy. It is problematic at multiple levels. The conduct of prayer under police cover is a gross disrespect for devotion to God. Police inaction under SC/ST Act and a lack of condemnation by our society at large are particularly worrying.

LR Murmu, New Delhi

NECESSARY TALKS

THIS REFERS TO the report, ‘EC proposes meeting with party chiefs’ (IE, March 12). The proposal of the EC to hold meetings with the political party chiefs is a good initiative. The opposition is hell bent upon disrupting Parliament on the issues of alleged voter ID discrepancies. Hopefully, with this sanguine proposal, sensibility will descend on the political class.

Ravi Mathur, Noida

ADDRESS URGENTLY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Smog over urban India’ (IE, March 12). The latest IQAir report once again delivers the grim reality check — 13 of the world’s 20 most polluted cities are in India, with Delhi remaining the most polluted capital for the sixth consecutive year. A study found that air pollution costs India around Rs 7 lakh crore annually in healthcare expenses and lost labour productivity. Political leaders must abandon political posturing and treat pollution with the utmost urgency.

SS Paul, Nadia

NEED GUARDRAILS

THIS REFERS TO the report, ‘I-T Bill proposes govt can ‘override’ online access codes, sparking privacy concerns’ (IE, March 12). The finance minister has said that her government has trust in India’s taxpayers. A new rule, however, has generated anxiety and made citizens distrustful of its objectives. It also challenges the SC’s landmark ruling that the right to privacy is a fundamental right.

Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

CBI, Kerala Police arrest Lithuanian wanted in US for cryptocurrency fraud

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

IN A joint operation, the CBI and Kerala Police have arrested a 46-year-old Lithuanian national, Aleksej Besciokov, who was wanted by the United States for setting up cryptocurrency exchange Garantex allegedly to launder the proceeds of criminal activities, including ransomware. “He was arrested when he was allegedly plotting to escape from the country,” officials said. “On a request submitted by the US, the Ministry of External Affairs, acting under the Extradition Act, 1962, got a provisional arrest warrant issued on March 10, 2025 against the subject from ACJM Patiala House Court in Delhi. The IPCU, CBI coordinated with Kerala Police for the arrest of fugitive criminal Aleksej Besciokov. The subject would be produced before the Patiala House Court by the Kerala Police. He is wanted for trial before the United States District Court for the

HC tells ASI to complete whitewashing at Sambhal mosque within a week

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, MARCH 12

THE ALLAHABAD High Court on Wednesday directed the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to complete the whitewashing work at the Jama Masjid in Sambhal within a week.

The court also directed the Masjid Management Committee to bear the cost of the whitewashing and reimburse the expenses within a week of its completion.

The court issued the order while hearing a petition filed by the committee seeking permission for whitewashing, additional lighting and the installation of decorative lights at the Masjid.

“The ASI shall undertake the whitewashing work and complete the same within a period of one week. Further, no extra lighting shall be put on the walls, as it may cause damage to the monuments, but exterior lights in the shape of focus lights/LED lights may be used by the ASI for lighting in the outer area of the alleged masjid... The expenditure incurred in the whitewashing shall be borne by the masjid committee and the same shall be reimbursed within one week after the completion of whitewashing work. The entire exercise shall be completed within a period of one week...” said Justice Rohit Ranjan Agarwal in the order on Wednesday.

The court has fixed the next date for hearing on April 8. On Monday, while hearing the case, the Allahabad High Court directed the ASI to file an affidavit within 24 hours, stating specifically whether or not whitewashing and the installation of lights were required outside the Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal.

‘Approach of priests has pained me’: Kerala OBC man refuses to join post at Thrissur temple

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 12

FACED WITH caste discrimination at Koodalmanikyam temple in Thrissur under the government-controlled Devaswom Board, a man from the state's backward classes has decided not to join the assigned post at the temple. He has now been reassigned to another job.

Ezhava Hindu youth BA Balu was recruited by the Devaswom Recruitment Board for the post of kazhakam — a person who helps the priests in rituals — at the temple. But the upper caste temple priests protested against the appointment demanding that their helper should be from the upper caste Warrior community. Both the state's CPI(M)-led

Eastern District Court of Virginia,” CBI spokesperson said in a statement.

According to the US Secret Service documents, Besciokov was a citizen of Lithuania and resided in Russia. “From around January 2019 to the present, he was an administrator of Garantex. His responsibilities included obtaining and maintaining critical Garantex infrastructure, as well as reviewing and approving transactions,” it said.

“During 2019-25, he allegedly controlled and operated Garantex, which facilitated money laundering to the tune of at least \$96 billion in cryptocurrency transactions by transnational criminal organisations (including terrorist organisations) and violated sanctions. Garantex received hundreds of millions in criminal proceeds and was used to facilitate various crimes, including hacking, ransomware, terrorism, and drug trafficking, often with substantial impact to US victims,” it said. It said Besciokov was Garantex's primary technical administrator.



The Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal being covered on Wednesday. PTI

On Holi eve, mosques covered, sensitive zones fortified in UP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, MARCH 12

WITH HOLI falling on Friday during Ramzan and amid remarks by a section of BJP leaders and administrative officials instructing Muslims to stay indoors if they have an issue with playing with colours, mosques in various districts of Uttar Pradesh were covered with tarpaulin Wednesday.

Prominent Muslim clerics in the state have also revised the timings for Friday prayers, which will now be held after 2 pm. To maintain peace, DGP Prashant Kumar has sent a letter to all district police chiefs, commissionerates, and heads of police zones and ranges with a 20-point directive, instructing them to make heavy deployment of police and paramilitary force in sensitive zones in their districts.

Besides holding direct interactions with top police officers, DGP Prashant Kumar met senior officers of sensitive districts and discussed police bandobast for Holi. In the “hyper-sensitive”

UP orders probe after Uttarakhand Police enters Bareilly for drug raid

Residents file 9 complaints; SSP says they were unaware of action, seeks report

AMIT SHARMA & AISWARYA RAJ
MEERUT, DEHRADUN, MARCH 12

A DAY after hundreds of Uttarakhand policemen descended on Bareilly in a massive crackdown on drug abuse, the Uttar Pradesh police have ordered a Deputy SP-level inquiry into nine complaints lodged by residents of the locality.

According to locals and the police, around 300 officers from Uttarakhand's Udham Singh Nagar district raided two Bareilly villages — Fatehganj West and Agras — in the early hours of Tuesday in connection with some drug abuse cases. The police contingent, led by Udhamsingh Nagar SSP Manikant Mishra, had allegedly received a tip-off that accused in several cases in Uttarakhand were operating from these villages.

“They arrived in 70 government buses and private vehicles. To hide their identity, stickers of a marriage party were pasted on several vehicles,” a senior Uttar Pradesh police officer said.

While residents of the localities have called the raid “baseless and illegal”, the Bareilly Senior Superintendent of Police Anurag Arya said they were unaware of raids.

“We have received several complaints regarding the raid by the Uttarakhand police. I have asked Nilesh Mishra, the Deputy SP, Highway, to review all the complaints and submit a report within three days. We will decide what needs to be done based on the findings of the report,” the SSP said.

A total of 16 people were detained and taken to Pul Bhatta police station in Udham Singh Nagar, officers in the Uttarakhand police said. Although 15 were eventually released while one, identified as

Mohammad Asif, was arrested. “Asif has been involved in drug peddling in our area for a long time and has NDPS cases against him. We have sent him to judicial custody and a probe is on to find more accused,” Pul Bhatta SHO Pradeep Mishra said, adding that while the others had been released eventually, they are still being investigated.

“The raid was part of our initiative to crack down on drug peddlers who have been allegedly supplying substances in the state. We have been frequently recovering drugs and arresting accused over the last few months,” he said.

According to locals, the police raids occurred when residents in the area were preparing for ‘iftaar’ during the Ramadan month.

“Suddenly, a dozen cops started banging on the door of my house. I opened it and they

stormed in, hurling abuses. They took with them my four sons — Shahid, Rashid, Adnan and Arif — calling them drug peddlars,” Varisa Khatun, a 52-year-old resident of Agras village, said, adding that she had registered a complaint with the Fatehganj West police station in Bareilly Monday afternoon.

Roshan Lal, 55, was among those picked up by the police Monday but eventually released. “I have never been to jail and don't have a criminal record. Yet, I was picked up by the Uttarakhand Police early Monday morning. The cops blamed me for indulging in smuggling drugs from here to that state.”

When contacted, Uttarakhand's IG Law and Order Nilesh Bhargava denied any knowledge of the raids. “We were neither informed of this nor was this based on our directions,” he said.

Sambhal mentioned in 5,000-year-old scriptures, pre-dates Islam: Adityanath

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, MARCH 12

AMID THE controversy over the survey of a medieval-century mosque in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday said that Sambhal finds mention in 5,000-year-old Vedic scriptures and the place predates Islam.

Speaking at an event in Lucknow, Adityanath said: “Sambhal is a teerth (pilgrimage) site and has been mentioned in scriptures that are 5,000 years old. Puranas contain references to Lord Vishnu's future incarnation. It is said in Puranas that the 10th avatar of Lord Vishnu would take birth in Sambhal. Islam, on the other hand, emerged only 1,400 years ago. I am talking about something that predates Islam by at least 2,000 years.”

The chief minister also claimed Hindu temples were demolished. “The evidence for these things has existed for centuries. Remember, in 1526, Sri Hari Temple was demolished in Sambhal. Two years later, in 1528, the Ram temple in Ayodhya was destroyed,” Adityanath claimed, adding that both acts were done by Mir Baqi, commander of Mughal emperor Babur.

Claiming that Sambhal has had 68 sacred places, Adityanath said so far, 18 have been “reclaimed”. “There were 19 ancient wells that have been revived. After 56 years, for the first time, there was the ritual offering of water at Lord Shiva's temple in Sambhal,” Adityanath said.

Challenging all those questioning “the truth of Sambhal”, Adityanath said that it would be



UP CM Yogi Adityanath inspects a cricket stadium project in Varanasi on Wednesday. PTI

better if they first read Puranas and then come to have a debate with him. He asserted that ‘bhagwa’ (saffron) is his identity and the “entire world will wear it one day.”

Citing an example of how provision has been made in the current Budget for Mathura and Vrindavan, the chief minister said: “Jab avasar milta hai to chukna nahi chahiye” (When one gets the opportunity then they should not leave it).”

The BJP leader also told the Opposition to “stop glorifying invaders”, and added that once “truth like Sambhal” would come out then such people would be left hiding their faces.

Citing the statement of Indonesian President during Republic Day event in which he claimed that he has “Indian DNA”, Adityanath said that all those who eat in “Bharat” and speak against it should first get their DNAs tested.

Give ₹100 per quintal to farmers to curb stubble burning: House panel to Govt

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

HIGHLIGHTING THE practice of burning crop residue (parali) as a significant environmental concern, a Parliamentary Standing Committee has recommended to the Centre to provide financial assistance of ₹100 per quintal of paddy to farmers as compensation for the cost incurred in collecting paddy residue.

In its report, the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food Processing said, “To effectively discourage the burning of crop residue and minimize its environmental impact and considering the economic viability of the farmers, the Committee strongly recommends that the Government provide financial assistance of ₹100 per quintal of paddy to farmers as compensation for the cost incurred in collecting parali (paddy residue). This amount should be in addition to the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and directly transferred to farmers' bank accounts at the time of paddy procurement.”

“The financial incentives could be distributed through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme, ensuring efficient and transparent delivery to farmers' bank accounts. The Committee recommends starting with a financial

incentive of ₹100 per 100 kg of paddy and conducting large-scale research studies to assess the costs and returns for alternative crop-residue management techniques,” said the committee headed by Congress member Charanjit Singh Channi.

According to the report, the Committee also supports the creation of a market for crop residue to compensate farmers for the extra costs and effort involved in harvesting, collecting, and transporting it. “The Government may consider financial incentives for setting up a unit per district where paddy crop is grown to convert crop-residue/parali into energy/electricity,” it noted.

“The Committee recognises that the widespread practice of burning crop residues... is a significant environmental concern. This practice releases harmful greenhouse gases such as CO2, CH4, and N2O, contributing to air pollution and accelerating climate change. When not properly managed, decomposing crop residues can also emit methane...,” it said.

The committee reiterated its earlier recommendation of changing the nomenclature of the ‘Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare’ to ‘Department of Agriculture, Farmers & Farm Labourers Welfare’. It also recommended that PM-KISAN schemes may be extended to farm labourers.

Bihar teacher, principal transferred after tension over Urdu prayers

HIMANSHU HARSH
PATNA, MARCH 12

DAYS AFTER a government teacher in Gaya's Anti police station area was allegedly assaulted by locals in the school premises over the documentation of a prayer conducted in Urdu, he and the principal have been transferred to other schools. Two FIRs have been registered in connection with the incident, police said.

According to the suspect, a teacher at a school in Gaya's Anti Police Station Area, the controversy broke on March 8, when a group of residents allegedly confronted him about a video he had recorded of the Urdu prayer in the school. “While I was sitting in the school courtyard after taking a class at around 3:40 pm, they approached me and asked if I had made a video of the prayer. When I confirmed that I had, they verbally abused me and threatened my life, physically assaulting me,” the teacher claimed in the FIR.

Later that night, the suspect filed a complaint with the police claiming that the mob that assaulted him tore his shirt, broke his glasses and threatened him with “death if he came back to the school to teach”.

This FIR names nine people for wrongful restraint, voluntarily causing hurt, assault or criminal

force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty, among other sections of the BNS.

Local sources claimed that the school had traditionally conducted prayers in Hindi, but the recent change to Urdu prayers under the new principal had been controversial.

The suspect told *The Indian Express* Wednesday that “both he and the principal of the school have been transferred to different schools following the incident to avoid any communal tension”.

Meanwhile, a counter-complaint has also been filed against him on March 10 alleging molestation. Prasad denies the charges. “It's a false case. If I had done something wrong, why didn't they file the complaint on the same day? They waited two days to retaliate,” he claimed.

Gaya SP Anand Kumar confirmed that two FIRs have been filed regarding the incident — one from each side. Police have registered an FIR against the teacher for wrongful restraint, assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty, criminal intimidation and Intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace as well as sections of The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. “Cases have been registered, but no arrests have been made yet,” Kumar stated.

Scientific evaluation encourages those doing good work in government, says Fadnavis

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, MARCH 12

MAHARASHTRA Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday said that a scientific evaluation like “Loksatta District Index” encourages those who do development oriented good work within the government.

Speaking at the “Loksatta District Index” programme in Mumbai on Wednesday, the CM said that as VadHAVAN port is coming up in Palghar, along with a new airport, the district will emerge as the “fourth Mumbai in the region”.

Assuring that the government's efforts are not only towards creating islands of development in the state but also to achieve balanced development, Fadnavis said that the state is moving in that direction.

The Indian Express Group's



Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis with the winners of the Loksatta District Index programme in Mumbai on Wednesday. Narendra Vaskar

Marathi daily *Loksatta* evaluates the performance of each district in the state under various sectors such as education, health and industry in a scientific manner and honours the districts that perform well. Praising the initiative,

Fadnavis said that next year, the “CM Dashboard” initiative will be able to partner with “Loksatta District Index”.

Underlining the importance of such initiatives, Fadnavis said, “In the government, those who


do good or bad work are weighed with the same yardstick. Those who do good work are not praised and those who do bad work are not punished. But since the district is being honoured by a third-party organization like ‘Loksatta’ for the work done by the government system, a sense of competition emerges in the districts, which is a good thing.”

“During the government's 100-day programme, the working of 10,000 offices across the state will be evaluated by a third-party organisation, Quality Council of India,” the chief minister said.

He said that the government's effort is to achieve the goal of balanced development without creating any development islands such as Mumbai, Thane, Pune and Chhatrapati Sambhaji nagar.”


“The country's largest port — VadHAVAN — will take shape in Palghar, while an international airport and a Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train station will be built in the same area,” Fadnavis said.

Sanjeev Sanyal, member of the Prime Minister's Economic Council, gave guidance on “The path of a developed India”. *Loksatta* Editor Girish Kuber gave the introductory speech.




GOLD

₹88,850




USD RATE

₹87.22



OIL

\$70.65



SILVER

₹1,00,200

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) per barrel as of March 11

International market data till 1900 IST

INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION GROWS BY 5% IN JANUARY

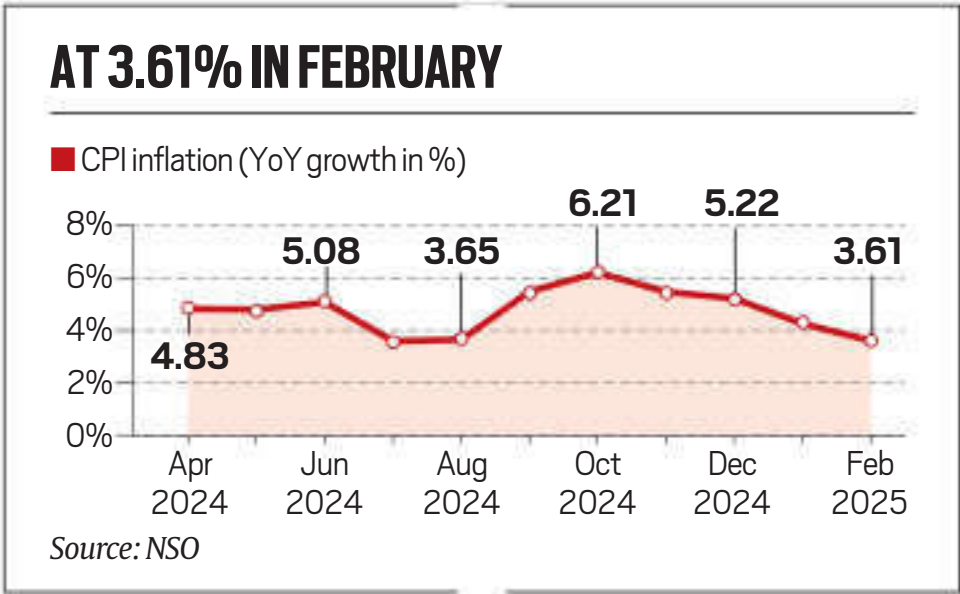
Retail inflation drops to 7-mth low in Feb, food inflation eases most since May '23

AGGAM WALIA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

RETAIL INFLATION eased to a seven-month low of 3.61 per cent in February, compared to 4.26 per cent in the previous month, led by a sharp decline in food inflation, provisional data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) on Wednesday showed.

Food inflation, based on the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI), fell to 3.7 per cent, the lowest since May 2023, when it was 3.19 per cent. Factory output, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), also grew by 5 per cent in January, compared to 3.5 per cent in the previous month, led by manufacturing of basic metals, refined petroleum products, and electrical equipment, quick estimates from the NSO showed.

Retail inflation measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), in rural India dropped to 3.79 per cent in February compared to 4.59 per cent in January. In urban India, too, inflation fell to 3.32 per cent from 3.87 per cent.



On February 7, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had reduced the repo rate by 25 basis points (bps) to 6.25 per cent after keeping it unchanged for two years. With further easing of headline inflation in February, comfortably within RBI's band of 4+/- 2 per cent for medium-term inflation targeting, the central bank could consider another rate cut in the next meeting of its six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) in April.

"The RBI started its rate cut cycle in February and today's inflation print gives space for the RBI to deliver another 25 bps

rate cut in April. Beyond that, a 25 bps rate cut could be delivered in the June or August policy depending on incoming data. We see cumulative rate cuts of 50-75 bps in this cycle for now," HDFC Bank's Treasury Research Desk said in a note.

The inflation rate for the food and beverages segment, which accounts for 45.86 per cent of the total weight of CPI, was registered at 3.84 per cent in February, 4.05 per cent for rural and 3.44 per cent for urban. Food items such as ginger, tomato, and garlic recorded the lowest year-on-year inflation at -35.81, -

EXPLAINED **E** Expectations of April rate cut rises

WITH FURTHER easing of headline inflation in February, comfortably within RBI's band of 4+/- 2 per cent for medium-term inflation targeting, the central bank could consider another rate cut in the next meeting of its MPC in April.

28.51, and -20.32 per cent, respectively. Overall, the inflation rate for vegetables was registered at -1.07 per cent.

"However, we believe that the sequential uptick in vegetables inflation in March 2025 is likely to prevent a further softening in the food and beverages inflation print in the month, after the substantial cooling seen over the past four months. This would push up the CPI inflation print mildly to ~3.9-4.0 per cent in the next month. Overall, the CPI inflation is now expected to average at 3.9 per cent in Q4 FY2025,

well below the MPC's projection of 4.4 per cent for that quarter," rating agency ICRA's chief economist Aditi Nayar said.

"The problem areas appear to be fruits and vegetable oils. The latter has also been affected by the volatile rupee which has pushed up imported cost," Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at Bank of Baroda, said.

The inflation rate for fruits was registered at 14.82 per cent and for oils and fats at 16.36 per cent in February.

On the industrial output front, manufacturing, which accounts for 77.6 per cent of the weight of the IIP, grew by 5.5 per cent in January against 3.4 per cent in December. Mining output grew by 4.4 per cent against 2.7 per cent in December, whereas power output was up 2.4 per cent against 6.2 per cent in the preceding month.

Growth in output of capital goods declined slightly to 7.8 per cent from 10.4 per cent in December. The growth rate was high compared to 3.2 per cent in January 2024.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

'Retail credit growth continues to moderate across most products'

BHAVESH JAIN, MD & CEO, TransUnion CIBIL, a leading credit information company, says the slowdown in consumer credit demand, coupled with a decline in loan originations by lenders, has resulted in a cooling of overall retail credit growth. In an interview to **GEORGE MATHEW** and **HITESH VYAS**, Jain said, "non-performing assets (NPAs) in the microfinance sector have increased to Rs 51,000 crore. The marked increase in credit card spending indicates its expanding acceptance among consumers as a tool to access credit." Edited excerpts:

What's your assessment of the credit market in India? Has the slowdown in the economy affected it?

Retail credit growth continued to moderate across most products. Several factors including challenging global economic conditions, slowing urban consumption and regulatory measures designed to stabilise the credit-deposit ratio, may have affected the credit market in India. The slowdown in consumer credit demand, coupled with a decline in loan originations by lenders, has resulted in a cooling of overall retail credit growth. Identifying eligible and lower-risk consumers who can afford to service their credit obligations will be critical for the sustained growth of credit and the economy.

There are reports that microfinance NPAs have risen to Rs 50,000 crore. Is there a concern in the MFI segment?

Yes, the non-performing assets (NPAs) in the microfinance sector have increased to Rs 51,000 crore. At present, microfinance institutions (MFIs) function as high-engagement businesses, where the loan disbursements may be based on subjective underwriting and collection strategies, based on individual lenders' processes and policies. By utilising advanced data analytics, lenders can evaluate MFIs' creditworthiness more precisely, thereby reducing the potential risk of defaults. Furthermore, it facilitates enhanced monitoring of loan performance and improved customer behaviour.

Additionally, financial literacy initiatives can inform borrowers about financial management, enabling them to make well-informed decisions and decreasing the likelihood of over-indebtedness.

Credit card use and outstanding have shot up in



the last one year. What are the reasons for this surge?

Although still significant, portfolio balances grew at a slower rate y-o-y (year-on-year) in December 2024 for all retail credit products, except credit cards which grew at 24 per cent y-o-y. There has been a cooling off in new loan originations for personal loans and consumer durables loans since the quarter ending March 24. This may have led to consumers increasing their spending on their existing credit cards to finance their consumption needs.

The marked increase in credit card spending indicates its expanding acceptance among consumers, not only for transactions but also as a tool to access credit. This may be an opportunity for lenders to identify consumers who require additional credit for their consumption and aspirational goals, and service them with customised solutions that are better suited and affordable for them. These customised credit offers should focus on helping the consumer fulfil their needs effectively while also supporting them in building a stronger credit profile.

By using more comprehensive data insights to understand the changing dynamics of consumer spending and credit usage, lenders can devise dynamic strategies better suited to evolving market conditions while enhancing customer loyalty.

Have NPAs in the credit card segment risen in the last 10 months?

Credit performance showed a mixed picture with balance-level delinquencies improving for se-

cured loans but deteriorating y-o-y for credit cards. Balance-level delinquencies (measured as 90 days or more past due) on credit cards stood at 2 per cent in the December 2024 quarter—a year-on-year change of 31 basis points which is still range bound.

Unsecured lending has moderated in the last couple of months. Is the moderation continuing? What led to the fall in growth?

Faced with current market dynamics, lenders seem to be taking a measured approach to risk management with a general cooling of origination volumes. In addition, it is likely that where they are granting non-consumption loans, these are typically for higher amounts.

Loan origination (a measure of credit supply and in part a measure of credit demand) volumes are positive across all key retail loan products, except home loans and credit cards. However, the origination volume growth is lower on a year-on-year basis, indicating a cautious approach by lenders.

Have delinquency levels in unsecured lending risen in the last 10 months? Can you give us the quantum of increase in absolute numbers as well as in percentage terms?

Achieving the dual objectives of sustained credit growth while simultaneously maintaining asset quality requires issued loans to be repaid on time to help minimise default risks and preserve financial stability. Balance-level serious delinquency (measured as 90 days or more past due) is around 1.89 per cent of overall retail outstanding as of December 2024. Overall, there has been an improvement of 22 bps from 2.12 per cent in Dec-23, indicating stabilising of delinquencies.

Which loan type shows the maximum delinquencies? Why?

Credit performance for consumption loans has improved sequentially in Dec 2024 as compared to September 2024, even for high-risk consumers. Credit performance showed a mixed picture with balance-level delinquencies improving for secured loans but deteriorating y-o-y for credit cards. This could be because when faced with financial constraints, borrowers generally tend to prioritise payments on life-essential utilities such as home loans and vehicle loans.

FULL INTERVIEW ON www.indianexpress.com

BRIEFLY
New tariffs could weigh on global trade: WTO

New Delhi: Increased trade policy uncertainty and prospects of new tariffs could weigh on global trade in the medium term, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) said on Wednesday. **PTI**

'JLR shelves plan to build EVs at Tata's India plant'

New Delhi: Jaguar Land Rover has shelved plans to build electric vehicles at Tata Motor's upcoming \$1 billion factory, sources said. **REUTERS**

US consumer inflation cools in February

Washington: US inflation slowed last month for the first time since September. The consumer price index increased 2.8 per cent in February from a year ago, down from 3 per cent the previous month. **AP**

India's growth to exceed 6.5% in FY26: Moody's

New Delhi: Moody's Ratings has said India's economic growth will exceed 6.5 per cent in FY26, from 6.3 per cent this year. **PTI**

'Temasek to pick up Haldiram's stake worth \$1 bn'

New Delhi: Singapore's state investment company Temasek has signed a deal to pick up close to a 10 per cent stake in snacks business of Haldiram's at about \$1 billion, sources said. **REUTERS**

Trump 2.0's first sweeping tariff goes live, could increase dumping pressure on India

Govt tells House anti-dumping duty in place to protect domestic industry

RAVIDUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Wednesday imposed his first across-the-board 25 per cent tariffs on steel and aluminium, which could increase dumping pressure in the Indian market, already experiencing a surge in steel supply due to Chinese overcapacity.

The US tariffs escalation raises concerns over dumping in India as neighboring China would have 45 per cent effective tariffs on its steel and aluminium products in the US giving it higher incentive to look for other markets. Notably, Trump had announced a 20 per cent across-the-board tariff on Chinese imports prior to Wednesday.

Higher tariffs in the US market traditionally lead to dumping elsewhere, particularly in European and Indian markets, where steel demand currently exceeds domestic production capacity. During Trump's first term, the EU has imposed restrictions on steel and aluminium fearing trade



US President Donald Trump at a Business Roundtable meeting in Washington on Tuesday. **AP/PTI**

diversion, hurting Indian exports. Minister of State for Steel, Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma, in response to a parliamentary question on a plan to impose a levy or tariff on imported steel, stated that the government has already introduced a quality control order banning substandard steel. "Anti-Dumping Duty (ADD)

measures on certain steel products—such as seamless tubes, pipes, and hollow profiles of iron, alloy, or non-alloy steel (excluding cast iron and stainless steel) from China PR; electro-galvanised steel from Korea RP, Japan, and Singapore; stainless steel seamless tubes and pipes from China PR; and welded stainless steel pipes and tubes from Vietnam and Thailand—are currently in place," Varma said in response to a question raised by Congress MPs MK Vishnu and Kalyan Kale on Tuesday.

"Countervailing Duty (CVD) is in place for welded stainless steel pipes and tubes from China and Vietnam. Basic Customs Duty (BCD) has been reduced from 2.5 per cent to nil on ferro-nickel and molybdenum ores and concentrates, which are raw materials for the steel industry," Varma said in the response.

Think tank Global Trade and Research Institute (GTRI) noted that India imports more iron and steel (excluding finished products) and aluminium products from the US than it exports. This

means that if India retaliates, the US would face a bigger impact in these sectors.

India has a trade deficit in iron and steel, exporting \$494.2 million to the US while importing \$842 million. In aluminium and aluminium products, trade is nearly balanced, with exports at \$859.8 million and imports slightly higher at \$898.9 million.

EU retaliation and global escalation

US blanket tariffs increase the risk of a global trade slowdown, as the European Union has decided to retaliate against US tariffs. China, the second-largest economy, has already hit back with tariffs targeting US farm products. "In response to new US tariffs affecting more than Euro 18 billion of EU exports, the Commission is putting forward a package of new counter-measures on US exports. These will come into force by mid-April, following consultations with Member States and stakeholders," the EU announced.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

IN FEBRUARY

Market sell-off wipes ₹2.33 lakh cr from MF assets

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, MARCH 12

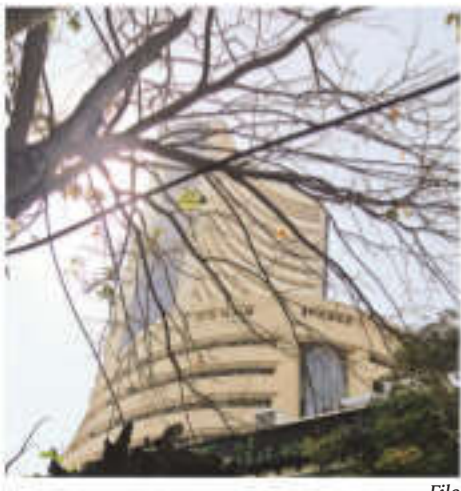
THE SELL-OFF in the stock market has dealt a heavy blow to the mutual fund industry with assets of retail investors in various funds plummeting by Rs 2.33 lakh crore and inflows into small-cap and mid-cap schemes plunging by up to 34.9 per cent in the month of February.

Highlighting the vulnerability of mutual fund investments to market volatility, retail assets under management (AUM), including equity, hybrid and solution-oriented schemes, plummeted to Rs 36,44,112 crore in February from Rs 38,77,595 crore in January

this year, according to figures released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).

This decline occurred during a period of significant market correction due to multiple external factors primarily global trade tensions created by uncertainty on US tariffs. "This resulted in the benchmark BSE Sensex TRI experiencing a month-on-month decline of over 5.5 per cent," said Jatinder Pal Singh, CEO, IITI Mutual Fund.

Significantly, mutual fund industry's overall AUM declined by Rs 2.71 lakh crore to Rs 64,53,493 crore in February 2025 as against Rs 67,25,449 crore in January. While net investments in the small-cap fund category decreased by 34.9 per cent to Rs



3,722.46 crore, and inflows into mid-cap funds fell by 33.8 per cent to Rs 3,406.95 crore, large-cap funds experienced a more modest decline of just 6.4 per cent, reaching Rs 2,866 crore.

Gross equity inflows also saw a reduction of 18 per cent, falling

from Rs 66,630 crore in January 2025 to Rs 54,428 crore in February. This asset price reduction comes against the backdrop of global uncertainties and macro-economic factors which has caused the benchmark indices Nifty 50 and BSE Sensex to decline by approximately 6 per cent. "However, investors continue to repose faith in the industry despite these turbulent times, net equity inflows have remained positive for the last 48 months, witnessing Rs 0.29 lakh crore net inflows in February 2025 with all equity categories registering net inflows for the month. Further, the net inflows declined by 26 per cent as compared to January 2025," said Sanjay Agarwal, Senior

Director, CareEdge Ratings. In January also, the net AUM of equity mutual funds plummeted by Rs 1.1 lakh crore, or 3.26 per cent, on a month-on-month basis, to Rs 29,46 lakh crore as of end-January 2025.

According to AMFI, SIP assets were at Rs 12,37,783 crore for the month of February. SIP contribution for the month stood at Rs 25,999 crore.

It seems the downfall in the AUM of large-cap funds is over. The market share of large cap AUM kept falling from 17 per cent in October 2021 to 11.7 per cent in December 2024, and now finally rose to 12.2 per cent in February 2025.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

STARLINK SERVICES IN INDIA

Jio inks deal with SpaceX

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

JIO PLATFORMS Wednesday said it has signed a deal with Elon Musk's SpaceX to bring Starlink's internet services to India, a day after close rival Bharti Airtel announced a similar deal. Similar to Airtel, this deal is contingent upon SpaceX receiving its own authorisations to sell Starlink in India. Jio Platforms is a subsidiary of Reliance Industries.

Jio and SpaceX, so far, had been on the opposite side of the debate on how spectrum for satellite communication should be assigned to companies—with Jio calling for an auction, but SpaceX insisting on the administrative

Will help remote railway projects, says Vaishnaw

New Delhi: Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday welcomed Elon Musk's Starlink to India and said it will help railway projects in remote areas of the country. "Starlink, welcome to India! Will be useful for remote area railway projects," Vaishnaw posted on social media platform X. **PTI**

route. The government has decided to go with administrative allocation.

TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS WITH INDIGO, AIR INDIA

India 'super important' market: Riyadh Air CEO

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

SAUDI ARABIA'S ambitious new airline Riyadh Air considers India a "super important" market and will explore potential partnerships with Indian carriers IndiGo and Air India in addition to its plans of operating flights between the two countries as passenger flows between India and Saudi Arabia are growing rapidly, Riyadh Air's chief executive officer Tony Douglas said Wednesday. Saudi Arabia expects India to become its

largest source market for tourism by 2030, and Indian nationals are already the biggest non-Saudi resident group in that country, making India a lucrative market for Riyadh Air.

Douglas is in New Delhi as part of a Riyadh Air delegation for meetings with India's aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to discuss the requisite permissions and support for launch of the airline's India operations. Douglas is also slated to meet top executives of IndiGo and Air India to discuss possible partnerships.

Tony Douglas is in India as part of a Riyadh Air delegation for meetings with the DGCA, IndiGo and Air India

The Riyadh-based full-service airline, which is Saudi Arabia's second national carrier alongside Saudi Arabian Airlines (Saudia) and is slated to start commercial operations later this year, has al-

ready forged partnership with various global airlines including Delta Air Lines, Singapore Airlines, Turkish Airlines, Virgin Atlantic, China Eastern, Air China, and Egypt Air.

Saudi crown prince Mohammed bin Salman is the force behind Riyadh Air, which aims to fly to over 100 destinations by 2030. The airline has 39 wide-body Boeing 787 aircraft on order, with an option to expand the order size to 72 jets, in addition to 60 Airbus A321 narrow-body planes.

According to Douglas, Riyadh

Air currently has two major gaps in its airline partnerships—North-Western Europe and India—and it wants to cover those.

Speaking to reporters in Delhi, while Douglas did not elaborate on the likely talks between Riyadh Air and the Indian airlines, he said that the conversations at this early stage would be mostly exploratory, and expressed keenness to forge partnerships in India as long as they are a "win-win" proposition for Riyadh Air as well as the potential partner airline.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

INDIA WELL PLACED TO TACKLE TARIFF IMPACT: SCHWARZMAN

Open to doubling investments in India, says Blackstone CEO

URVI MALVANIA
MUMBAI, MARCH 12

GLOBAL PRIVATE equity major Blackstone will double its exposure in India over the next few years to \$100 billion, co-founder chairman and CEO Stephen A Schwarzman said on Wednesday.

"India has been a great market for us, giving us best returns globally. We are not rigid about the (allocated) investments in

India." Schwarzman said during a meeting with the media in Mumbai. He indicated that the company could double its AUM (assets under management) in the country over the next few years.

The private equity major, which has been in the country for two decades now, started its India journey with a commitment of \$1 billion. It has an AUM of \$50 billion in India currently, with nearly \$30 billion in real estate assets and the rest in PE in-

vestments across sectors like healthcare, software, and support services such as VFS Global. "We would like to invest in physical as well as digital infrastructure projects. Transportation could be a key focus area, including ports, airports and roads," Schwarzman said.

He also said that India is well placed to tackle the impact of US tariffs considering how the meeting between the countries' premiers ended in the signing of a trade agreement. **FE**

TOPOF THE WORLD



Reuters
Demokraatit leader Jens-Frederik Nielsen in Nuuk, Wednesday

GREENLAND
Centre-right Opp wins polls, rejects Trump's wish for control

Nuuk: A party that favours a gradual path to Greenland's independence from Denmark won a surprise victory in parliamentary elections, held in the shadow of US President Donald Trump's stated goal of taking control of the island one way or another. The centre-right Demokraatit Party has pushed back against Trump's rhetoric, saying Greenland is not for sale, and it is for Greenlanders to decide the future of the strategically important territory. "We don't want to be Americans. No, we don't want to be Danes. We want to be Greenlanders. And we want our own independence in the future, Demokraatit leader Jens-Friederik Nielsen told Sky News. **AP**

JAPAN
Many men held over 'rape of minor daughters'

Tokyo: Japanese media reported this week that police have arrested several men accused of sexual assault of their underaged daughters and sharing their abuse videos online. Police have so far refused to confirm the reports. The Kyodo News agency, NHK television and other outlets say police in the Aichi prefecture, a region in central Japan, took into custody several men, who are in their 30s, 40s and 50s. They are accused of repeatedly raping their daughters or stepdaughters, aged 6-14, filming the assaults and sharing them on social media. **REUTERS**

PORTUGAL
Govt loses vote of confidence, snap polls ahead

Lisbon: Portugal's minority government lost a confidence vote in parliament Tuesday, forcing its resignation and bringing the European Union country's third general election in three years. The government's fall marks the worst spell of political instability since Portugal adopted a democratic system more than 50 years ago in the wake of the 1974 Carnation Revolution, which ended a four-decade dictatorship. A new election, likely in May, pitches the country into political uncertainty. **AP**

MOSCOW AWAITS DETAILED INFORMATION FROM WASHINGTON

US weapons flow to Ukraine again, Kremlin mulls US-backed truce deal

SAMYA KULLAB & HANNA ARHIROVA
KYIV, MARCH 12

US ARMS deliveries to Ukraine resumed Wednesday, officials said, a day after the Trump administration lifted its suspension of military aid for Kyiv in its fight against Russia's invasion, as officials awaited the Kremlin's response to a proposed 30-day ceasefire endorsed by Ukraine. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said it's important not to "get ahead" of the question of responding to the ceasefire, which was proposed by Washington. He told reporters that Moscow is awaiting "detailed information" from the US. Russia has previously opposed anything short of a permanent end to the conflict and has not accepted any concessions.

US President Donald Trump wants to end the three-year war and pressured Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to enter talks. The suspension of US assistance happened days after Zelenskyy and Trump argued in a tense White House meeting. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who led the American delegation to Saudi Arabia Tuesday, where Ukraine consented to the US truce deal, said Washington will pursue "multiple points of contacts" with Russia to see if President Vladimir Putin is ready to negotiate an end to the war.



A hotel hit by a Russian missile strike in Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine, Wednesday. Reuters

The US hopes to see Russia stop attacks on Ukraine within the next few days as a first step, Rubio said at a refuelling stop Wednesday in Shannon, Ireland. Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff, is expected to travel this week to Moscow, where he could meet with Putin, according to a person familiar with the matter. Zelenskyy said the 30-day truce would allow the sides "to fully prepare a step-by-step plan

for ending the war, including security guarantees for Ukraine." The American military help is vital for Ukraine's shorthanded and weary army, which is having a tough time keeping Russia's bigger military force at bay. For Russia, the American aid spells potentially more difficulty in achieving war aims, and it could make Washington's peace efforts a tougher sell in Moscow. Recent fighting reportedly

has focused on the Kursk town of Sudzha, a key Ukrainian operational base. Inside Ukraine, Russian missiles killed at least five, officials said Wednesday. Russian officials are wary about the US-Ukraine talks. Russian lawmakers signalled wariness about the prospect of a ceasefire. "Russia is advancing (on the battlefield), so it will be different with Russia," senior Russian senator Konstantin

EXPLAINED
E Deal likely to pose dilemma for Putin
THE EMERGENCE of a joint truce deal from US and Ukraine deepens the tension between Russian President Vladimir Putin's aim of a far-reaching victory and his close ties with US President Donald Trump. Putin, who had been opposing a temporary truce — largely due to Russia's advantages on the battlefield — has now been pressured to reconsider. Analysts say the Kremlin could be tempted to accept a truce that would be tactically unfavorable but strategically favorable to show that it is a peacemaker.

Kosachev noted in a post on the messaging app Telegram. "Any agreements (with the understanding of the need for compromise) should be on our terms, not American," Kosachev wrote. Meanwhile, Britain said Wednesday it has expelled a Russian diplomat and a diplomatic spouse in a tit-for-tat response to the expulsion of two British diplomats in Moscow earlier this week.

Duterte in ICC custody, to face murder charges over drug war

REUTERS
ROTTERDAM, MARCH 12

FORMER PHILIPPINE leader Rodrigo Duterte has been surrendered to the custody of the International Criminal Court (ICC), the court said Wednesday, shortly after he landed in the Netherlands, where the court is based.

"He was arrested by the authorities of the Republic of the Philippines in accordance with an arrest warrant issued by Pre-Trial Chamber I for charges of murder as a crime against humanity," the ICC said in a statement.

Duterte will face allegations of crimes against humanity for overseeing death squads in his war on drugs. Duterte was set to be transferred to a detention unit on the Dutch coast and will be brought before a judge in coming days for his initial court appearance.

Duterte, who led the Philippines from 2016 to 2022,



Anti-Duterte protesters in Manila on Wednesday. Reuters

was arrested early on Tuesday in Manila, marking the biggest step yet in the ICC's probe into an anti-drugs crackdown that killed thousands and drew condemnation around the world. He could become the first Asian former head of state to go on trial at the ICC in The Hague. The plane had originally been

set to land in the Netherlands around 0600 GMT, but it was delayed after a long layover in Dubai during which he received medical checks. The ICC's warrant for his arrest says that as president, Duterte created, funded and armed death squads that carried out murders of purported drug users and dealers.

Search intensifies for Indian student who vanished in Dominican Republic

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SAN JUAN, MARCH 12

INVESTIGATORS CONTINUE to search for a college student from Virginia who vanished earlier this month while visiting the Dominican Republic with five other people during spring break from classes.

Sudiksha Konanki was last seen March 6 during a power outage at the Riu República Hotel in the beach resort town of Punta Cana. Dominican police and the



Sudiksha Konanki, 20, is an Indian citizen living in US

Federal Bureau of Investigation are involved in the search for Konanki, a 20-year-old student from the University of Pittsburgh. Police say she disappeared at a beach by the hotel before dawn, as she and others had headed outside amid the power outage.

Konanki and five other female students flew to the country on March 3. Konanki lives in Chantilly, Virginia, a suburb of Washington, D.C., and is a citizen of India and a US permanent resident. Her parents, Subbarayudu and Sreedevi Konanki, have sought to widen the investigation. Dominican President Luis Abinader said Monday that the last person known to be with her says a wave crashed into them while they were on the beach. Civil Defense says investigators haven't found her clothing.



SpaceX's Falcon rocket carrying the space telescope lifts off from Vandenberg Space Force Base, California on Tuesday. AP

tures all light emitted over cosmic history," said the mission's chief scientist Jamie Bock of the California Institute of Technology. "It's a very different way of looking at the universe," enabling scientists to see what sources of light may have been missed in the past. By observing the collective glow, scientists hope to tease out the light from the earliest galaxies and learn how they came to be, Bock said. "We won't see the Big Bang. But we'll see the aftermath from it and learn about the beginning of the universe that

Beijing to host Russia, Iran for talks on Tehran's N-programme

To follow closed-door UNSC meet on Iran's Uranium stocks tomorrow

REUTERS
BEIJING, MARCH 12

CHINA WILL hold a meeting on Friday in Beijing with Russia and Iran on the Iranian "nuclear issue", its foreign ministry said, with both nations sending their deputy foreign ministers.

Ties between Iran and Russia have deepened since the start of the Ukraine war in 2022, with a strategic cooperation treaty signed in January. Both have good relations with China. China's Vice Foreign Minister Ma Xiaoxu will chair the meeting, Mao Ning, a spokesperson of its foreign ministry, told a regular press conference Wednesday.

The meeting will follow a closed-door gathering of the United Nations Security Council in New York the same day regarding Iran's expansion of its stocks of uranium that are close to weapons-grade.

Last week, Russia said Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov discussed international efforts to tackle Iran's nuclear programme with its ambassador. Kazem Jalali, after reports that Russia agreed to help U.S. President Donald Trump's administration in communicating with Iran.

Tehran has long denied

wanting to develop a nuclear weapon. However, the U.N. atomic watchdog IAEA has warned it is "dramatically" accelerating enrichment of uranium to up to 60% purity, close to the weapons-grade level of roughly 90%.

Iran reached a deal, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, with Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States in 2015, that lifted sanctions on Tehran in return for curbs on its nuclear program.

But Washington quit the plan in 2018 during Trump's first term, and Iran began moving away from its nuclear-related commitments. China has said it supports Iran in safeguarding its legitimate rights and calling for an early resumption of the Iranian nuclear talks.

UAE official to deliver Trump's letter to Iran

US President Donald Trump's letter to Iran's clerical establishment will be delivered by Anwar Gargash, diplomatic advisor to the president of the United Arab Emirates, Iran's Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

Gargash was due to meet Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi on Wednesday, Iranian state media said.

Trump admin halts \$1-bn affordable housing programme



President Donald Trump and Elon Musk in a Tesla vehicle on the South Lawn of the White House on Tuesday. AP

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON, MARCH 12

THE TRUMP administration is halting a \$1 billion programme that helps preserve affordable housing, threatening projects that keep tens of thousands of units livable for low-income Americans, according to a document obtained by AP.

The action is part of a slew of cuts and funding freezes at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, largely at the direction of President Donald Trump and Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency, that have rattled the affordable-housing industry. Preserving these units is a centrepiece of efforts to address the nation's housing crisis. Hundreds of thousands of low-

rent apartments, many of them aging and in need of urgent repair, are at risk of being yanked out from under poor Americans.

The programme has already awarded the money to projects that would upgrade at least 25,000 affordable units across the country. A spokesperson for HUD did not respond to repeated requests for comment. But an internal document reviewed by the AP said that the programme is being "terminated" at the direction of DOGE. Two HUD workers, who have knowledge of the programme confirmed the directive to shutter it. A HUD

On it's face, the over USD 1 billion Green and Resilient Retrofit Programme, passed by Congress in 2022, is intended for energy-efficiency improvements. But the money plays a much larger role in preserving affordable units.

minum-honeycomb cones, one inside the other, to protect from the sun and Earth's heat, resembling a 10-foot (3-meter) shield collar for an ailing dog. Besides the telescope, SpaceX's Falcon rocket provided a lift from Vandenberg Space Force Base for a quartet of NASA satellites called Punch. From their own separate polar orbit, the satellites will observe the sun's corona, or outer atmosphere, and the resulting solar wind.

The evening launch was delayed two weeks because of rocket and other issues. **AP**

\$488-Mn SPHEREX MISSION AIMS TO EXPLAIN HOW GALAXIES EVOLVED AND HOW UNIVERSE EXPANDED SO FAST IN ITS FIRST MOMENTS

NASA's newest space telescope blasts off to map the entire sky and millions of galaxies

MARCIA DUNN
MARCH 12

NASA'S NEWEST space telescope rocketed into orbit Tuesday to map the entire sky like never before — a sweeping look at hundreds of millions of galaxies and their shared cosmic glow since the beginning of time.

SpaceX launched the Spherex observatory from California, putting it on course to fly over Earth's poles. Tagging along were four suitcase-size satellites to study the sun. Spherex popped off the rocket's upper stage first, drifting

into the blackness of space with a blue Earth in the background. The \$488-mn Spherex mission aims to explain how galaxies formed and evolved over billions of years, and how the universe expanded so fast in its first moments.

Closer to home in our own Milky Way galaxy, Spherex will hunt for water and other ingredients of life in the icy clouds between stars where new solar systems emerge.

The cone-shaped Spherex — at 1,110 pounds (500 kilograms) or the heft of a grand piano — will take six months to map the entire sky with its infrared eyes

and wide field of view. Four full-sky surveys are planned over two years, as the telescope circles the globe from pole to pole 400 miles (650 kilometers) up.

Spherex won't see galaxies in exquisite detail like NASA's larger and more elaborate Hubble and Webb space telescopes, with their narrow fields of view.

Instead of counting galaxies or focusing on them, Spherex will observe the total glow produced by the whole lot, including the earliest ones formed in the wake of the universe-creating Big Bang.

"This cosmological glow cap-



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

Byrnihat: Northeast industrial hub that has ‘world’s worst air’

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, MARCH 12

ACCORDING TO the World Air Quality Report for 2024 published by IQAir, a Swiss company that tracks global air quality, Byrnihat on the Meghalaya-Assam border is the “most polluted city in the world”.

The annual average PM2.5 concentration in Byrnihat was 128.2 micrograms per cubic m (µg/m3), many times the World Health Organization’s annual air quality guideline of 5 µg/m3.

In January this year, the Helsinki-based Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air based Byrnihat the most polluted city in India, based on monthly average PM2.5 levels.

Why is the air in this town, located in a region known for its scenic beauty, so bad?

Town and its industries

Byrnihat is located around 20 km from Guwahati and 65 km from Shillong, in Meghalaya’s Ri-Bhoi district, where the hills of Meghalaya descend into Guwahati.

Over the years, Byrnihat has developed into a regional industrial hub. The residential town is in Meghalaya, and the industrial units surrounding it are in both Meghalaya and Assam.

In Meghalaya, the industries are in the Byrnihat Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP); in Assam, they are in Tamulikuchi in the Kamrup Metropolitan district, along the national highway that runs through the town.

The industries include those involved in the production of coke (fuel), cement, ferro alloys, and steel, and in distillation and brickmaking. They mushroomed in the area because of the proximity to coal reserves in Meghalaya and



the large urban centre of Guwahati, as well as the supply of water from the Umtru river. The Meghalaya state Action Plan for

Prevention and Control of Air Pollution was released in December 2024. It records 39 industrial units in Assam and 41 in Meghalaya in Byrnihat.

Twenty units in Assam and five in Meghalaya are “red category” industries — identified by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests as “heavily polluting” (including cement, distillery and fermentation, iron and steel, coke production).

Fifteen units in Assam and 22 in Meghalaya are in the “orange category” (brick manufacturing, cement clinker grinding units), according to the Action Plan.

Non-compliance with norms

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma told the legislative Assembly last week that following surprise checks in industrial areas in Meghalaya in late January and early February, the state Pollution Control Board had served

closure notices on seven units, and imposed environmental compensation on two others.

The violations included “heavy emissions from chimneys due to non-operation of pollution control devices, ineffective pollution control devices, and non-transmission of on-line emission data”, the Chief Minister said.

Assam Pollution Control Board chairman Arup Kumar Misra told *The Indian Express* that the board has served notices on several industries in its area. “There are industries there which are not following the rules... Many have the required devices which can trap pollutants but don’t use them because those are energy intensive and incur costs,” Misra said.

Vehicles and topography

Dr Ganesh Chandra Dhal of NIT Meghalaya, who has carried out research on air pollution in Byrnihat, pointed to vehicular emissions in the area.

“This is an important transit point for vehicles. Material is loaded and unloaded from heavy diesel vehicles, many of which do not comply with tailpipe emission norms. Vehicles idle in congestion on the road. Besides PM2.5 and PM10, sulphur dioxide levels are also high in the area,” he said.

A CSIR-NEERI team that surveyed the area in 2022-23 found that unpaved roads in the area aggravated road dust.

Experts have also pointed to the area’s “bowl-like” topography. The surrounding hills inhibit the dispersal of pollutants in the air.

“It is like a basin. While there are hills and high elevation on either side, the area itself has an altitude of only about 60 metres. It experiences a valley-and-basin effect, because of which wind speed is reduced. This may be impacting the transport of air out of here,” Dr Rajesh Bajpai, who teaches environmental studies at North-Eastern Hill University, said.

THIS WORD MEANS

STARLINK

A network of satellites that provides Internet operated by SpaceX, billionaire Elon Musk’s aerospace company



A Starlink antenna in a village of the Marubo indigenous people, deep in the Brazilian Amazon, in 2024. *The New York Times*

ALINDCHAUHAN

NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

BHARTI AIRTEL and Reliance Jio have signed separate deals with Elon Musk’s SpaceX to bring the Starlink Internet service to India. SpaceX’s application for a security clearance is currently being reviewed by the Union Home Ministry.

What is Starlink?

Starlink is a network of satellites that provides Internet connectivity. Operated by SpaceX, it was launched in 2019. Starlink eventually aims to shoot 42,000 small satellites into space, forming a globe-encircling ring just 547 km overhead. Currently, project has around 7,000 mass-produced small satellites in low Earth orbit (LEO) — an orbit that is under altitudes of 2,000 km.

By the end of 2024, Starlink had more than 4.6 million users in over 100 countries — it began the year with only 2.3 million users globally.

In the US, Starlink offers speeds up to 220 Mbps. However, the service is quite expensive. It starts with “\$120 monthly for the standard home internet service, plus \$349, give or take a hundred bucks, for the equipment needed to get started,” according to a report by *CNET*. The monthly rate on mobile service is cheaper but the expected speeds are slower.

How does satellite Internet work?

Satellite Internet operates by sending signals from the user’s device to a satellite in space, which then passes on the data to a ground station connected to the Internet. The ground station retrieves the requested data and sends it back through the satellite to the user’s dish, completing the connection.

This whole process does not require cable, fibre or phone lines. The user just needs a modem and a satellite dish. The modem needs to be connected to that dish to translate the incoming signal into a workable internet connection.

Why are the Starlink deals significant?

Starlink can provide a practical solution for broadband in underserved areas in India, where the traditional ways to deliver the Internet — fibre-optic cables or wireless networks — are scarce or unavailable. It can help bridge the digital divide by bringing high-speed Internet to the remotest corners of the country.

Although India is the world’s second-largest Internet market, more than 670 million of its 1.4 billion people have no access to the Internet, according to a 2024 report by GSMA, a trade body representing mobile network operators worldwide.

After signing the deal with Starlink, Bharti Airtel in a statement said, “By adding Starlink... Airtel will further its ability to offer nationwide connectivity”.

ARJUN SENGUPTA

NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

AHEAD OF Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s two-day visit to Mauritius this week, India affirmed its support for the island country’s claim over the Chagos archipelago.

“We support Mauritius in its stance on its sovereignty over Chagos, and this is obviously keeping with our long-standing position with regard to decolonisation and support for sovereignty and territorial integrity of other countries,” Foreign Secretary Vikram Misra said last week.

Chagos has long been the subject of a dispute between Mauritius and the UK, which held on to these islands for decades after granting independence to Mauritius in 1968.

It was only last year that London officially recognised Mauritius’ sovereign rights over all of Chagos, although it retained control over Diego Garcia, the largest island in the archipelago and home to a strategically important joint UK-US military base.

The deal — which awaits final confirmation from Washington — has its critics not only in the US and the UK, but also in Mauritius, and among native Chagossians.

Chagos & Chagossians

The Chagos archipelago comprises more than 60 low-lying islands in the Indian Ocean roughly 1,600 km to the northeast of the main island of Mauritius.

Chagos has a land area of only 56.1 sq km, with Diego Garcia alone spread over 32.5 sq km — which is about the same as the land area of Lakshadweep.

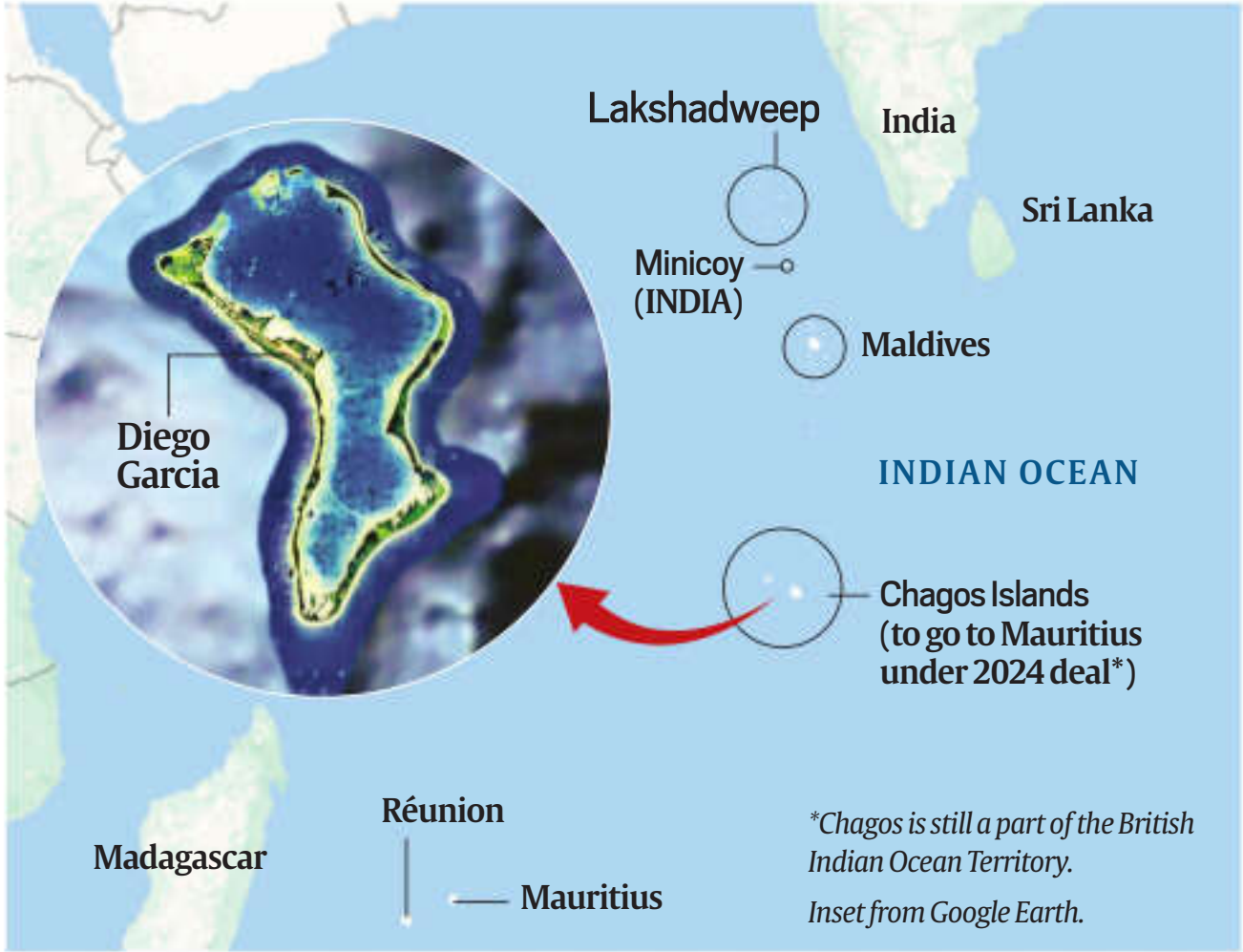
Including the lagoons within its atolls, however, Chagos has a total area of more than 15,000 sq km. The Great Chagos Bank, spread over 12,642 sq km, is the world’s largest atoll structure.

(An atoll is a ring-shaped coral reef, island, or series of islets, which surrounds a body of water called a lagoon.)

Although it finds mention in some Maldivian oral traditions, Chagos was uninhabited for most of its history. The islands are far from any other piece of inhabited land — its closest inhabited neighbour Addu, the southernmost Maldivian atoll, lies 500 km away — and have scant resources to support settled populations.

The Portuguese visited and mapped out Chagos in the 16th century, and used the islands as a stopover in voyages around the Cape of Good Hope to India. But it was only in the 18th century that the first permanent settlements emerged on the islands.

France became the first European power to officially plant its flag on Chagos, when it



claimed the Peros Banhos island in 1744. The French had earlier set up Indian Ocean colonies in Île Bourbon (now Réunion) in 1665, Isle de France (now Mauritius) in 1715, and the Seychelles in 1744.

In 1783, a Mauritius-based plantation-owner named Pierre Marie Le Normand founded a settlement in the previously uninhabited Diego Garcia. He brought 22 slaves from Mauritius to Chagos, who became the islands’ first permanent inhabitants. These slaves likely traced their origins to Madagascar and East Africa, and were put to work in the coconut plantations in the island.

By 1786, a number of fishing settlements and coconut plantations had been established on the islands. The labour for these enterprises was supplied by slaves from Mauritius, the Seychelles, Madagascar, and East Africa.

In 1814, after the fall of the Napoleonic French Empire, France formally ceded Mauritius, including Chagos, and the Seychelles to Great Britain. After Britain abolished slavery in its colonies in 1833, indentured labour from India and Malaya was brought to the plantations.

The Chagossian population today traces its origins to freed African slaves, and the Indian and Malayan labourers who arrived in the 18th and 19th centuries. Under international law, they are the indigenous people of the Chagos archipelago.

BIOT & Diego Garcia base

In the 1950s, the US Navy identified Diego Garcia for establishing a military base in the Indian Ocean. The US initiated secret talks

with the UK in 1960 — this was a time when Britain was fast shedding its once-mighty colonial empire.

After a decades-long struggle for self-determination, Mauritius became independent on March 12, 1968. But Britain kept control of Chagos, which had administratively been under the government in Port Louis for more than a century.

In 1965, the UK had created a new administrative entity — the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) — which included the Chagos islands from Mauritius, and the islands of Aldabra, Farquhar, and Desroches from the Seychelles (these were restored to the Seychelles when the country received its independence in 1976).

The BIOT was meant to provide the British (and by extension their Cold War allies, the Americans) with an overseas base in the Indian Ocean. Mauritius was paid a settlement of 3 million pounds for the detachment of Chagos.

In 1966, the UK and the US signed a secret agreement to establish a military base in Diego Garcia. The agreement included a provision that barred civilians from staying on the islands.

Over the next six-seven years, the Chagossians were expelled from the archipelago. Islanders who had temporarily left Chagos were barred from re-entering, and supplies to the archipelago were steadily curtailed.

In 1971, when the US Navy began to construct the Diego Garcia base, islanders were forcibly deported to Mauritius and the Seychelles. All plantations were shut down

by 1973. The roughly 2,000-strong native population had been fully expelled by then.

The Diego Garcia base became fully operational in 1986, in time to serve as a hub for American air operations in the Gulf War of 1990-91. It also served this purpose in the subsequent American wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Today, it is a crucial British-American outpost from which the two countries project power across Asia and the Indian Ocean, where China has become increasingly assertive.

The 2024 agreement

Mauritius had long claimed sovereignty over the Chagos islands, and raised the “illegal” British occupation at various international fora.

In 2017, the UN General Assembly voted to ask the International Court of Justice to examine the legal status of the archipelago. In 2019, the ICJ concluded that “the UK is under an obligation to bring to an end its administration of the Chagos Archipelago as rapidly as possible”.

The UNGA subsequently adopted a resolution welcoming the ICJ’s ruling, and demanded that the UK “unconditionally withdraw its colonial administration from the area within six months”.

But negotiations between the UK and Mauritius began only in 2022. A deal was struck in October 2024. Britain recognised Mauritius’ claim over all of Chagos, including Diego Garcia — however, the deal said that the UK would, for a 99-year initial period, exercise “the sovereign rights [over Diego Garcia] and authorities of Mauritius are required to ensure the continued operation of the base well into the next century”.

Mauritius could “implement a programme of resettlement on the islands of the Chagos Archipelago, other than Diego Garcia”.

The agreement was hailed as “historic” by the governments of the UK and US. But critics said the two Western powers had effectively “ceded” the control of the islands to China. In recent years, China has built close relations with many island countries in the Indian Ocean, including Mauritius.

The deal was also criticised by the opposition in Mauritius. Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam, who was then the leader of the opposition, said the deal was a “sellout”. He has since proposed modifications to it.

Many Chagossians — living in Mauritius, the Seychelles, and the UK today — complained they had been left out of the negotiations, and had no say in how the UK finance Trust Fund for their re-settlement would be utilised. They recall the alleged mismanagement of funds sent previously by the UK in 1972 and 1982.

Behind ASHA protests in Kerala: Demand for hike in honorariums, other benefits

ANAGHA JAYAKUMAR

NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

CONGRESS MPs from Kerala protested outside Parliament on Tuesday, demanding increased honorariums and retirement benefits for ASHA workers.

Senior leader KC Venugopal said that despite their huge contribution to Kerala’s health sector, most ASHAs earned only Rs 233 per day, which too was not paid regularly.

Health Minister J P Nadda informed Rajya Sabha that the Steering Group of the National Health Mission (NHM) had approved increased incentives for ASHAs, which would come into effect soon.

Protests, blame game

Accredited Social Health Activists, or ASHAs, are community health volunteers serving in rural areas under the NHM.

On February 10, the Kerala ASHA Workers’ Association (KAHWA) began a sit-in protest outside the state secretariat to

press three demands: release of pending dues, increasing the honorarium — the amount paid to ASHA workers — from the current Rs 7,000 to Rs 21,000, and retirement benefits of Rs 5 lakh.

The protesters reiterated the long-standing demand for ASHA workers to be made regular employees.

Kerala’s CPM-led government has accused the Centre of not disbursing Rs 100 crore in health funds due to the state for 2023-24. However, Nadda said on Tuesday that all dues had been cleared, and alleged that Kerala had delayed the process by not furnishing a ‘utilisation certificate’ saying the funds had been used for their intended purpose.

Role of the ASHA

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), which was launched in 2005, mooted ASHAs as a new band of community health functionaries who would work in rural areas alongside the anganwadi workers (AWWs) of the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS).

(NRHM and National Urban Health Mission were subsumed in the NHM, which was launched in 2013.)

“ASHA will be the first port of call for any health-related demands of deprived sections of the population, especially women and children, who find it difficult to access health services,” a policy document introducing the scheme said.

ASHAs are expected to disseminate awareness of good health practices and help marginalised communities utilise available public health services such as district hospitals. They support maternal and child care, enforce immunisation drives, and help with family planning initiatives and disease-based prevention and mitigation programmes.

They also carry out periodic home visits, and keep a record of their progress in diaries. An ASHA is typically a woman resident of the village she serves, between the ages of 25 and 45. Preference is given to married, widowed, and divorced women, and those

who have studied up to Class 10.

They are chosen in a rigorous selection process that involves gram panchayats, anganwadi institutions, community groups, and self-help groups.

The scheme envisaged one ASHA per 1,000 population. According to the most recent ASHA update released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2022-23, there were 9.2 lakh rural ASHAs and around 79,900 urban ASHAs in the country.

The largest numbers of rural ASHA workers were in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh, according to the update.

What the ASHAs earn

When the scheme was framed, ASHAs were imagined as honorary volunteers whose “work would be so tailored that it does not interfere with (their) normal livelihood”.

But this is no longer the case, given their crucial role as the first point of contact for marginalised households seeking health-

care. Many ASHAs are engaged in the profession full-time.

However, the NHM sees ASHAs as volunteers and not employees, which makes them ineligible for earnings beyond task- or activity-based incentives.

All ASHAs are entitled to a monthly incentive of Rs 3,000, which is split between the Centre and the state.

However, Raji K, an ASHA in Kerala, told *The Indian Express* that payment of the monthly incentive was incumbent on their completing specific tasks — and was often not paid in full.

This is because certain schemes, such as the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram that focuses on early childcare, have limited applicability in districts with low child births, Ajitha, an ASHA from Kollam, said.

Kerala ASHAs are entitled to Rs 500 for the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram.

ASHAs also receive an honorarium, which the state or Union Territory concerned pays from its own funds. In Kerala, the monthly honorarium is Rs 7,000.

However, the receipt of this amount depends on the ASHA completing 10 tasks — running a clinic, maintaining the ward report, etc., each valued at Rs 700 — Raji said.

ASHAs also earn task-based incentives under national health schemes, which vary from scheme to scheme and its applicability in a certain ward or area.

Kerala vs other states

While Kerala Health Minister Veena George claimed last week that the honorarium paid by the state was the highest in India, a few other states pay a higher amount.

Sikkim has been paying Rs 10,000 to ASHAs since October 2022. This month, Andhra Pradesh increased the honorarium to Rs 10,000, and also instituted a gratuity of Rs 1.5 lakh for ASHAs who have completed 30 years of service.

In January, Karnataka raised the monthly honorarium from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000, effective from April, after ASHAs in the state began an indefinite strike seeking a fixed monthly honorarium of Rs 15,000.

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
East Wing, 7th Floor, Swarnajayanti Commercial Complex, Ameerpet, Hyderabad-500038.

NIT No: HMDA/DEV/CE/23/2024-25 e-Procurement Tender Notice Dt: 11-03-2025
Tenders are invited on e-procurement from valid Registered Contractors for the following work:
S. No. 1. Name of work: Construction of elevated corridor from Paradise Junction to dairy Farm road (NH-44)
Tendering authority: Chief Engineer, HMDA
Last date for submission pre bid queries: 25.03.2025 up to 05:00 PM.
pre-bid meeting will be held on : 26.03.2025 @ 03:00 PM.
Last date of submission bids online: 15.04.2025 up to 03:00 PM
For further details visit <https://tender.telangana.gov.in> Sd/-
DIPR R.O. No. : 1132-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25 Chief Engineer, HMDA

NORTHERN RAILWAY
(E-AUCTION NOTICE)

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway Delhi Division invites bids through e-Auction through IREPS (<http://ireps.gov.in/>) for the allotment of under mention contracts at following Railway stations/locations:

E-Catalogue No.	Date & Time of bidding	Railway Stations/Locations/Lots
Parking-07-2025	27.03.2025 at 11.00 Hrs	Delhi (1st Entry), Panipat (Gar), Sahibabad, Okhla, Sampla (2nd Entry) = Total 5 Sites
Parking-08-2025	28.03.2025 at 11.00 Hrs	Panipat (1st Entry) (Cycle-Scooter) = Total 1 Site

Website particulars where complete details of E-Auction can be seen <http://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: • Registration on IREPS for E-Auction Leasing module • Active IREPS User Account for E-Auction Leasing Module • Payment of One Time Registration Fee • Current Account in State Bank of India • Integration of SBI Bank Account with IREPS Account • Lien Marking of Funds • Update of Turnover Details • Contractors who do not have IREPS account for any module of IREPS can submit their online request for registration by clicking on New Vendors / Contractors (E-Tender/E-Auction Leasing) link on IREPS Home page.

Railway Authority to contact, in case of any query Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial Branch, State Entry Road, New Delhi 110055. Email: pkg.delhividivision@gmail.com Tel: 011-23743084

No. 23AC/393/E-Auction/Pkg/2025 Dated: 12.03.2025 790/2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University

(Established by Government of Maharashtra and Governed by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, Maharashtra Act No. XXIX of 2014)
www.dbatu.ac.in

Tender Notice No. : DBATU/Store/Various Deptt./2025/87 Date : 07.03.2025
FOLLOWING Tenders are invited by Registrar, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, Lonere.

Tenders Details	Start Date	End Date
Online Mode (available on http://www.mahatenders.gov.in)	10.03.2025	17.03.2025
1. Procurement of Software's for Computational Laboratory.	09.00 am	09.00 pm
Online Mode (available on http://www.mahatenders.gov.in)	10.03.2025	17.03.2025
Tenders in B-1 format for the work at DBATU, Lonere		
1. External Painting work of Gangagiri, Sahyagiri, Dhavalgiri and Malaygiri Hostel.	09.00 am	09.00 pm
2. Construction of store house cum warehouse building for plumbing and main section.		
3. Construction of compound wall with wire fencing for play field.		
4. Providing synthetic treatment for existing basketball court at University main playground.		
5. Resurfacing after repairing, winding and strengthening of existing internal road at Diploma wing premises and Nhave Road at DBATU, Lonere.		
6. Construction work above 2 nd slab level of Diploma wing building for front left side.		
7. Procurement of Software's for Computational Laboratory.		
8. Supplying, Erecting and Terminating 200 KVA Transformer with DP Structure for University Professor Staff Quarters (ABCD Quarters).		

Extension for tender, retender, corrigendum or change in schedule will be published at <http://www.mahatenders.gov.in> for online mode only. Right to reject any or all Tenders without assigning any reason thereof is reserved by the University.

Sd/-
Registrar

Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Limited
(CIN:U40108JH2013SGC001704)
Office of the General Manager, Transmission Zone-VIII, Chaibasa
Chaibasa Bypass Road, P.O.- Chaibasa, Distt.- West Singhbhum, Pin- 833201
E-mail ID:- gmcbsa.tz8@gmail.com

e-TENDER NOTICE

E- Tender is invited in two parts i.e. Technical Part (Part-I) and Price Part (Part-II) from reputed, capable, experienced and financially sound firm / agency / contractor for the following work:-

Sl. No.	NIT No.	Descriptions of Work	Estimated Cost incl. taxes (Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit(Rs.)	Cost of Tender document (Non-refundable) (Rs.)
1	555 /PR/JUSNL/ 2024-25	Outsourcing mandays for operational work of GSS under transmission division, Chaibasa for FY 2025-26 i.e. for 12 months	2,59,98,656.00	5,20,000.00	10,000.00 + 18% GST = 11,800.00
2	556 /PR/JUSNL/ 2024-25	Preventive,periodic and breakdown maintenance Work of 132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station, Chakradharpur for F.Y. 2025-26	23,13,325.00	47,000.00	5,000.00 + 18% GST = 5,900.00
3	557/PR/JUSN L/ 2024-25	Annual Maintenance Work of 132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station Gokilra for F.Y. 2025-26	22,60,196.00	46,000.00	5,000.00 + 18% GST = 5,900.00
4	558/PR/JUSN L/ 2024-25	Annual Maintenance of 132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station Kendposi for the FY 2025-26 (i.e. from 01-04-2025 to 31-03-2026)	24,64,026.00	50,000.00	5,000.00 + 18% GST = 5,900.00
5	559/PR/JUSN L/ 2024-25	Annual Maintenance Work of 132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station Manoharpur for F.Y. 2025-26	24,02,184.00	49,000.00	5,000.00 + 18% GST = 5,900.00
6	560/PR/JUSN L/ 2024-25	Annual Maintenance of 132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station Noamundi for the FY 2025-26 (i.e. from 01-04-2025 to 31-03-2026)	22,93,814.00	46,000.00	5,000.00 + 18% GST = 5,900.00
7	561/PR/JUSN L/ 2024-25	Preventive,periodic and breakdown maintenance Work of 132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station Rajkhasawan for F.Y. 2024-25	26,18,346.00	53,000.00	5,000.00 + 18% GST = 5,900.00
8	562/PR/JUSN L/ 2024-25	Annual Maintenance Work of 132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station Sikurasi(CBSA-II) for F.Y. 2025-26	23,34,745.00	47,000.00	5,000.00 + 18% GST = 5,900.00
9	563/PR/JUSN L/ 2024-25	Annual Maintenance Work of 220/132 KV Grid Sub-Station Ulihar(CBSA-I) for F.Y. 2025-26	32,60,424.00	66,000.00	5,000.00 + 18% GST = 5,900.00
10	564/PR/JUSN L/ 2024-25	Annual Housekeeping work of 132/33 KV- GSS Sikurasi(CBSA-II) for the period from 01.04.2025 to 31.03.2026 for F.Y. 2025-26	12,82,378.00	26,000.00	2,500.00 + 18% GST = 2,950.00
11	565/PR/JUSN L/ 2024-25	Annual Housekeeping work of 220/132/33 KV GSS Ulihar(CBSA-I) for the period from 01.04.2025 to 31.03.2026 for F.Y. 2025-26	17,68,839.00	36,000.00	5,000.00 + 18% GST = 5,900.00
12	566/PR/JUSN L/ 2024-25	Annual Housekeeping work of 132/33 KV GSS Manoharpur for the period from 01.04.2025 to 31.03.2026 for F.Y. 2025-26	12,82,378.00	26,000.00	2,500.00 + 18% GST = 2,950.00
13	567/PR/JUSN L/ 2024-25	Annual Housekeeping work of 132/33 KV GSS Chakradharpur for the period from 01.04.2025 to 31.03.2026 for F.Y. 2025-26	7,95,916.00	16,000.00	1,250.00 + 18% GST = 1,475.00
14	568/PR/JUSN L/ 2024-25	Annual Housekeeping work of 132/33 KV GSS Rajkhasawan for the period from 01.04.2025 to 31.03.2026 for F.Y. 2025-26	15,25,609.00	31,000.00	5,000.00 + 18% GST = 5,900.00
15	569/PR/JUSN L/ 2024-25	Annual Housekeeping work of 132/33 KV GSS Gokilra for the period from 01.04.2025 to 31.03.2026 for F.Y. 2025-26	12,82,378.00	26,000.00	2,500.00 + 18% GST = 2,950.00
16	570/PR/JUSN L/ 2024-25	Annual Housekeeping work of 132/33 KV GSS Kendposi for the period from 01.04.2025 to 31.03.2026 for F.Y. 2025-26	15,25,609.00	31,000.00	5,000.00 + 18% GST = 5,900.00
17	571/PR/JUSN L/ 2024-25	Annual Housekeeping work of 132/33 KV GSS Noamundi for the period from 01.04.2025 to 31.03.2026 for F.Y. 2025-26	10,39,147.00	21,000.00	2,500.00 + 18% GST = 2,950.00

- Notes:-**
- Start date time for download of tender paper : 17/03/2025 at 02:00 PM.
 - Last date and time for upload of tender : 07/04/2025 upto 03:00 PM.
 - Due date and time of opening of part-I : 08/04/2025 at 03:30 PM.
 - e-Tender document and BOQ including terms & conditions, tender specification can be downloaded from website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>. Any details / clarification required in this regard can also be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours. Please contact 9470320759 for any enquiry. **NIC helpline no. 0651-2400178.**
 - The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only.
 - Bidder shall deposit tender fee & EMD as mentioned above through online mode as per rules of e-tendering portal.
 - If there is sudden announcement of holiday by Govt. or Nigam on the date of opening of tender/ last date of submission of bid then the next working day will be considered.
 - No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders. Bidders are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid last minute technical snag.

Sd/-
General Manager,
Transmission Zone-VIII, Chaibasa
PR 348480 Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd(24-25)D

On dated 20/03/2019 a girl named Ishika d/o Sanjay and Durgi admitted in Shishu Greh, Panchkula by the order of Child Welfare Committee, Yamuna Nagar. This girl was rescued on complaint that she was beaten by her father who is permanent resident of Arariya court Bihar and that time living on rented house at Durga Garden, Yamuna Nagar. At the time of rescue aged child was about 6 months old. From last 5-6 years, no parents or relatives have come to meet the child. Therefore, keeping in view best interest of the child, Child Welfare Committee, Yamuna Nagar has decided to put the child in adoption process.

If her parents/guardians want to claim her they can contact within 30 days address mention below with all relevant documents otherwise she shall be legally free for adoption.

District Child Protection Unit, Yamunanagar
30-p, ground floor, sector-17, HUDA, Jagadhri
Yamunanagar 01732-237050, 237060, 1098.
NO. 32769/HRY



Govt. Industrial Training Institute, Sohna
Gurugram-Alwar Road, Opposite Indri Road,
Sohna, Gurugram
Phone No: 0124-2262453
Email id:- sohna.giti@gmail.com

सार्वजनिक नीलामी सूचना

राजकीय औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, सोहना (गुरुग्राम) में नीचे दिए गए विवरण अनुसार स्क्रैप की सार्वजनिक नीलामी दिनांक 24.03.2025 को प्रातः 11.00 बजे राजकीय औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थान, सोहना के प्रांगण में-जैसे हैं, जहाँ है, के आधार पर की जाएगी। इच्छुक पार्टियाँ/वेंडर्स संस्थान में स्क्रैप का निरीक्षण दिनांक 20.03.2025 को प्रातः 11 बजे से दोपहर 3.00 बजे तक संस्थान में आकर कर सकते हैं। बाकी की सभी नियम एवं शर्तें मौके पर बता दी जाएगी।

हस्ता/-
प्रधानाचार्य

No. 32749/HR

राजकीय औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थान
सोहनाथ (गुरुग्राम)

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP/AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	UHBVN	EOI FOR INSTALLATION OF DECENTRALIZED GROUND/STILT MOUNTED GRID CONNECTED SOLAR POWER PLANTS OF CAPACITY 50 KW TO 2 MW WITH AGGREGATE CAPACITY OF 7 MW ON BARREN/UNCULTIVABLE AND AGRICULTURAL LAND FALLING WITHIN A RADIUS OF 5 KM FROM SUBSTATIONS NOTIFIED BY UHBVN UNDER COMPONENTA OF PM KUSUM SCHEME.	CLOSING DATE 27.03.2025	EMD 2 LACS	www.uhbvn.org.in TENDER NO.-EOI-01/CE/Comm/ /2024-25	01722524232 cecommercial@uhbvn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in No. 32774/HRY

भारत सरकार - अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR
श्रीहरिकोटा / नेल्दूर (जिला), आ.प्र. / SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

संक्षिप्त ई-निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

ई-निविदा सूचना सं./ e-Tender Notice No: CMG/C/CON/248742 तिथि/ Date, 11.03.2025

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, "EPC विभाग" (पैकेज-6) पर SSLV प्रमोचन परिसर (SLC), तिरुवेंडूर एवं सतनकुलम तालुक, तमिलनाडु में निम्नलिखित कार्यों के साथ-साथ संबद्ध सिविल, जन स्वास्थ्य, विद्युतीय तथा यांत्रिक कार्यों सहित सहायक सेवाओं / सुविधाओं का निर्माण: (i) जल उपचार संयंत्र तथा 500 Cum स्वदेशी जल जीएलआर, (ii) बाढ़ जल आपूर्ति प्रणाली, (iii) 400 Cum कच्चा जल संग्रहण जीएलआर सह पंप हाउस एवं पंप्स तथा पंपिंग साधन, (iv) बाढ़ अग्निशमन के लिए 400 Cum जीएलआर तथा पंप हाउस" (Rs. 827.00 लाख) के लिए ई-निविदा के माध्यम से मध्य दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दस्तावेज 02/04/2025 को 14:30 बजे तक डाउनलोड किए जा सकते हैं। विस्तृत सूचना हेतु इच्छुक निविदाकार हमारी वेबसाइट www.isro.gov.in या www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO देखें।

On behalf of President of India, online EPC tenders are invited through e-tendering for "Construction of Ancillary services/ facilities with allied Civil, PH, Electrical & Mechanical works, including: (i) Water treatment plant and 500 Cum domestic water GLR, (ii) External water supply system, (iii) 400 Cum raw water collection GLR cum pump house and pumps & pumping mains, (iv) 400 Cum GLR and Pump house for External Firefighting at SSLV Launch complex (SLC), Tiruchendur & Sathankulam Taluqs, Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu on EPC Mode – III (Package-6)" (Rs. 827.00 Lakhs): Tender documents can be downloaded up to 02/04/2025, 14:30 hrs. Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.

हस्ताक्षरित- समूह प्रभान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, एन०आर०ई०पी०, खूँटी

ई. निविदा अन्तर्गत अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण (Two Envelope System) (2nd Call)

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-NREP/KHUNT/F-15/2024-25 दिनांक-11.03.2025

क्र०	योजना का नाम	जिला	प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (लाख में)	कार्य समाप्ति की जगह
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Repair and Renovation of ST School building, additional Hall at 1 st Floor, Gym building, Paver Block in school Campus, Construction of Kitchen Shed and misc. work at ST Residential Girls School, Kundi	Khunti	145.984	0.10	11 माह

नोट-केवल ई-निविदा ही स्वीकार होगा।

- अधिक जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखें।
- वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि-17.03.2025 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे
- ई-निविदा की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय -24.03.2025 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
- ई-निविदा की परिमाण विपत्र एवं अग्रपत्र की राशि ऑनलाईन जमा करने अंतिम तिथि एवं समय-24.03.2025 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक (e-Procurement Portal-jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
- निविदा खोलन (Technical Bid) की तिथि-26.03.2025 को अपराह्न 2:00 बजे।
- निविदा आमंत्रित करनेवाले पदाधिकारी का नाम, पता, दूरभाष सं. एवं ई-मेल आई की-कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, एन०आर०ई०पी०, खूँटी / 9199914370 / email:-divisionnrep@gmail.com
- स्वीकृत प्राक्कलन में उक्त वर्णित कार्यों की मात्रा / राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है। तदनुसार ही अग्रपत्र की राशि जमा (ऑनलाईन जमा करना होगा एवं इस संबंध में कोई दावा मान्य नहीं होगा।

PR.NO.348463 NREP(24-25):D कार्यपालक अभियन्ता, एन०आर०ई०पी०, खूँटी।

CAD-2818

The Odisha State Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
D-2, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007
PH NO. : 0674-2546030, 2540273, 2540417, 2540974
E-mail ID: omfed@yahoo.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

OMFED invites item rate bids in Double cover system in on-line mode system from experienced "B & above" class contractors towards "Design, Construction & Renovation of Civil, Structural, Internal Electrification, landscaping work at Tirfol, Dist. Jagatsinghpur". Interested bidders may download the Tender Document from The OMFED web site www.omfed.com only for reference. Bid document will be available in the online portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> from 10.00 AM of 13/03/2025 to 5.00 PM of 02/04/2025 for bidding. Tender cost of Rs.10000/-+18% GST along with E.M.D. of Rs.1,53,032/- shall be deposited through online portal. The technical Bid shall be opened at 03.00 PM on 03/04/2025 at the OMFED Corporate Office in the presence of the interested bidders. The corrigendum/amendment to this notice if required shall be published only in the OMFED website and will not be published again in newspaper. Management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bid documents or part thereof without assigning any reason.

Sd/-
Managing Director

OIPR- 06603/11/045/2425

CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH e-TENDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

e-bids are invited from the eligible bidders for the following work as per the procedure of CMWSSB under two cover system conforming to the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998 and Rules 2000.

Sl. No.	Name of work and Tender No.	Bid Security	Prebid meeting Date	e-Bid Submission closing Date	e-Bid Opening Date
1.	Design, Build, Operate and Transfer of 47 MLD capacity Water Treatment Plant at Surapet including comprehensive Operation and Maintenance for 10 years. CNT/WSS/NCB/I&A/3659/2024-25	Rs.32.46 Lakhs	26.03.2025 at 11.30 A.M.	16.04.2025 upto 3.00 P.M	17.04.2025 after 3.30 P.M
2.	EMD by online transfer only through tender Portal. The tenderer shall submit scanned copy of online transaction statement towards EMD as part of Tender document.				
3.	Availability of tender documents and e-bid submission is permitted through tender portal / website: www.tntenders.gov.in . For all other details refer tender schedule in the website from 13.03.2025.				

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (CONTRACTS & MONITORING)

DIPR/990/Tender/2025

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice

Sr. DEE/EMU/GZB for and on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work:

Tender Notice No	232-Ele-TW-EMU-WC01-24-25
Name of the work	Overhauling of Cummins Make Diesel Engines Type (N-743L, N-855R, KTA-19R & VTA-1710L) for the period of 03 years.
Tender Cost	NIL
Approximate cost	Rs. 2,57,72,450.35 inclusive of GST
Earnest Money	Rs. 2,78,900.00 (online payment mode available on IREPS website)
Completion period	36 Months
Validity of offer	60 days
Date & Time from tender advertised on IREPS website	12.03.2025 16:34 Hrs.
Date & Time from tender submission start and end	20.03.2025 to 03.04.2025 12:00 Hrs.
Tender closing Date & Time	03.04.2025 12:00 Hrs.
Date & Time of tender Opening (immediately when tender submission ends)	03.04.2025 12:30 Hrs.
Publication cost allocation	07041132

Note: 1. All participant Tenderer/Tenderers will submit their requisite documents along with their tender offer. "No post tender correspondence for submission of additional document shall be entertained after opening of the Technical & Commercial offer. Even suo-moto post tender letters of the tenders shall be treated as null & void". **Note 2:** Duplicate documents should not be enclosed/up loaded. Tender Notice is available on website of www.ireps.gov.in

232-Elect-TW-WC-01-24-25 Date: 12.05.2025 793/2025
Serving Customers With A Smile

REBUILDING OF RCC BOX CULVERT

E-Tender Notice No. SCL-ENGG-27-2025 Dated: 05-03-2025. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:
Brief Description of Item: Rebuilding of RCC box culvert at Br.No. 225 (1X1.83), 227 (1X1.83) AND 398 (2X1.83) by replacing hume pipe under the jurisdiction of ADEN/Agartala (balance work to be done). **Tender Value:** ₹1,13,96,948.46/-
Earnest Money: ₹2,07,000/-. **Date and time of closing of tender: 15.00 hrs. of 01-04-2025 & will be opened at 15.00 hrs. of 02-04-2025.** The complete information with the tender documents of above e-tender will be available **15.00 hrs. of 01-04-2025** in website www.ireps.gov.in

DRM (W), Lumding
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile


ई- निलामी सूचना

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि वित्त वर्ष 2025-2026 लघु सचिवालय, सैक्टर-12, फरीदाबाद के सामने खाली जगह व लघु सचिवालय की दीवार के साथ लगती हुई खाली जगह पर वाहन पार्किंग तथा तहसील कम्पाउंड में स्थित कैन्टीन व फोटोस्टैट बुथो के लिए (01.04.2025 से 31.03.2026 तक) ई-निलामी निविदाये निम्न शर्तों के तहत आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं:-

इस कार्यलय द्वारा वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 (01.04.2025 से 31.03.2026 तक) के लिए लघु सचिवालय, सैक्टर-12, फरीदाबाद में वाहन पार्किंग की रिजर्व कीमत मु० 32,21,460/- रु० तथा कैन्टीन की रिजर्व कीमत मु० 17,75,946/- रु० व लघु सचिवालय, सैक्टर 12 फरीदाबाद परिसर में स्थापित बुथों को उनके संख्या, श्रेणी व रिजर्व कीमत को तालिका 01 में दर्शाया गया है। कोई भी इच्छुक व्यक्ति अपना ई-निलामी करना चाहता है तो अंकित रिजर्व प्राइज से ऊपर निविदा लगा सकता है तथा वाहन पार्किंग के लिए 1,75,000/- (एक लाख पच्चीस हजार रु०) व कैन्टीन के लिए 1,25,000/- (एक लाख पच्चीस हजार रु०) तथा फोटोस्टैट बुथो के लिए मु० 15,000/-रु० (पन्द्रह हजार रु०) प्रति बूथ बतौर जमानत राशि ई-निलामी के लिए डिमान्ड ड्राफ्ट के रूप में जिला नजारात शाखा में जमा करने होंगे।

तालिका -01

बूथ न०	श्रेणी	2025-26 के लिए रिजर्व बोली की राशि
1	विकलांग	321150
2	विकलांग	277444
3	विधवा	213683
4	विकलांग	261932
5	विधवा	23



उपग्रह राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
ए-1/4, लखनऊ, कानपुर

कार्यालय प्रधान महाप्रबंधक

उपग्रह राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
ए-1/4, लखनऊ, कानपुर

ई-निविदा सूचना

एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है, कि निम्नलिखित आवाजों के अंतर्गत विकास/अनुसूच/उत्पत्तीकरण कार्यो हेतु सरकारी विभाग/सहजोजिक उद्यमों/निम्न/प्रधान/प्रधान/परिचर/नगर निकायो में पोजीतु कमी/वेकेंडाओ के निम्नलिखित आमंत्रित की जाते है, जिसको अप्रवर्तन करके की सम्मतीसी सम्पन्न होवे ।

1. क्रम सं० 1 से 4 पर अवति निविदा दिनांक 17.03.2025 को पूर्वाह्न 11.00 बजे से दिनांक 07.04.2025 को अपराह्न 5.00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती है, जिन्हें दिनांक 08.04.2025 को पूर्वान्ह 11.00 बजे खोला जायेगा (पूर्वोक्तित)

निविदाधारको हतर कलम सम्पन्नको की पूरा प्रतीति निविदा खोलने की तिथि से दो कार्यदिनस के अन्दर कार्यदिन में समा की जा सकती है - ई-निविदा के मध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाने वाली निविदाओ का विवरण निम्नानुस है:-

क्रमक	कार्य का नाम	कॉपी कलम सं/क्रम
1	Selection of Contractor to implement Integrated Solid Waste Management Services pertaining to Door-to-Door Collection & Transportation, Disposal of Waste to nearest ULB's processing units in an Environmentally Compliant manner allthrough Roshan Sweeping, Drain Cleaning & Green Area cleaning (Horticulture Waste) on O/M basis of UPSIDA I.A. Sahababad Site-4, Ghaziabad on QCBS basis for a Minimum period of 03 Years and thereafter can be extended for 2 Years (1 Year at a time on mutual agreement basis)	523.61
2	Selection of Contractor to implement Integrated Solid Waste Management Services pertaining to Door-to-Door Collection & Transportation, Disposal of Waste to nearest ULB's processing units in an Environmentally Compliant manner allthrough Roshan Sweeping, Drain Cleaning & Green Area cleaning (Horticulture Waste) on O/M basis of UPSIDA I.A. Partapur & Jydhog Puram Meent on QCBS basis for a Minimum period of 03 Years and thereafter can be extended for 2 Years (1 Year at a time on mutual agreement basis)	98.10
3	Selection of Contractor to implement Integrated Solid Waste Management Services pertaining to Door-to-Door Collection & Transportation, Disposal of Waste to nearest ULB's processing units in an Environmentally Compliant manner allthrough Roshan Sweeping, Drain Cleaning & Green Area cleaning (Horticulture Waste) on O/M basis of UPSIDA I.A. Kan Nagar, Ghaziabad on QCBS basis for a Minimum period of 03 Years and thereafter can be extended for 2 Years Year at a time on mutual agreement basis)	115.79
4	Dislting of Drains at I.A. Site-4 Sahababad, Distt. Ghaziabad	253.47

नोट:- निविदाधारता अपनी निविदाओ में समस्त कर सहित दे आंकित करें । जोएतपछीअव से देते होगा । निविदा सम्मती विरतु जातकाली प्रचलितकी की [website: www.onlineupsida.com](http://www.onlineupsida.com) पर होवे । निविदा के निविदाओ की [website: http://letterup.in](http://www.letterup.in) पर देखी जा सकती है । अन्य जानकारी हेतु कार्यालय के प्रबंधक (सिनिटर) के मोबाइल नं० 8791905792पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है ।

प्रधान महाप्रबंधक, उपग्रह राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण


Branch Name/Name & Address of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Brief Description of Property/ies	Total Liabilities as on specified Date	Reserve Price (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (in EMD) (in Rs.)	Details of A/c No.	
					IFSC CODE	Possession notice
ARMB, Novelty Road, Karnal branch, Authorised officer :- Mr. Ranjeet Kumar, (M) 85728-16290, Mail ID: cb6290@canarabank.com	Property-1) Land measuring 8K comprised in Khewat 127/195 Khatoni No. 150 Rect 13 Killa No. 7(8-0) situated in village Radhana Dist Jind in the name of Sh. Rakesh Chahal S/o Sh. Hazoor Singh	Total liabilities as per demand notice dated 01.03.2014. Rs. 3,54,79,856.00	(Property No. 1) Rs. 1,86,00,000 (Property No. 2) Rs. 83,00,000	(Property No. 1) Rs. 18,60,000 (Property No. 2) Rs. 8,30,000	209272434 CNRB0006290	Property No. 1 To 2 Symbolic Possession
1. M/s Chahal Breeding Farm Address :- Village Radhana Dist Jind, 126102. 2. Sh. Rakesh Chahal S/o Sh. Hazoor Singh Address :- Village Radhana Dist Jind, 126102. 3. Sh. Sandeep Chahal S/o Sh. Hazoor Singh Address :- House No. 2106, Sector 21 Urban Estate, Jind, 126102.	& Land measuring 18 K comprised in Khewat No. 391/312 Khatoni No. 451 Rect No. 13 Killa No. 2/2(5-0), 3(8-0), 91/1(5-0) situated in village Radhana Dist Jind in the name of Sh. Rakesh Chahal S/o Sh. Hazoor Singh.	plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery, if any)				
ARMB, Novelty Road, Karnal branch, Authorised officer :- Mr. Ranjeet Kumar, (M) 85728-16290, Mail ID: cb6290@canarabank.com	Property-2) Land measuring 26K-8M comprised in Khewat No. 190, Khatoni No. 219, Rect No. 104, Killa No. 16(8-0), 25/1min northern side (6-11), Rect No. 103 Killa No. 20(8-0), 19/2(3-17) situated in village Radhana Dist Jind in the name of Sh. Rakesh Chahal S/o Sh. Hazoor Singh.	Total liabilities as per demand notice dated 01.12.2011, Rs. 102,611,000 plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery, if any)	Rs. 38,70,000/-	Rs. 3,87,000/-	209272434 CNRB0006290	Symbolic Possession
1. M/s Chahal Dairy Farm Address :- VPO Bhongra Tehsil Narwana Distt Jind, 126115. 2. Sh. Rajender Chahal S/o Sh. Singh Address :- Village Bhabalpur Tehsil & Distt Jind, 126102.	52/23/2, 24/1/1-25min etc situated at village Bhogra, Tehsil Narwana, Distt Jind in the name of Sh. Rajinder Singh Chahal S/o Sh. Kanwar Singh					
ARMB, Novelty Road, Karnal branch, Authorised officer :- Mr. Ranjeet Kumar, (M) 85728-16290, Mail ID: cb6290@canarabank.com	Land and building measuring 29 kanal 15 marla situated in village Kheri Safa, Sub Tehsil Uchana Tehsil Narwana, Dist Jind in the name of Shri Ashok Kumar S/o Shri Pritam Singh, as per jamabandi fol for the year of 2002-03.	Total liabilities as per demand notice dated 29.04.2013, Rs. 1,57,98,035.50 plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery, if any)	Rs. 90,00,000/-	Rs. 9,00,000/-	209272434 CNRB0006290	Symbolic Possession
M/s Divyam Poultry Address :- Village Kheri Safa, Sub Tehsil Uchana Distt Jind, 126115. Sh. Suresh Kumari W/o Ashok Kumar Address :- Village Kheri Safa, Sub Tehsil Uchana Distt Jind, 126115.	126115. Sh. Ashok Kumar S/o Shri Pritam Singh Address :- Village Kheri Safa, Sub Tehsil Uchana Distt Jind, 126115.					
ARMB, Novelty Road, Karnal branch, Authorised officer :- Mr. Ranjeet Kumar, (M) 85728-16290, Mail ID: cb6290@canarabank.com	SMD of land of 12K-7M in Khewat No. 23 Khata No 23 Rect No. 98 Killa No. 81/2(00), Rect No. 98 Killa No.	Total liabilities as per demand notice dated 29.09.2015, Rs. 68,01,947.00 plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery, if any)	Rs. 66,50,000/-	Rs. 6,65,000/-	209272434 CNRB0006290	Symbolic Possession
M/s Hari Chand Dairy Farm Address :- Village Kalwa Tehsil Pillukhera Distt Jind, 126113. Smt. Krishna Devi W/o Hari Chand Address :- Village Kalwa Tehsil Pillukhera Distt Jind, 126113. Sh. Baljeet S/o Hari Chand Address :- Village Kalwa Tehsil Pillukhera Distt Jind, 126113.	8/2(2-0), Rect No. 98 Killa No. 13/21/2/2(2-12), Khewat No. 52 Khata No. 78 Rect No. 98 Killa No. 15/2(1 min(1-11), Khewat No. 54 Khatoni No. 84 murba No. 98 Killa No. 15/2(0-7), rect No. 98 Killa No. 15/2(5(1-0), khewat no. 277 khata no 409 rect No. 98 Killa No. 7/21(1-6), khewat no 343 khata no 516, rect no 98, killa no 7/1min(0-17)(0-14) situated at Village Kalwa Dist Jind					
ARMB, Novelty Road, Karnal branch, Authorised officer :- Mr. Ranjeet Kumar, (M) 85728-16290, Mail ID: cb6290@canarabank.com	All part and parcel of Land and Building (Poultry Farm) constructed on land measuring 55K-11Mi.e.	Total liabilities as per demand notice dated 01.03.2019, Rs. 1,73,71,949.98 plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery, if any)	Rs. 5,27,94,000/-	Rs. 52,79,400/-	209272434 CNRB0006290	Symbolic Possession
M/s Ravinder Poultry Farm Address :- VPO Kutail Tehsil & Distt Karnal Haryana, 132037 Sh. Ravinder Kumar alias Ravinder Singh S/o Sh. Ram Chander Address :- VPO Kutail Tehsil & Distt Karnal Haryana, 132037 Sh. Jagbir Singh Kalyan S/o Sh. Ram Chander Address :- VPO Kutail Tehsil & Distt Karnal Haryana, 132037 Sh. Rajiv Goel S/o Sh. Darshan Lal Address :- H No. 1495 Sector 7, Urban Estate Karnal, Haryana, 132001	1. Land measuring 33K-7M comprised in khewat no 86, khatoni no 91m Rect No. 166, Killa No. 6(8-0), 15(8-0), 16(8-0), 17/2(2-18), khatoni no. 92 Rect No. 135 Killa No 18/2(6-9) Killa 5 2. Land measuring 22K-4M being 222/1199 share of 119K-18M comprised in khewat no 146, khatoni no 189, 190, 191, 192, 193 Kittas 20. Vide jamabandi for the year 2006-07 situated at Village Kutail Tehsil & District Karnal Haryana in the name of Sh. Ravinder Kumar alias Ravinder Singh S/o Sh. Ram Chander.					
ARMB, Novelty Road, Karnal branch, Authorised officer :- Mr. Ranjeet Kumar, (M) 85728-16290, Mail ID: cb6290@canarabank.com	Property-1) Factory complex at Land measuring 16K-8M being 328/2125 share of land area measuring 106K-5M comprised in Khewat no 58, khatoni no 81, Rect No 47, Killa no 4(8-0), 6/2(1-12), 7(7-8)	Total liabilities as per demand notice dated 01.07.2016. Rs.16,96,90,526.32/-	(Property No. 1) Rs 1,68,00,000/- (Property No. 2) Rs. 23,80,000/-	(Property No. 1) Rs 16,80,000/- (Property No. 2) Rs. 2,38,000/-	209272434 CNRB0006290	Property No. 1 To 2 Symbolic Possession
1. M/s Hamilap Agro Industries Pvt Ltd (Borrower) Address 1 :- Village - Guldhera ,Pehowa,Kurukshetra, Haryana -136128 Address 2 :- H.No - 3119, Sector 19D, Chandigarh - 160019 2. Sh. Hari Narayan S/o Sh. Madan Lal (Director & Guarantor) Address :H.No-604/3, Tilak Nagar, Ambala	8) situated at village Guldhera, Tehsil- Pehowa, Distt- Kurukshetra, Haryana and Land measuring 22K-08M comprised in Khewat no 187, khatoni no. 341, Rect.No.46, Killa no 1(8-0), 10(8-0), Rect no.47, Killa No.6/1(6-8), situated at village Guldhera, Tehsil- Pehowa, Distt- Kurukshetra, Haryana. Property-2) Plant & Machineries at Rice Mill mentioned at Sr No-1 (In Scrap Condition). Note : Secured assets mentioned above at Sr No 1 & 2 to be sold jointly in a single lot.	plus further interest & other charges (minus recovery, if any)				
Road, Pehowa Distt - Kurukshetra, Haryana - 136128 3. Sh. Mukesh Kumar S/o Sh. Madan Lal (Director & Guarantor) Address :- H.No-605/3, Tilak Nagar, Ambala Road, Pehowa Distt - Kurukshetra, Haryana - 136128 4. Sh. Madan Lal Dua S/o Sh. Jiwan Das(Director & Guarantor) Address :- H.No-602/3, Tilak Nagar, Ambala Road, Pehowa Distt - Kurukshetra, Haryana - 136128.						

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION/CAUTION

Bidding in the last minutes/seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither Canara Bank nor the Service Provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of the bidder or vendor in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation, bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements/alternatives such as back-up, power supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully.

STATUTORY 15/30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Date :- 13.03.2025 Place: Kanak Authorised Officer, Canara Bank



बिहार सरकार

जल संसाधन विभाग

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

बाढ़ नियंत्रण एवं जल निस्सरण,

प्रमंडल, किशनगंज

शुद्धि पत्र-3

पत्रांक :-219 किशनगंज

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक-93 दिनांक-31.01.2025 द्वारा आमंत्रित ई-निविदा अल्पकालीन आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-02SBD/2024-25 सूचना एवं जन सर्म्पक के पी0आर0 नम्बर-018744(WRD) 2024-25 जो विभिन्न समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित हुआ था, को अपरिहार्य कारणवश निम्न संशोधित किया जाता है :-

कार्य का नाम :-रमजान नदी का डिजिटलेशन, चैनैलाइजेशन एवं सौंदर्यीकरण का कार्य। (एजेण्डा संख्या-224 / 11 / 2025)


क्रमांक	विषय वस्तु	पूर्व की शर्तें	संशोधित शर्तें
1	निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की अवधि	दिनांक 07.03.2025 से 13.03.2025, 3.30PM अपराह्न तक। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर।)	दिनांक 07.03.2025 से 17.03.2025, 3.30PM अपराह्न तक। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर।)
2	प्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान	दिनांक 10.03.2025, 3.00PM बजे अपराह्न में मुख्य अभियंता, बाढ़ नियंत्रण एवं जल निस्सरण, जल संसाधन विभाग, कटिहार कैम्प पूर्णियाँ के कार्यालय कक्ष में।	दिनांक 10.03.2025, 3.00 PM बजे अपराह्न में मुख्य अभियंता, बाढ़ नियंत्रण एवं जल निस्सरण, जल संसाधन विभाग, कटिहार कैम्प पूर्णियाँ के कार्यालय कक्ष में।
3	तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 17.03.2025, 3.30 PM अपराह्नतक। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर।)	दिनांक 18.03.2025, 3.30 PM अपराह्न तक। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर।)

शेष सभी शर्तें यथावत् रहेगी।

कार्यपालक अभियंता, बाढ़ नियंत्रण एवं जल निस्सरण, प्रमंडल, किशनगंज फ़ोन-7463889229

PR. No. 21497 (WRD) 2024-25

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



बिहार सरकार

भवन निर्माण विभाग

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

संरचना प्रमण्डल संख्या-3 भवन निर्माण विभाग, पटना

शुद्धि पत्र

एतद द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय के झापांक-60 अंनु0 दिनांक 29.01.2025 के द्वारा निर्गत (SBD) ई-निविदा संख्या 01, Cons-3/2024-25 जिसका पी0आर0 संख्या-18494 (B.C.D.) वर्ष 2024-25 है जो दैनिक समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित हुआ है निर्गत ई-निविदा शुद्धि पत्र में निम्नलिखित आंशिक संशोधन किया जाता है जो इस प्रकार है:-

कार्य का नाम:- बिहार विधान सभा, पटना में संग्रहालय का निर्माण कार्य।


क्रमांक	विवरण	पूर्व में निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय	नया संशोधित तिथि एवं समय
1	प्री बीड मीटिंग की तिथि समय एवं स्थान	1. दिनांक 27.02.2025 अर्धरात्रि अभियंता, संरचना अंचल, भवन निर्माण विभाग पटना के कार्यालय कक्ष में 16.00 बजे। 2. दिनांक 04.03.2025 मध्य अर्धरात्रि (पटना) भवन निर्माण विभाग, पटना के कार्यालय कक्ष में 16.00 बजे।	1. दिनांक 03.04.2025 अर्धरात्रि अभियंता, संरचना अंचल, भवन निर्माण विभाग पटना के कार्यालय कक्ष में 16.00 बजे। 2. दिनांक 09.04.2025 मध्य अर्धरात्रि (पटना) भवन निर्माण विभाग, पटना के कार्यालय कक्ष में 16.00 बजे।
2	परिमाण विवरण विंडो (हाउसलैड) की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 17.02.2025 से दिनांक 11.03.2025 को अपराह्न 15.00 बजे तक	दिनांक 15.04.2025 को अपराह्न 15.00 बजे तक
3	निविदा प्राप्ति (अपलोड) करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 12.03.2025 को 15.00 बजे तक	दिनांक 16.04.2025 को 15.00 बजे तक
4	निवेदा (तकनीकी बीड) खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 13.03.2025 को 15.30 बजे तक	दिनांक 17.04.2025 को 15.30 बजे तक
5	निविदा (वित्तीय बीड) खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	विभागीय निविदा समीति द्वारा तकनीकी बीड के निष्पादन के उपरांत	विभागीय निविदा समीति द्वारा तकनीकी बीड के निष्पादन के उपरांत

शेष शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेगी।

कार्यपालक अभियंता संरचना प्रमंडल संख्या-03, भवन निर्माण विभाग, पटना

PR. No. 21468 (BCD) 2024-25

नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।



बिहार सरकार

जल संसाधन विभाग

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, बनमनखी (पूर्णियाँ)

अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या - 04/2024-25

(केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

1.कार्य का विवरण -

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख रु0 में)	अग्रपुन की राशि (रु0 में) (ऑन लाईन अग्रपुन फिजिकल बीड में मुद्रितरु0 में)	परिमाण-विषय का मुख्य (अग्रपुनर्णीय) (रुपया) (केवल ऑन लाईन मोड में मुद्रितरु0 में)	बेल्डौन को देय बिड प्रोसेसिंग की (अग्रपुनर्णीय) (केवल ऑन लाईन मोड में मुद्रितरु0 में)	कार्यावधि
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
01.	प्रकम्भा कितली के कि0 मी0 07.62 से कि0 मी0 13.71 तक बाढ़ सफाई चमदाहा कितली के कि0 मी0 32.91 पर स्थित CR एवं खेप रेगुलेटर के नम्माति एवं कि0 मी0 36.27 पर CD का पुनर्निर्माण कार्य।	43.11	0.86300	5,000.00	590.00	15.06.2025

2. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता : कार्यपालक अभियंता, सिंचाई प्रमंडल, बनमनखी (पूर्णियाँ)।

3. निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि : दिनांक - 10.03.2025

4. निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की अवधि : दिनांक 21.03.2025 से दिनांक 29.03.2025 के 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.cproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

5. तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 30.03.2025 समय 3.30 बजे अपराह्न। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

6. वित्तीय बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 30.03.2025 समय 3.30 बजे अपराह्न। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)


7. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर।

8. निविदा की वैधता अवधि : 120 दिन।

9. विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in एवं state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर देखा जा सकता है। (ई0 प्रकाश कुमार) कार्यपालक अभियंता, सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, बनमनखी (पूर्णियाँ)

PR- 021573 (WRD) 2024-25

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



बिहार सरकार

जल संसाधन विभाग

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

सिंचाई प्रमंडल, मुस्लीगंज

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या - 02SBD/2024-25

(राष्ट्रीय/राजकीय स्पर्धा)

(केवल ई- निविदा पद्धति के अनुसार www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

01. कार्य का विवरण :-

02. विज्ञापन दाता का नाम एवं पता :-

कार्यपालक अभियंता, सिंचाई प्रमंडल, मुस्लीगंज, जिला-मुस्लीगंज (बिहार), पिन-852122
Email id -eeiridivmurliganj@gmail.com
मोबाईल नं0 -7463889208

03. निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि :- दिनांक-10.03.2025

04. निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड/अपलोड करने की अवधि :- दिनांक-07.04.2025 से 15.04.2025 के अपराह्न 3 बजे तक। केवल वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर।

05. प्री-बीड मीटिंग का समय, स्थान एवं तिथि :- दिनांक-09.04.2025 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 AM बजे से मुख्य अभियंता, सिंचाई सृजन, जल संसाधन विभाग, सहसराय के कार्यालय में।

06. तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक-15.04.2025 के अपराह्न 3.30 PM बजे केवल वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर।

07. वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- सक्षम पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में घोषित की जायेगी। www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर घोषित की जायेगी। केवल वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर।

08. निविदा खोलने का स्थान :-

09. निविदा की वैधता की अवधि :- 120 दिन।

गुप सं0	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख रु0 में)	अग्रपुन की राशि (रु0 में) (ऑन लाईन अग्रपुन फिजिकल बीड में मुद्रितरु0 में)	परिमाण-विषय का मुख्य (अग्रपुनर्णीय) (रुपया) (केवल ऑन लाईन मोड में मुद्रितरु0 में)	बेल्डौन को देय बिड प्रोसेसिंग की (अग्रपुनर्णीय) (केवल ऑन लाईन मोड में मुद्रितरु0 में)	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	जानकीनगर शाखा नहर के कि0 मी0 77.20 (आर0 डी0 253.20) पर हाकिमस्त सी0 डी0 संरचना सह एक पथीय सेतु का पुर्ननिर्माण कार्य।	490.76	9,81,600.00	10000.00	5900.00	20.06.2026


विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाइट <https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता, सिंचाई प्रमंडल,मुस्लीगंज (मधेपुरा)

PR. No. 021607 (WRD) 2024-25

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

रक्त की आवश्यकता पड़ने पर लाईसेंस प्राप्त ब्लड बैंकों से ही रक्त प्राप्त करें।



बिहार सरकार

जल संसाधन विभाग

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

जल निस्सरण प्रमंडल, मुजफ्फरपुर

अल्पकालीन पुर्ननिविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या - 06 /2024-25

(केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> पर)

पत्रांक 288 मुजफ्फरपुर दिनांक 08.03.2025

1. कार्य का विवरण:-

गुप सं0	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रपुन की राशि (रु0 में) (ऑन लाईन अग्रपुन फिजिकलबीड में मुद्रितरु0 में)	परिमाण-विषय का मुख्य (अग्रपुनर्णीय) (रुपया) (केवल ऑन लाईन मोड में मुद्रितरु0 में)	बेल्डौन को देय बिड प्रोसेसिंग की (अग्रपुनर्णीय) (केवल ऑन लाईन मोड में मुद्रितरु0 में)	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि
1	AE work at Benibad Right Bank of Bagmati river under gaighat block, Muzaffarpur. (Agenda no.220/92/2025)	122.85	245800	10000	3540	15.05.2025
2	AE work at Jaganiya, Left Bank of Bagmati river under Gaighat block, Muzaffarpur. (Agenda no.220/100/2025)	64.57	129200	10000	590	15.05.2025

2. निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि : दिनांक 08.03.2025

3. निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड : दिनांक: 18.03.2025 10:30 बजे पूर्वाह्न से दिनांक- 21.03.2025 के 03:00 बजे अपराह्न तक की अवधि (सिर्फ वेबसाइट <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> पर)

4. प्री-बिड मीटिंग का तिथि एवं समय, स्थान : दिनांक: 20.03.2025, 03:00 बजे अपराह्न में, मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, बाढ़ नियंत्रण एवं जल निस्सरण, जल संसाधन विभाग, मुजफ्फरपुर।

5. तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 24.03.2025, समय 03:30 बजे अपराह्न। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> पर)

6. वित्तीय बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : सक्षम पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में घोषित की जायेगी (सिर्फ वेबसाइट <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> पर)

7. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : सिर्फ वेबसाइट <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> पर

8. निविदा की वैधता अवधि : 120 दिन (निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि से)

9. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता : कार्यपालक अभियंता, जल निस्सरण प्रमंडल, मुजफ्फरपुर


10. विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाइट <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> एवं वेबसाइट <https://wrdbihar.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता जल निस्सरण प्रमंडल, मुजफ्फरपुर

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

PR. No. 21489 (WRD) 2024-25

नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।



बिहार सरकार

जल संसाधन विभाग

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमंडल -2,खगड़िया।

अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या - 07 /2024-25

(केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

पत्रांक- 307 /खगड़िया दिनांक-07.03.2025

1. कार्य का विवरण -

गुप सं0	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रपुन की राशि (रु0 में) (ऑन लाईन अग्रपुन फिजिकल बीड में मुद्रितरु0 में)	परिमाण-विषय का मुख्य (अग्रपुनर्णीय) (रुपया) (केवल ऑन लाईन मोड में मुद्रितरु0 में)	बेल्डौन को देय बिड प्रोसेसिंग की (अग्रपुनर्णीय) (केवल ऑन लाईन मोड में मुद्रितरु0 में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
01	Anti Erosion work in Madhura village in front of km.35.24 of K.B Embankment. (Agenda no. 220/329/2025	56.35	112700.00	10000.00	3540.00	15.05.2025
02	Anti Erosion work Near Agrahan village in front of KM.10.00 of B.N Embankment. (Agenda no. 220/333/2025	86.70	173400.00	10000.00	3540.00	15.05.2025
03	Anti Erosion work at Bangalia village in front of B.N Embankment KM.4.00 across the river. (Agenda no. 220/338/2025	80.41	160820.00	10000.00	3540.00	15.05.2025

2. निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि : दिनांक -07.03.2025 12:02

3. निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक-17.03-2025 को 10:30 बजे पूर्वाह्न से दिनांक-21-03-2025 के 03:30 बजे अपराह्न तक की अवधि। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

4. प्री-बीड मीटिंग का समय, स्थान एवं तिथि : दिनांक-18.03-2025 के 03:00 बजे अपराह्न में, मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, बाढ़ नियंत्रण एवं जल निस्सरण, जल संसाधन विभाग, समस्तीपुर।

5. तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक-21.03-2025 समय 3:30 बजे अपराह्न। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

6. वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : सक्षम पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में घोषित की जायेगी। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

7. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर

8. निविदा की वैधता अवधि : 120 दिन (निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि से)


9. विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता : कार्यपालक अभियंता, बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमंडल - 2, खगड़िया। मो 0- 74638899815

10. विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु वेबसाइट- www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in एवं www.pnd.bihar.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

ई.मनीष कुमार कार्यपालक अभियंता बाढ़ नियंत्रण प्रमंडल- 2, खगड़िया।

PR. No. 21486 (WRD) 2024-25

नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।



Bihar State Mining Corporation Ltd.

(Government of Bihar Undertaking)

Room No.164, Vikas Bhawan (New Secretariat), Bailey Road, Patna-800015

CIN:- U103008R2017SGC035811, Email: bih.minescorp@gmail.com

Ref.No: 08/2024-25 Website: www.bsmlcl.in

Notice Inviting Tender

Notice inviting tender for engagement of a firm of Chartered Accountants for providing support services for revenue matters, accounting support services and other services of statutory compliances of Bihar State Mining Corporation Ltd, Patna.

Sr.No.	Information	Details
1.	Name of the Organization	Bihar State Mining Corporation Limited
2.	Name of the Assignment	Support services for revenue matters, accounting support services and other services of statutory compliances.
3.	Tender Processing Fee/Cost (Non-Refundable)	INR1180/- (inclusive of GST) (Rupees One thousand one hundred eighty only) payable online through e - payment mode i.e. NEFT/RTGS/Credit Card/Debit Card on https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in site.
4	Earnest Money Deposit	INR 10,000/- (Rupees ten thousand only) in the form of Demand Draft in favour of 'Bihar State Mining Corporation Limited' payable at Patna.
5.	Date of issue of tender document	13-03-2025
6.	Last date of receipt of queries of bidders	17-03-2025
7.	Date of issue of clarification	20-03-2025
8.	Last Date of submission of bid	02-04-2025
9.	Place, Time and Date of opening of Technical Bid	03-04-2025
10.	Place, Time and Date of opening of Financial Bid	To be communicated to technically successful Bidders
11.	Contact person for queries	General Manager Bihar State Mining Corporation Limited email: bih.minescorp@gmail.com
12.	Addressee and address at which proposal in hard copy in response to RFP notice is to be submitted	General Manager Bihar State Mining Corporation Limited, Vikas Bhawan (New Secretariat), Bailey Road, Patna - 800015

Bidders having MSME Certificate are exempted from submission of EMD in the light of Government of India Memo No. F.9/1/2020, dated 02/11/2020. Corrigendum / Addendum, if any, will be published on the website of the Corporation www.bsmlcl.in / <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> itself. The RFP Document containing eligibility criteria, the extent and scope of work, terms and conditions, annexures etc. are available at www.bsmlcl.in / <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> and can be downloaded accordingly from 13-03-2025 and onwards.


For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar General Manager BSMCLtd, Patna

PR- 021778 (Mines & Geo) 2024-25

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

"IMPORTANT"

Whilst care is taken prior to 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.



EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

SCHEDULE OF ADDITIONAL E-AUCTION NOTICE (SCRAP SALE)

Schedule E-Auction time from 10 AM to 05 PM

Month	Division	Date	Mobile
MARCH 2025	Samastipur	21.03.2025 (Friday) & 25.03.2025 (Tuesday)	9771428770

(a) Bidders are advised to inspect the scrap lot before submission of bid. They are allowed to inspect the lot, on an authority from the concerned officer of Railway Administration, at the site of lot mentioned in the auction catalogue on any working day (except Sunday).

(b) The complete details of materials and terms and conditions will be as per Auction Catalogue, which shall be available with the respective auction conducting authority of East Central Railway or from our website : www.ireps.gov.in prior to the date of auction. PR/02293/HQ/Store/N/24-25/32 Principal Chief Material Manager/G/ECR/Hajipur

GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE

PHQ, ITANAGAR

NO.PHQ/RSC/93/BE/2024-25 Dated, Itanagar, the 11th March 2025


Tender Notice

1. On behalf of the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Director General of Police, Arunachal Pradesh Itanagar invites sealed tenders under 2(two) Bid system (Technical & Financial Bid) from the manufacturers/ authorized dealers/agents/suppliers of reputed/ registered firms of Arunachal Pradesh in view of Govt. policy of Vocal for Local for entering into contract for supply & installation of Adaptive traffic control system (ATCS) along with required equipments at various locations in ICR for Traffic & Road Safety purpose in Arunachal Pradesh for the year 2024-25. The sealed tender will be received up to 1030 hrs on 19/03/2025 due to paucity of time for implementation of the scheme. This tender will be opened on the same day at 1130 hrs on 19/03/2025. The tenderers or their representative may remain present themselves at the time of opening of tender.

2. The tender papers containing full details with specifications and terms and conditions may also be downloaded from our website www.arunpol.nic.in. The tender fee @ Rs.1000/- (Rupees one thousand) only (non-refundable) through a bank draft payable at SBI Itanagar in favour of the SP (Road Safety & Traffic) PHQ, Itanagar Arunachal Pradesh be deposited & copy be attached. No other mode of payment will be accepted. The firms registered under MSME are exempted from earnest money deposit. The tenderer must submit copy of registration certificate of MSME & incomplete tenders are liable to be rejected.

Sd/-
Director General of Police
Arunachal Pradesh
PHQ, Itanagar.

DIPR/ARN/0020



बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

REGIONAL OFFICE:

Bank of Baroda, First Floor, Diamond Complex, Dilli More, Darbhanga-846004 Cont. No. 8969513429

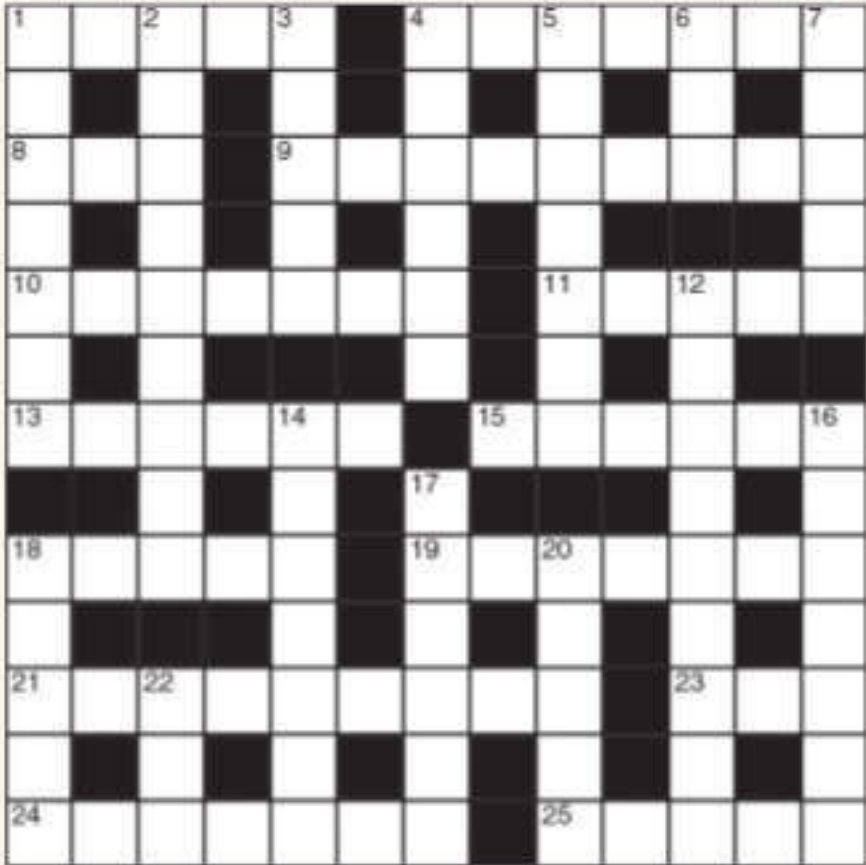
Website: www.bankofbaroda.com

SALE NOTICE (AUCTION OF PLEDGED GOLD ITEMS)

The under mentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in the loan accounts. Notices sent to them by Registered Post have been served. They are therefore requested to pay off the liability and other charges and redeem the pledged securities, failing which the said securities will be sold by the Bank in public auction at the cost of the borrower at the Bank's premises (Details of each Branch mentioned below) . Securities shall be auctioned at Branch premises (name of branch and address mentioned below) from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM on 28.03.2025 or on any other convenient date thereafter without further notice at the absolute discretion of the Bank.

Sr No.	Name	Address	Outstanding	Pledged Security (in grams)
Dalsingsarai Branch				
1	AMIT KUMAR	AMIT KUMAR S/O-SURESH PRASAD SINGH Address- VILL-PO-GADHSISAI, THANA-VIDYAPATI NAGAR, DISTT-SAMASTIPUR, BIHAR- 848503.	Rs. 335580.00	Gross Weight: 14.00 gm Net Weight: 14.00 gm Gross Weight: 64.64gm Net Weight: 63.00 gm
2	PRINCEE KUMARI	PRINCEE KUMARI, WO SONU KUMAR Address- BARAUNI TONAL POWER STATION, MALHIPUR GACHHI TOLA, BEGUSARAI 851116	Rs. 482861.00	Gross Weight: 13.90 gm Net Weight: 13.00 gm Gross Weight: 117.91 gm Net Weight: 108.5 gm
3	SUNITA DEVI	SUNITA DEVI W/O PRAMOD PODDAR, ADDRESS- MUSTAFAPUR BHATH WARD NO 10, MUSTAFAPUR, DALSINGHSARAI, SAMASTIPUR, 848160	Rs. 70000.00	Gross Weight 24.6 gm Net Weight: 22.00 gm
Sheohar Branch				
1	POOJA KUMARI	POOJA KUMARI W/O NITESH KUMAR Address-KRISHNA NAGAR MADHUBAN EAST CHAMPARAN GULWARA MADHUBAN EAST CHAMPARAN BIHAR 845420	Rs. 1,39,000.00	Gross Weight-66.80 gm
2	SONI DEVI	SONI DEVI WO ASHOTOSH KUMAR Address-PARSAUNI KAPOOR,PATAHI, EAST CHAMPARAN, 845457	Rs. 34,053.32	Gross Weight-53 gm
3	AMIT KUMAR	AMIT KUMAR S/O SUNIL KUMAR SINGH, Address- VILL-RAMBAN, PO.PHULKAHAN,PS SHYAMPUR, DIST. SHEOHAR, 843329	Rs.92,600.00	Gross Weight-20 gm
4	VIVEK KUMAR SO HARISHCHAND PRASAD SRIVASTAVA	VIVEK KUMAR SO HARISHCHAND PRASAD SRIVASTAVA Address- AT PARSAUNI PO KAMRAULI, Dist-SHEOHAR 843329	Rs. 92,600.00	Gross Weight-34 gm
5	SANTOSH GUPTA	SANTOSH GUPTA S/O RAJENDRA SAH Address- WARD 11, SARSAULA KHURD SHEOHAR, 843329	Rs. 51,000.00	Gross Weight-24.13 gm
6	RAHUL SINGH	RAHUL SINGH S/O GUDDU SINGH Address-VILL MADHOPUR ANANT, POST KHAIRWADARP ,SHEOHAR 843329	Rs. 29,000.00	Gross Weight-11.67 gm
7	SANTOSH KUMAR	SANTOSH KUMAR S/o RAVINDRA SINGH Address- ADAURI, PURNAHIYA, DIST-SHEOHAR 843334	Rs. 21,600.00	Gross Weight-9 gm
8	PRAMOD KUMAR S/O SHREE SHYAMNANDAN SHARMA	PRAMOD KUMAR S/O SHREE SHYAMNANDAN SHARMA Address- MADHOPUR CHHATA SHEOHAR, 843329	Rs. 21,000.00	Gross Weight-9 gm
Donard Branch				
1	MD.ASHIF REZA	MD.ASHIF REZA SAMINA NAJ 262 NEEM CHOWK URDU BAZAR NEXT TO PUBLIC WELFARE SCHOOL DARBHANGA TEACHER, TRAINING CENTER DARBHANGA 846004	Rs. 1,89,428.92	Net Weight -45.00 gm
2	SAIMA WAZIR	SAIMA WAZIR GRAM PARRI PADRI BAHADURPUR DARBHANGA 846009	Rs. 83,088.89	Net Weight -20.00gm
Gola Road Samastipur Branch				

CROSSWORD 5623



ACROSS
1 Point to healthy sea creature (5)
4 Surveys the raw material and it's a mess (7)
8 Love of games? (3)
9 About to spring on journalist but recoiled (9)
10 Might be nicer in the southeast to be honest (7)
11 Fruit offered to first mate (5)
13 Vegetable brings a girl out in spots (6)
15 He holds listeners in a kind of transport (6)
18 It's a great change for her (5)
19 He breaks down in the course of an investigation (7)
21 Told Maria the clumsy version (9)
23 I daren't tear away to get her (3)
24 An Italian poet? Not too fast (7)
25 Sound hints for fixing a hammock (5)

DOWN
1 Royal house described in words (7)
2 No-one at heart very nervous (3,2,4)
3 Eastern lake found in the West, that's strange (5)
4 In a gem blemishes affect the standard (6)
5 Train or coach (7)
6 When single love is at first divine (3)
7 Provide proper directions first (5)
12 I try penal reform. Others subscribe to it (5,4)
14 A somewhat outstanding substitute (5-2)
16 Takes parents out (7)
17 Promise not freely given (6)
18 A woman composes a note to Lady Hamilton (5)
20 A top position in ancient Athens (5)
22 Metal said to have been a conductor (3)

Solutions Crossword 5622 Across: 1 French horn, 8 Theme, 9 Manette, 10 Tessera, 11 Budge, 12 Minima, 14 Esteem, 17 Optum, 19 Ovation, 21 Eyesore, 22 Acrid, 23 Schootime Down: 2 Reels in, 3 Nicee, 4 Hymnal, 5 Omnibus, 6 Noted, 7 Determined, 8 Totem poles, 13 Mammoth, 15 Epigram, 16 Forego, 18 Ideas, 20 Avast

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 5893

Difficulty Level 3s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 5892

9	5	3	1	2	7	4	8	6
4	6	7	5	3	8	2	9	1
1	8	2	6	9	4	7	5	3
3	1	5	9	4	2	8	6	7
6	9	8	3	7	1	5	2	4
2	7	4	8	5	6	3	1	9
8	3	1	7	6	5	9	4	2
5	2	9	4	1	3	6	7	8
7	4	6	2	8	9	1	3	5

JUMBLLED 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.
Let no one ever come to you without leaving _ _ and _ _ Mother Teresa (6...7)

EEEIR
IRRAF

YPOSTT
YBATHP

Solution: EERIE, FRIAR, SPOTTY, BRYATHN
Answer: Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier - Mother Teresa

U.P. RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.
HARDUAGANJ THERMAL POWER STATION
KASIMPUR (ALIGARH)

E- TENDER NOTICE
Superintending Engineer, EECM, Kasimpur.
1- Short Term E-Tender No. 19/EECM/ECMD-I/HTPS/2024-25, Online e-bids were invited for the works of "Various Cleaning Sweeping works inside colony area at Harduaganj Thermal Power Plant, Kasimpur, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh". Which will be uploaded on <http://etender.up.nic.in> on 12.03.2025, Estimated Cost of work is Rs. 18,94,430.00, Time Period 04 months, Earnest Money is Rs. 38,000.00 Last date of bid submission 26.03.2025 (14:00 Hrs).
Note- Tender specification may be downloaded from the website (<http://etender.up.nic.in>) and other specification details can be seen on Nigam website www.uprvnl.org. Total quantity of work, tender specification and other terms & condition is as per tender documents available on the e-portal (<http://etender.up.nic.in>). Corrigendum, Addendum, Extension if any shall be uploaded only on the Nigam website www.uprvnl.org. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time. The contractors have to submit the hard copy before the schedule date/time in the concern office in sealed envelope containing details of the tender mentioned on the envelope. Tenders are advised to send their hard copy directly to the concerned tendering authority of the Circles/Division. Who reserve the right to unaccept/cancel any or all the tenders without assigning any reason there of.

Superintending Engineer (H.Q.)
पत्रांक 14/अपीओ(मुं)/विभागा/कैम-1(11)/25 दिनांक: 12.03.2025
"Save Electricity for Nation"

RAJASTHAN HOUSING BOARD
No. :- 4751 Dated :- 11/03/2025

NIT : 04/2024-25
Bids for 1. Operation & Maintenance of street light fixtures in CHS V.Nagar Kota. 2. CHS Kunhari Kota 3. CHS Ramganjmandi Distt. Kota 4. CHS Nainwa & Lakheri Distt Bundi (for Two years) 5. Plantation work & maintenance for 5 years in CHS Swami Vivekanand Nagar, Kota 6. CHS Lakheri, Distt. Bundi (5 years maintenance) 2024-25 are invited from interested bidders from 17.03.2025 to 26.03.2025. Other particular of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raaj.nic.in>) of the state & <http://urban.rajasthan.gov.in/rhb> Department Website.
UBN No. :- RHB2425WSOB00362 To RHB2425WSOB00367
Raj Samwad/C/24/13164 Dy. Housing Commissioner, Kota

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work and its locations	30-Elect-64-T-2024-25-E3 Electrical work in connection with: Provision of 08 Nos. Rooms with combine toilet/bathroom in 04 Nos. Room on PF No. 01 at HNZM station. (ii) Replacement of mechanical cabin of TKD (D & F) cabin with EL.
Approx cost of the works in	Rs. 36.27 lacs.
Address of the office	Sr. Divt Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Earnest Money	Rs. 72,600.00
Date & time of submission of tender	07.04.2025, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	07.04.2025, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divt. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

785/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Limited
Regd. Office: Plot No. 10, Paigah Colony, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad- 500003, Telangana, India CIN:U40109TG1997PLC028483
(A wholly owned subsidiary of Guru Amar Das Thermal Power Limited, GATPL) (A step down wholly owned subsidiary of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, PSPCL)

Electrical Dept. Head GATP, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for the work of:
1 Tender Enquiry No. 023/GATP/ELEC/CW/20017520 dated 12/03/2025
"TENDER FOR Supply of CW PUMP Induction Motor"
at 2X270 MW Guru Amardas Thermal Plant (GATP), Goindwal Sahib, Distt.: Tarn Taran, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications.

For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 12/03/2025 from 17:00 Hrs onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
No. 42503/PB GATP-10/25

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता
अस्थाई वि०/यां० खण्ड, लो०नि०वि० गोपेश्वर
Phone/Fax: 0135-2669778 Email- eeem.pwd.gopeshwar@gmail.com

पत्रांक 497/ई० निविदा दिनांक-12/03/2025

ई-निविदा सूचना
महामहिम श्री राज्यपाल महोदय, उत्तराखण्ड की ओर से अधिशासी अभियन्ता अस्थाई वि०/ यां० खण्ड, लो०नि०वि०, गोपेश्वर द्वारा कार्य की ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त सूचनाएं दिनांक 18.03.2025 को सांय 5:00 बजे से <https://www.uktenders.gov.in> पर उपलब्ध रहेगी।

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	धरोहर राशि (₹)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (₹)	निविदा की वैधता	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	पंजीकरण की श्रेणी
1	श्री केदारनाथ धाम परिक्षेत्रान्तर्गत सी० एस० आर० मद के अंतर्गत श्री केदारनाथ धाम में सरस्वती नदी पर 54 मी० स्पान सेतु का विद्युतीकरण कार्य।	66,000/-	2500 + 18% GST	90 दिन।	02 माह।	विद्युतीकरण कार्यो हेतु लो०नि०वि० उत्तराखण्ड में श्रेणी 'ए' में पंजीकृत ठेकेदार।

GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Limited
Regd. Office: Plot No. 10, Paigah Colony, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad- 500003, Telangana, India CIN:U40109TG1997PLC028483
(A wholly owned subsidiary of Guru Amar Das Thermal Power Limited, GATPL) (A step down wholly owned subsidiary of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, PSPCL)

Electrical Dept. Head GATP, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for the work of:
1 Tender Enquiry No. 024/GATP/ELEC/ID/20017520 dated 12/03/2025
"TENDER FOR Supply of ID FAN Induction Motor"
at 2X270 MW Guru Amardas Thermal Plant (GATP), Goindwal Sahib, Distt.: Tarn Taran, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications.

For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 12/03/2025 from 17:00 Hrs onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
No. 42505/PB GATP-11/25

NDDB DAIRY
NDDB House, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi, Southwest Delhi, Delhi - 110029, Email ID: purchase@nddbdaairy.com

Invitation For Bid (IFB), Local Competitive Bidding (LCB)
Bids are invited by Alamadhi Semen station NDDB DS for following items RGM funded Projects.

Sr. No.	Description of ITEMS with Bid Ref. Number	Event Start / Close Date	Platform
1	Contract Farming of Crop Seed Production at CCBF Andeshnagar NDS/ALM/CCBAM/ CONTRACTFARMING/MARCH/24-25	13.03.2025 9:00 am 03.04.2025 5:00 pm	Through NCDFI E Portal
2	Contract Farming Production and Supply of Vegetables at CCBF Alamadhi NDS/ALM/CCBAL/ CONTRACTFARMING/MARCH/24-25	13.03.2025 9:00 am 03.04.2025 5:00 pm	Through NCDFI E Portal
3	Manpower Supply at CCBF Alamadhi NDS/ALM/CCBAL/MANPOWER/MARCH/24-25	13.03.2025 9:00 am 03.04.2025 5:00 pm	Through NCDFI E Portal

For further details pertaining to IFB and for downloading the bid document, please visit the websites: <https://www.alamadahisemenstation.com/> & <https://www.ncdfimarket.com/> / idx.pha@ncdfs.com-2/Itab-44753 and For any clarification please send email to samar.rehman@nddbdaairy.com
Please Note: Any corrigendum/modification etc. will be posted only on the above website.

VEER SURENDRA SAI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY: BURLA
P.O: Engineering College Burla (Siddhi Vihar), Dist:Sambalpur Odisha-768018, India
Website: www.vssut.ac.in, E-mail: registrar@vssut.ac.in, Ph:(0663)2430573, Fax-2430592

No.: VSSUT/ME/81/2025 Date: 07/03/2025

TENDER CALL NOTICE
Sealed bids, in two separate covers (technical bid and Price bid) are invited from original manufacturers/authorized suppliers/ authorized dealers for the supply of 4 Channel FFT analyzer with envelope analysis and accessories for the Dept. of Mechanical Engineering", VSSUT, Burla, Sambalpur, Odisha. The tenders shall reach the office of the undersigned through Speed/Registered post/Courier services only on or before 16/04/2025 up to 1.00PM.
For more details, please visit our university website www.vssut.ac.in. The authority the reserve right to accept or reject all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
OIPR- 14072-11/0016/2425 REGISTRAR

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD
O/o Chief General Manager (Engg), Transmission Circle, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-500004, TG.

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

'e'-Tender No. & Date	Name of Work	Ranging (approx.)	Bid document download start date
EP.No. 99,100,101 / CGM(E)/ TC/ T3 / Trans.Div.III/ Puttamangudi/ 2024-25, Dtd: 13.03.2025.	T, E & T&C of 33/6.6 KV electrical substation including existing 4 no of 3150KVA power transformer to feed the power supply to emergency pumping arrangements at foreshore of Nagarjuna Sagar near Puttamangudi including 4 months MoM for Substation, dismantling and transportation of all equipment to K'Pur, N'Pally and G'Kondla under Trans.Div.III, Saheb nagar. T, E & C of existing 6.6KV, 300HP, BHA 700HP pump sets, 600HP Submersible Pump Sets near Puttamangudi including MoM of pumping station for 4 months and dismantling and transportation of all equipment to K'Pur, N'Pally and G'Kondla under Trans.Div.III, Saheb nagar. R, T & Comm of 33/6.6KV, 2500KVA PTR S.D.I.T & Comm. of motor starters, Providing of Gabbions and formation of bund across the approach main canal to maintain required level in canal for emergency pumping arrangements at foreshore of Nagarjuna-sagar near Puttamangudi and also dismantling and transportation of all equipment to K'Pur, N'Pally and G'Kondla under Trans.Div.III, Saheb nagar.	Rs:155.10 Lakhs Rs:149.01 Lakhs Rs:164.53 Lakhs	13-03-2025 @ 4.00 PM

The Tenderers are requested to upload the information on the Zip format preferably. Further details can be seen on www.eprocurement.gov.in.
Sd/- Chief General Manager (Engg), Transmission Circle, Khairatabad, Hyderabad-04, TG.

DAY TODAY BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
Once you're past the present period, you'll see that home and family life have indeed been strengthened immeasurably. A word for those in the property market: strange as it may seem, current difficulties are working in your favour.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
Venus is still offering you its blessings, but while this planet normally brings love without strings, right now it indicates that relationships are nothing without responsibility and commitment. You're still in a secretive mood, but that's only to be expected.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
The best friendships are likely to be formed with people who are older or wiser than you. Certainly, you'll value age and experience and you may be attracted to people you work with, or with whom you share common activities. Ensure engagements are firmred up.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
As the next lunar alignment approaches, partners, loved ones and offspring all seem to want your undivided attention. You must do what you can to protect your territory and preserve your personal space. If you're called on to do extra work, then go ahead. Make sure that extra effort counts.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
Solar and lunar influences over the next twenty-four hours may lead you to new conclusions. Even though there's a chance you may feel briefly undermined, the outcome will be positive if it forces you to think again. You'll get it right next time.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Your talents are many, and have often been underestimated. Politically-minded Virgos will be coming into their own. Even those of you who have never regarded yourselves as political creatures will be moving inexorably towards involvement in the community.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
You probably won't notice any change today, but the opposition is now beginning to crumble both at home and at work, and not before time. Arguments which have been used to deny you your rights will dissolve under the steady drip of the waters of Libran truth.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
There are certain ties and associations which must now be handled with great tact, not to mention sympathy and understanding. Fortunately, there is nobody better than a Scorpio at dealing with such delicate tasks. Hopefully partners will recognise this.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
Making choices is a Sagittarian speciality, but the decisions that are looming now concern more than the everyday details of daily life. In a sense, it is your entire lifestyle which must shift, but just how and when may not be revealed for another two months.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
Given that a special but little-known celestial point, the Moon's north node, is hovering in helpful regions of your chart, you can be confident that whatever the daily problems, your financial situation is improving.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
Most of the conflicts in your solar chart at the moment relate to your inner feelings of insecurity. The trouble is that while the astrological causes are so simple, the remedy may require a great deal of self-knowledge and discipline. So, stop for a while, and think.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Listen carefully to what relatives or colleagues have to say. You, it's your Piscean intuitions that help you understand the problem and offer the best advice. This is a fine day for taking financial decisions, but only if you're into long-term benefits.

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division, BBMP Complex, 2nd Floor, Laskar Hosur Road, Adugodi, Bangalore-560030

No.EE/BTM/Kppp/14/2024-25 Date: 11.03.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Short Term Tender Notification - Two cover system)

(Through GOK KPP Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>)
The Executive Engineer BTM Layout Division, BBMP, Bangalore invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD or any State Government Organisations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Comprehensive developments to drains, roads, Culverts and other improvement works in EWS Colony, Madeenanagar and surrounding area in ward No. 181 BTM Layout.
1.	Approximate Value of work : 300.00 Lakhs, EMD : 4,50,000/- (Rs. 1.00 Lakh shall be paid in the kppp portal and the Balance Amount of Rs. 3,50,000/-shall be in the form of Bank Guarantee/- 1st Call.

Calendar of Events: (1) Tenders must be submitted online through kppp portal on or before **16.00 hours on 21.03.2025.** (2) **Pre bid meeting will be held on 17.03.2025 at 15:00 hours** in the office of The Chief Engineer (South), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, 9th Main, 9th Cross, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bengaluru-560011 (3) Technical Bids will be opened on the website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> in the office of the Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division on or after **24.03.2025 at 16:30 hours.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer BTM Layout Division

भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड
Container Corporation of India Ltd.
(पब्लिक सेक्टर का उपक्रम) (A Govt. of India Undertaking)

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
CONCOR invites E-Tender in Single bid system for the following work :-

Tender No.	CON/CO/ZONALELECT/AMC/AMMD-Cluster-A-II/2025
Name of Work	Zonal Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) for services pertaining to sub-stations and electrical installations at Khodiyar (ICD-DCT), MMPL-Varnama, Gandhidham (DCT), Ankleshwar, Dahisar (Gandhinagar) of Ahmedabad cluster.
Estimated Cost	Rs. 3,03,46,402.00/- (inclusive of all)
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 5,00,000.00/- through e-payment.
Cost of Tender Document (Non-refundable)	Rs. 1,120.00/- (inclusive of all taxes & duties through e-payment).
Tender processing Fee (Non-refundable)	Rs. 3,540.00/- (inclusive of all taxes & duties through e-payment).
Date of sale of Tender (online)	From 13.03.2025 after (11.30 hrs.) to 02.04.2025 (up to 17.00hrs).
Date & Time of submission of Tender.	03.04.2025 up to 17.00 hrs. (E-Tendering Mode only).
Date & time of opening of Tender	On 04.04.2025 at 11.30 hrs.

For financial eligibility criteria, experience with respect to similar nature of work, etc, please refer to detailed tender available on website www.concorindia.co.in, but the complete tender document can be downloaded from website www.tendersconcorindia.co.in only. Further, Corrigendum / Addendum to this Tender, if any, will be published on website www.concorindia.co.in, www.tendersconcorindia.co.in, and Central Procurement Portal (CPP) only. Newspaper press advertisement shall not be issued for the same.
GGM (P&S)/Area-II / Phone No.-011-41222554

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट निविदा सूचना
क्र. 42/न.पा.नि./जेन क्र. 07/2024-25 दिनांक 11/03/2025
नगर पालिक निगम बिलासपुर के जेन क्र. 07 अंतर्गत स्वयं श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों/फर्मों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

सिस्टम टेंडर नं.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रु. लाख में)	निविदा डाउनलोड की अंतिम तिथि
165833	SUPPLY OF 104 PLACEMENT EMPLOYEE (UNSKILLED) FOR ZONE NUMBER 07, MUNICIPAL CORPORATION BILASPUR	133.39	31-03-2025

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विज्ञापन, निविदा दस्तावेज व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से दिनांक 12/03/2025 से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।
कार्यालयन अधिव्यता संचालित करने न.पा.नि. बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)
नगमबिलासपुर.com/plis पर किया जाता है

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

Letter No:190 **TENDER NOTICE** Date: 12/03/2025

The Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M), Joshiyara Barrage Joshiyara (Uttarkashi), invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below :-
Tender No: NIT- 16/EE(E&M)/MB-II/Barrage/2024-25
Name of work / Supply/Services: Supply, Replacement and Installation of Rubber Seals and Lifting Lugs for Stop Log Gates at Joshiyara Barrage, Uttarkashi"
Estimated cost: Rs. 19,63,500/- Only (Taxes extra)
Date of availability of bid document on website: - 13.03.2025
Last date for submission of tender:- 03.04.2025 up to 15:30 Hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com"
Executive Engineer (E&M)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

STORES E-PROCUREMENT
Tender Notice No.: S/66/022/24-25; Dated: 10-03-2025. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:-
SN. 1: Tender No. NJ255084; Closing/ Opening Date: 31-03-2025
Brief Description & Qty: Traction Motor stacking as per annexure; Consignee:- SSE/D/Siliguri Jn., NFR; Qty: 10 Nos.
NOTE:- For full details of Tender notice and tender documents, tenderer may log on to the website (www.ireps.gov.in) prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS. In case they are not registered with IREPS, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders.

Dy. Chief Material Manager, New Jaipaguri
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

WPL: Can GG avoid a seventh straight defeat against MI?



Ashleigh Gardner (L) and Harmanpreet Kaur's sides will face off for a place in the final on Thursday.

Sportzpics

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN
MARCH 12

WHATEVER HAPPENS in the Women's Premier League Eliminator on Thursday, Gujarat Giants can chalk down the 2025 season as an improvement. There cannot be arguments that, across the first two editions combined, they were the side that struggled the most in the tournament, finishing last on both occasions.

But ahead of 2025, they made changes to the backroom staff, handed the captaincy over to Ashleigh Gardner from Beth Mooney, and added the star power to their lineup in the form of Deandra Dottin. In addition to all that, Kashvee Gautam – their big-money recruit before 2024 who ended up missing the season due to injury – has showcased her potential, especially with the ball in hand, emerging as one of the finds of the tournament for Indian cricket.

It hasn't been a flawless season by any means, but a place in the knockouts for the first time is one that Gardner and Co can relish.

However, on Thursday at the Brabourne Stadium, they have to complete another first: beating Mumbai Indians.

In the six meetings so far in WPL between MI and GG, Mumbai have emerged victorious every single time.

And while they are at it, the Giants need a plan to stop Harmanpreet Kaur, who has been a thorn in their side.

In the New Delhi leg last year, the MI captain played arguably the knock of the WPL so far. With MI needing 91 off 36 balls in a run-chase of 191, Harmanpreet put her foot on the pedal, smashing the GG bowlers all around the Kotla for a sensational unbeaten 95 that helped her side cross the finish line.

Harmanpreet's record against GG speaks for itself as well, as she became the first batter in WPL to score 300 runs against one opponent, when she scored a half-century on Monday in Mumbai, when these two sides met last.

But, on that night, GG came close to getting over the line and it wasn't their top batters who made it a contest. Batting at No 7, Bharti Fulmali smashed a 25-ball 61 that left MI sweating, when a big win – and potential top spot and a direct entry to the final – seemed imminent.

As such, both teams have concerns to address at the top of their batting order ahead of the knockout clash. GG's fielding has been a cause of concern too. But both teams have enough outright match-winners to make this a close contest in Mumbai.

ROHIT'S KEY WEAPONS

Spinners to the four

Captain's smart gameplan made India's spin quartet, comprising Axar, Jadeja, Kuldeep and Varun, an even deadlier unit

LALITH KALIDAS
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

IN THE final hour of New Zealand's innings on Sunday, Rohit Sharma had the opportunity to hammer the spin nail down fully on the opposition to the last possible inch. An Axar Patel injury situation towards the end of the middle overs meant the Indian skipper had to factor in a couple of extra overs from the wobbly pace grid of Shami and Hardik Pandya at the death on the day. Though the left-arm spinner bowled another, Rohit held back Axar's last two overs, perhaps because he had to play a crucial role with the bat at No. 5 too.

The death overs yielded 79 runs, 58 of which came from five overs of pace. Despite the dawdle against spin for the majority of the innings, New Zealand had about enough to salvage a fight. Rohit's marginal miss on a 40/40 of spin could have reared its head on another night, but not on Sunday when his pack of spinners had scythed the fight down comprehensively within the first 40 overs.

Between the 28 overs of spin from Axar, Ravindra Jadeja and Varun Chakaravathy between overs 6-45, New Zealand mustered three fours while hesitantly gulping down 15 overs worth of dot balls. Kuldeep Yadav, the fourth, leaked two fours and a six. However, the left-arm wrist-spinner's consolation came gift-wrapped in the form of New Zealand's two heavyweight bats. After Kuldeep snared Rachin Ravindra and Kane Williamson in successive overs between 11 and 13, the Indian advantage was established on Dubai's Champions Trophy final strip.

The 228 deliveries off the slower bowlers were a 14-year high for India, bettering the 225 Rohit commanded from his tweekers against the same opposition in the league stage the previous week.

Shunning out all the outside noise that initially rubbished the idea of four spinners in the XI, the management had a near-perfect captain in Rohit to execute the moves on the field. Early in his interim days as skipper of the ODI side, Rohit had struck gold with a similar move in the 2018 Asia Cup in the UAE, deploying more than 30 overs thrice within a week to lift the title.

Building the spin maze

In four front-line spin proponents, Rohit and India developed an unmissable but befuddling second code to Jasprit Bumrah in the format. Banking on the strengths of Axar, Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav in spotlessly cleaning up the middle-overs, India drafted the secret sauce with Chakaravathy and tapped it in judicious quantum to destroy and leave space for more havoc.

During the first two games against Bangladesh and Pakistan where India banked on nearly as many overs of pace as spin, they witnessed two spells of sustained wicket-less phases that evolved into century partnerships. A spin overhaul with the addition of Chakaravathy over seamer Harshit Rana meant sharper attacks in every phase in heavier matches against New Zealand (in the league stage and final) and Australia in the semifinal.

Despite conceding five fifty-plus stands in the last three games, India ensured they were nipped earlier than before with a relentless spin shuffle. Teams were rendered almost powerless against this invincibly accurate quartet that not only jotted 506 dot balls (51.47 per cent) off all deliveries (981) bowled by them but also snapped up 60 per



(From L to R) India spinners Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakaravathy and Ravindra Jadeja celebrate on Sunday.

PTI

HOW INDIAN SPINNERS CHOKED THE OPPOSITION

	Axar	Jadeja	Kuldeep	Varun
Powerplay balls	24	—	12	24
Middle Overs balls	228	252	186	114
Death Overs balls	18	—	81	42
Total wickets	5	5	7	9
Economy	4.35	4.35	4.79	4.53
Dots Bowled	141	127	143	95
4s conceded	10	10	11	4
6s conceded	5	2	6	3

cent (26 of 43) of wickets taken by the Indian bowlers.

While Rohit employed a recurring pattern in utilising his arsenal, neither New Zealand nor Australia could thwart the four-layered spin code that seemed so smooth in their simultaneous orbits in the last week of the tournament.

Suction pumps

Left-arm finger spinners Axar and Jadeja predominantly operated within the first 40, snipping through larger spells with a focus on inducing pressure with a layer of dot balls. While Axar had straight bursts of seven and eight overs in the league-stage wins over Pakistan and New Zealand, the veteran Jadeja was in his element in the knockouts. After bowling a straight eight-over spell in the semi-final against Australia conceding only 40, Jadeja constricted the Kiwis in the final with a marathon nine overs in succession between overs 20-36, conceding only 26 for a wicket.

The Axar-Jadeja combine had a staggeringly identical effect on the defensive set-up of Rohit's spin spread, picking up five wickets each at an economy of 4.35 in the tournament.

The death alternate

Of the few glaring errors Rohit committed on the field was Kuldeep's Powerplay induction in the semi-final against Australia to take on Travis Head. After carrying the load of nearly bowling half his quota at the death until then, Kuldeep had to be taken off the attack after being smoked by Head for a six in the eighth over of the semifinal. Though the 30-year-old was back in his element in the final, churning out the two prized scalps, Kuldeep was largely entrusted with manning the death overs alongside Mohammed Shami in the tournament. The wily wrist-spinner sent down more deliveries than Shami, claiming four wickets at a 5.18 economy at the death. Despite bowling the most overs (46.3)

among the Indians with a pronounced share coming in the second half of the innings, Kuldeep's 4.79 economy stood well within sight of the miserly orthodox tweekers.

Magic wheel

While a shrewd Chakaravathy wouldn't let go of his sorcery in the nets, Rohit wouldn't allow the opposition to have a proper whiff of the Tamil Nadu spinner either. Save for his first five-over spell on initiation in India's last league stage match against New Zealand, Rohit did not use the mystery man for more than three overs in any spell.

The Chakaravathy wave still lingered in every form and phase across 50 overs. Of the four Powerplay overs he bowled in three games, Chakaravathy made two massive inroads for India in times of trouble. After dismissing Head in the semifinal in his first over in the ninth, Chakaravathy put the brakes on a promising New Zealand's 57-run opening stand in the final when he removed Will Young in the eighth over. Used adeptly by Rohit in clever two-three over stints, Chakaravathy also doubled up on Kuldeep's effectiveness at the death to draw a perfect Bumrah parallel in the decisive games – fishing out three wickets at 4.85 rpo.

Mapping all four of them together under the captain's nous formed India's impregnable bowling unit for the Dubai gauntlet. It is unclear if a spin-bowling model of such offensive and defensive characters would load up India's ODI attack again. But if it hasn't been established already, Rohit and his spin cartel's effective coherence could soon rub off on the T20I team's World Cup defence next year.

NUMBER PLATE

26 India's spin quartet took a combined 26 wickets in the Champions Trophy.

9 Among them, Varun Chakaravathy was the leading wicket-taker with nine wickets, despite playing only three matches while the other three played all five.

3.79 In the final against New Zealand, the quartet took five of the seven wickets at an economy rate of 3.79 across their 38 overs.

229 The 229 deliveries that spinners bowled for India were a 14-year high for the side in ODIs, bettering the 225 they bowled the previous week.

It's very difficult to manage four spinners and the way he managed, it was amazing to see. When four spinners are playing together, it is very hard to rotate any of them. Obviously the planning was going on, we played our last game in Dubai on March 4 and we got plenty, like four or five days of break and then we had a chat how we go about this game."

KULDEEP YADAV

ON HOW ROHIT SHARMA ROTATED THE SPINNERS

Rohit has unfinished business: Ponting

New Delhi: Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting said that a sense of unfinished business may have played a role in Rohit Sharma's decision to continue playing international cricket, quashing the rumours of his retirement.

Ponting said losing the final of the 2023 World Cup could have kept the fire burning within Rohit to give the 50-over title one last shot. India, under Rohit's captaincy, sailed through to the final of the 2023 edition before falling to Australia in the decider. The 2027 World Cup will be held in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

"I think probably the fact that they lost the last one and he was captain, that might be the thing that's playing on the back of his mind," Ponting was quoted as saying by *The ICC Review*. "Just have one more crack at trying to win the T20 World Cup, the Champions Trophy, and the ODI World Cup. I mean when you see him play like he played in the Champions Trophy final, you wouldn't say that his time is up just yet."

Ponting agreed with Rohit's decision to not draw curtains on his career. "When you start getting to that point of your career, everyone's waiting for you to retire," Ponting said.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

[SPORTS BAR]

Former all-rounder Abid Ali dies at 83

New Delhi: Former India all-rounder Syed Abid Ali, who was known for his versatility and sharp fielding skills, died on Wednesday after a prolonged illness. He was 83. He was part of an illustrious group of Hyderabad cricketers that included MAK Pataudi, MI, Jaisinha, and Abbas Ali Baig. He died in the United States. The news of Abid Ali's passing was shared by the North America Cricket League (NACL). "It is with profound reverence and a heart full of admiration that I share with you the passing of uncle Syed Abid Ali a cricketing legend from India who made Tracy, California, his home, and whose remarkable legacy continues to inspire us," NACL posted in its Facebook page.

PTI

Suraj sets 1,000m national youth record

Patna: Uttarakhand's Suraj Singh broke the 1,000m national youth record to hog the limelight on the final day of the National Youth Athletics Championships here on Wednesday. The boys 1,000m race at the Patliputra Sports Complex turned out to be the most exciting event of the day as the top two runners ran better than 15-year-old national youth record of 2 minute 27.20 seconds which was set by Rahul Pal in 2010. Singh's gold-winning time was 2:26.04, while silver winner Vikas Kumar of Uttar Pradesh clocked 2:26.59 to also dip below the earlier national youth record.

PTI



Former Brazil forward withdrew from the race on Wednesday.

Reuters

Ronaldo out of Brazil FA presidential race

Rio de Janeiro: Brazilian soccer great Ronaldo said that he was pulling out of the race to be president of his country's football association (CBF) on Wednesday after failing to gather enough support from regional federations to present a candidacy. The 48-year-old, a former Ballon d'Or winner and two-time World Cup champion, announced his intention to run for the presidency in December in an attempt to "recover the prestige and respect that Brazil always had" following years of controversies involving CBF chiefs. However, the former Barcelona, Inter Milan and Real Madrid forward came to the conclusion that he would not be able to challenge current president Ednaldo Rodrigues who has the support of almost all the electorate. "On my first contact with the 27 regional federations, I found 23 closed doors. If the majority of decision-makers believe that Brazilian football is in good hands, it doesn't matter what I think," Ronaldo said in a statement published via his social media channels.

REUTERS

Amorim hopes to impress Ratcliffe

Manchester: Manchester United boss Ruben Amorim accepted club co-owner Jim Ratcliffe's criticism of his squad but said on Wednesday that they are focused on changing his mind after the billionaire said some players were either not good enough or overpaid. Although Ratcliffe gave Amorim a glowing assessment by describing the Portuguese as an "outstanding young manager" who would be at the club for a long time, he was critical of many players – especially those who came in with big price tags. "If we're being honest, in this moment everybody – me, all the players – we are underperforming this season. We can always change that," Amorim said.

REUTERS

McIlroy hopes to see Woods return to golf

Ponte Vedra: Four-times major champion Rory McIlroy said on Wednesday he does not expect Tiger Woods, who had surgery this week for a ruptured Achilles tendon, to return to competition this year. Woods, 49, did not offer insight on the severity of his latest injury setback or a recovery timeline but McIlroy thinks the 15-times major winner has a long period of recuperation ahead of him. "Yeah. It sucks. He doesn't have much luck when it comes to injuries and his body," McIlroy told reporters ahead of this week's Players Championship in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

REUTERS



Svitolina thankful for US fans' support

Indian Wells: Ukraine's Elina Svitolina said she had received an outpouring of support from Americans following U.S. President Donald Trump's extraordinary clash with his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the White House last month. Svitolina thanked Americans for their "unwavering support" and "compassion" in a social media post on Sunday after beating Danielle Collins in the third round of Indian Wells. After defeating another local hope Jessica Pegula 5-7 6-1 6-2 on Tuesday, Svitolina told reporters she had received solid support at the tournament in the California desert. "I feel like since that meeting in the Oval Office, I got a lot of messages of support from the American people and a lot of people here when I arrived at the tournament, giving love and support to Ukrainians for people back at home," she added.

REUTERS

Amnesty, FIR & ban part of Draft Bill to counter age-fraud in India

AMIT KAMATH
MARCH 12

A ONE-TIME AMNESTY for age-cheaters, FIRs for a second age- fraud, a secure whistle-blower platform to report such violations, compliance officers in every state, and ID cards with QR codes that act as age proof: these are some of the features listed in the draft National Code Against Age Fraud in Sports (NCAAFS) 2025 to take on this particular menace in Indian sport.

Age fraud has been one of the biggest problems facing Indian sports for a long time. The Draft NCAAFS 2025 was made public by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports on Wednesday in a bid to invite comments and suggestions from the general public and stakeholders till March 31.

The Draft Bill states that for a first violation, athletes could face a two-year ban across all competitions besides forfeiture of the medals, titles, and benefits earned fraudulently. For the second one, an athlete will face a permanent ban from competitive sports, besides having an FIR registered under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

However, the draft does not mention FIRs against coaches and officials who are deemed to have facilitated or concealed age fraud. Instead, coaches will be suspended and could face a two-year ban for the first confirmed violation and a lifetime debarment from any role within a National Sports Federation (NSF) for a second violation.

The Draft Bill states that for a first violation, athletes could face a two-year ban across all competitions besides forfeiture of the medals, titles, and benefits earned fraudulently. For the second one, an athlete will face a permanent ban from competitive sports, besides having an FIR registered.

Interestingly, the Draft NCAAFS 2025 introduces an amnesty scheme for athletes, allowing them to admit their correct age within six months of the policy implementation, which would help them avoid penalties. These athletes would then be subjected to a performance review before re-adjusting them in the appropriate age-group.

The draft bill also introduces a whistle-blower mechanism, where a secure platform will be created to report instances of age fraud. The draft adds: "A whistleblower mechanism shall be implemented with a fee of Rs 5,000. In cases where the complaint is found to be false or frivolous, the fee may be forfeited. However, if the complaint is found to be true, the fee shall be fully refunded, and the whistle-blower shall receive an incentive of Rs 2,000 as a reward for reporting the violation."

As per the draft code, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and sports federations will designate region/state-wise nodal officers to oversee the process of document verification. SAI and NSFs — while admitting athletes into sports promotion schemes, or while registering a new athlete to participate in an event — shall require them to submit the three mandatory documents for age verification: birth certificate, school transfer/school leaving/matriculation certificate, and aadhaar card/ APAAR ID/voter ID/driving licence/ passport/PAN card. The draft said that in cases where any document was missing or there was doubt regarding the genuineness of a document, the nodal officer shall refer the athlete for a medical examination.

In this examination for age verification, athletes will have to undergo a general physical examination, dental exam and a radiological examination. In the physical examination, the doctors will have to record details of the athlete like the distance between the tips of the shoulder blades, forearm circumference in males/mid-thigh circumference in females, and hoarseness of voice.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Donnarumma stars as PSG edge out Liverpool in thrilling shootout drama

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MARCH 12

GIANLUIGI DONNARUMMA came through and Paris Saint-Germain defeated Liverpool in a penalty shootout to join Barcelona, Bayern Munich and Inter Milan in the quarterfinals of the Champions League on Tuesday.

PSG beat Liverpool 1-0 on the night to level the aggregate score at 1-1. Ousmane Dembélé scored 12 minutes into the second-leg match after a blunder by the Liverpool defense.

After extra time, Donnarumma stopped the penalty shots by Darwin Nunez and Curtis Jones to secure his team a 4-1 shootout win. Desire Doue scored the winning spot kick for PSG, which will face either Aston Villa or Club Brugge.

"It does not matter if we deserve the win. Both teams deserved to go through," PSG coach Luis Enrique said. "We were better in Paris and they were better here. My team showed great personality and character at Anfield." The

Crosscourt puzzle stumps Sindhu

Double Olympic medallist squanders early advantage as Kim's defence and pinpoint accuracy results in early ouster

VINAYAKK MOHANARANGAN
MARCH 12

AT 20-12 IN the first game of her first-round match at the All England Open, PV Sindhu appeared to be in complete control against Kim Ga Eun. The World No. 21, at her best, has a typically sturdy Korean defence that can't be breached easily. Just a few seconds before Sindhu had all those game points, Kim won a point she had no right winning... first retrieving the shuttle off balance after it hit the net cord and changed direction, and then playing a defensive block while squatting when Sindhu had a kill shot lined up at the net. It was the first sign of a Korean revival. From 12-20, Kim won seven straight points as Sindhu's radar started misfiring.

The Indian did win the first game 21-19 eventually, but that was from a wild error by Kim and the reaction from Sindhu said it all. There was no joy, just frustration mixed in with some relief. She was in the lead, but could sense the Korean taking charge. That run of points at the end of Game 1 signalled the change of fortunes that saw Kim prevail 19-21, 21-13, 21-13 in 61 minutes. And while the foundation for the win was built on her excellent defensive perseverance, one shot in particular troubled Sindhu no end: Kim's crosscourt, round-the-head inside out — both smashes and drops — that kept evading the Indian's backhand reach.

Frustratingly for Sindhu, that used to be a bread-and-butter shot for her at her peak. Cast the mind back to All England 2021, when she registered arguably her best performance at the prestigious tournament while defeating Akane Yamaguchi in the quarterfinals in three hard-fought games. The crosscourt forehand smashes came to Sindhu's rescue, and when she is hitting the round-the-head inside-out shots with zing, she can be unplayable. Against Kim though, the opportunities to play that shot were few and far between, whereas when the Korean targeted that backhand flank, Sindhu was either beaten in the rally or put under pressure.

Injury comebacks

Both players entered the court with heavy strapping/bandaging on their right legs. Sindhu had played just four matches this year but Kim had played half that, starting her season only last week in Orleans. In the first couple of points, Sindhu established a quick physical presence. She also showed an eagerness to play crosscourt at the net, trying to create angles out of defensive lunges. But Kim caught up quickly, helped by Sindhu misjudging the shuttles on length, both on attack and defence.

Sindhu's first booming winner of the



Kim Ga Eun's crosscourt, round-the-head inside out — both smashes and drops — troubled PV Sindhu. BWF/Badminton Photo

match was an inch-perfect smash down the line to Kim's backhand side for a 6-5 lead. An 11-7 advantage at the interval quickly went up to 14-8, the steepness of Sindhu's downward strokes proving tough for Kim to handle.

But that attacking freedom was lacking in Sindhu's game for the rest of the match. Another area she struggled throughout was judging the length on the shuttle, letting them drop inside the corners of the court, expecting them to be out. And often, it wasn't even when the shuttle was out of her reach. That happened at the start of Game 2 as Kim went on a run, winning 14 of the 16 points played, taking a 7-2 lead.

"Sindhu, remember, you need to control her shots," her Indonesian coach Irwansyah was heard saying on the broadcast because

Kim controlled the tempo and direction of rallies for a large part. In a match that had been littered with errors, there was a sensational 42-shot rally won by Kim for an 11-9 lead. There was a brief recovery from Sindhu when she made it 12-12 in the second game, but it was that crosscourt round-the-head that Kim went back to at crunch moments, like for 17-12.

At this stage, Sindhu was just looking for errors from Kim. The momentum from the end of Game 2 carried over into the decider as the Korean went ahead 7-1. The closest Sindhu got in Game 3 was with a crosscourt round-the-head winner at 12-14, but that was all she wrote.

Winning start for Tre-Ga

It is the tournament where Treesa Jolly

and Gayatri Gopichand made a name for themselves as a young pair to watch out for, making it to back-to-back women's doubles semifinals in their first two appearances. Now, no longer seen as outsiders, the world No. 9 combination made a strong start to their 2025 campaign defeating world No. 15 Sung Shuo Yun and Yu Chien Hui 21-17, 21-13 in 48 minutes.

The highlight of the match was a 105-shot rally towards the back-end of the second game that the Indians won after a couple of miraculous saves.

In mixed doubles, Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde, on their All England debut, reached the second round with a thrilling 21-10, 17-21, 24-22 win over Chinese Taipei's Ye Hong Wei and Nicole Gonzales Chan.

For India's wheelchair racers, hurdles are off the track too

PRITISH RAJ
NEW DELHI, MARCH 12

WEDNESDAY WAS a red-letter day for wheelchair racers Manikandan Jothi and Manoj Sabapathi at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix in New Delhi. The Tamil Nadu para athletes finished 1-2 on the podium in the men's 400 metre (T54) final, only the second time they have medalled at an international event.

"It feels good to finish on the podium. A medal at an event like a Grand Prix is important for ranking points," Manikandan told *The Indian Express* after his event.

Wheelchair racing comes with its set of hurdles; from lack of spare parts and service centres in India, and an expensive racing cycle. India has a handful of wheelchair racers with not more than 20 competing at the Nationals. Wheelchair racing wasn't Manikandan's first choice.

Manikandan started off in high jump but switched to wheelchair racing on the suggestion of his coach. "I got lucky that I had a sponsor, so I could afford the cycle," Manikandan said. "The cycle is very expensive and that is one of the reasons why many Indians haven't thought about this sport.



Manikandan Jothi of India in action at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix. Pritish Raj

Even BMW makes wheelchair cycles," he added.

Even minor repairs of the wheelchair race cycle can be a major headache.

"There are no repair centers in the country and buying the cycle is very expensive. If there is even a small damage in our cycle, it costs us a bomb. My cycle costs around Rs 8 lakh but the high-end ones cost about Rs 30

laks to 40 lakhs," Manikandan said.

Due to lack of service centers and proper technicians, the coaches act as technicians. "Our coach Vijay Saradhi learnt about the cycle and how to repair it in Thailand at a workshop. So if we face an issue, he fixes it for us," Manoj said.

In the 400 metres, athletes sitting on the wheelchair start on the curve and accelerate

in the last 100m, similar to the able-bodied competition. The rules of lane change are also the same. If the cycle crosses the lane line, the athlete is disqualified.

"It is similar to the quarter-mile races. The start, the curve and the acceleration at the end," Manikandan said.

"The only difference is how we operate the wheelchair during the race. We rotate the wheels to push the cycle and generate speed, and use the gears to navigate. We have two gears, the right gear is to keep the cycle straight and the left gear helps us in turning on the curve," he explained.

Most of the Indian wheelchair racers come from Tamil Nadu as the government has invested in the sport by providing the cycles to the para-athletes.

Both Manikandan and Manoj train at the Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium in Chennai. "We have six racers in Chennai as the state government has bought cycles and distributed them among the para athletes. So, we at least have a group to train with," Manoj said.

Apart from Tamil Nadu, states like Gujarat, Rajasthan and Odisha have wheelchair racers but the talent pool in these states is much smaller.

National Para Athletics coach Satyanarayan believes that India has talent

but the exorbitant cost is a deterrent.

"It is tough for these athletes to invest in wheelchair racing. It's a fan favourite event in para athletics because it is thrilling to watch," Satyanarayana said.

"The Tamil Nadu government is planning to open a wheelchair racing academy and they have purchased a few of these cycles to encourage more and more athletes to take it up," he added.

Both Manikandan and Manoj hope to make an impact at the upcoming World Para Athletics Championships in September in New Delhi. "Our next aim is to qualify for the World Para Athletics Championships and perform in front of our home crowd, so more para athletes take it up," Manikandan said.

India shine in javelin

India's javelin throwers dominated on the second day of the World Para Athletics Grand Prix with Paralympian Rinku Hooda winning gold in the men's Javelin F46 event with a throw of 60.26 metres.

Pushpendra Singh, Mohit and Jaswant swept the podium in the men's javelin combined event of F12, F37, F42, F43 classes. Ritender added another gold for India in the men's javelin F40/F41 category with a throw of 30.33 metres.

RESULTS
■ Leverkusen 0-2 Bayern (Result: Bayern won 5-0)
■ Inter 2-1 Feyenoord (Result: Inter won 4-1)
■ Liverpool 0-1 PSG (Result: PSG won 4-1 on penalties after overall result was 1-1)
■ Barcelona 3-1 Benfica (Result: Barcelona won 4-1)

Inter moved on past Feyenoord with a 2-1 victory at San Siro to advance 4-1 on aggregate. Bayern and Inter will meet in the last eight.

Barcelona power through

Raphinha's double made him the leading scorer in the Champions League this season with 11 goals. He had scored the lone goal last week in Lisbon.

The Brazil forward put Barcelona ahead in the 11th, then Yamal added to the lead in the 27th before assisting in Raphinha's second goal in the 42nd to become the youngest player to score and assist in a Champions League match at 17 years, 241 days. "My teammates make things much easier for me," Yamal said. "It was a good goal but sometimes these things come off and sometimes they don't. For the assist, I tried to shoot and Raphinha turned it into a goal." Nicolás Otamendi scored for Benfica in the 13th to become the third-oldest scorer in a Champions League knockout game at the age of 37 years, 27 days, according to UEFA. Yamal's goal meant he became the second-youngest.

Kane leads Bayern

Harry Kane scored his 10th Champions League goal of the season and set up another as Bayern Munich cruised into the quarterfinals. Leverkusen never looked likely to overturn the three-goal deficit from the first leg, even before Kane bundled in the ball at a free kick in the 52nd after Leverkusen's Patrik Schick

misjudged an attempted clearance. Kane set up Alphonso Davies for Bayern's second goal with a flicked cross in the 71st as the all-German rivalry became a one-sided contest. Bayern could have scored more as Jamal Musiala hit the crossbar with one shot and the post with another.

Inter comfortably advance

A goal at the start of each half saw Inter easily advance, with Marcus Thuram scoring a stunning eighth-minute opener. The Inter forward received the ball midway inside the Feyenoord half and then weaved his way into the area before unleashing a powerful effort into the top right corner.

Jakub Moder leveled from the penalty spot shortly before halftime after being tripped by Hakan Çalhanoğlu.

Inter restored its advantage on the night six minutes into the second half with a penalty of its own, which Çalhanoğlu converted after Mehdi Taremi was fouled by Thomas Beelen right in the corner of the area.